

the framework of the scope of s116 of the Constitution, lengthier discussion of limitations on the religious freedoms of Indigenous Australians is noticeably absent.

The benefits of status as a religion and the support that a particular group may receive from the state can be socially divisive and controversial. It is controversial on the basis that one group may be preferred over another for financial support and indeed that any group may receive such support from the state. The most recent High Court consideration of this theme is the judgment in *Williams v Commonwealth*. Although the author had flagged the importance of this decision, the judgment was handed down after the publication of the book. The judgment and the proposed law reform as a result ought to be central to any further exposition of the way the government supports religion in Australia.

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Administrative Law: Context and critique

Michael Head, *Administrative Law: Context and critique* (3rd edn), 2012, The Federation Press, pb \$64.95.

Administrative law is often regarded as a difficult area to understand because it is concerned with the exercise of power. In 2005 Michael Head wrote *Administrative Law: Context and critique* and it was warmly received as providing a concise overview of the relevant principles and processes. It stood out in the crowded marketplace for being easy to understand yet comprehensive.

The third edition maintains these distinctive qualities.

Statutory interpretation is an essential skill and the new edition not only identifies the requisite elements but relates them to contemporary events. It is through this technique that readers become engaged with the material and develop a deep appreciation of the significance of administrative law. Being able to discuss cases clearly, identify the facts and provide commentary with respect to how the law has developed is a difficult task but the author substantially achieves this.

Understanding the law is a difficult task, but with resources such as *Administrative Law: Context and critique* the process is greatly assisted. By itself, the book does not provide all the answers, but it outlines the salient principles and directs the reader where to go to find more information. Although directed at law students, it will be a valuable addition for those practitioners who lack a solid appreciation of administrative law. While there will be new editions of other administrative

law books, *Administrative Law: Context and critique* will retain its place as a useful starting point for those embarking on the study of law with respect to administrative activities.

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Cases on Torts

Barbara McDonald and Ross Anderson, *Cases on Torts* (5th edn), 2012, The Federation Press, pb \$95.

In the words of the authors, this book, now in its fifth edition, "provides a collection of cases illuminating the principles of Australian tort law". The primary audience of the book is the law student.

The book contains, for the most part, extracts of Australian judicial judgments relating to the various areas of tort law. Each case extract is preceded by a succinct summary of the legal principles that the case stands for.

The authors have set out the content methodically and logically. The book is divided into 13 chapters. The first chapter briefly introduces the reader to the law of trespass. The book then logically takes the reader to cases concerning interference with the person, with land and with goods (chapters two to four). It then focuses on the law of negligence, taking the reader through each of the elements of the tort. Finally, it contains case extracts concerning issues of concurrent liability and damages (chapters 12 and 13).

The book achieves a number of the authors' aims. It first identifies for the law student the current legal principles of Australian tort law in a convenient and accessible manner. The authors have achieved this by including pertinent case extracts from an extensive list of High Court decisions, as well as focusing on the decisions of state courts of appeal. Second, the book exposes the student to the essential skill of reading and comprehending judicial judgments. Third, it encourages the student to embark on their own research and assists in stimulating further discussion. For example, the student may wish to explore any underlying policy considerations or distinguishing factual circumstances that may have played a role in some judgments, as opposed to others.

The law student will find this book an excellent introduction to tort law, a useful supplement to their understanding and research of the area, and a helpful tool in preparing for examinations. ●

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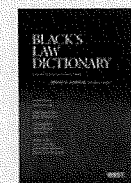


Trischa Mann
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