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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent publication from The Federation Press

In the past week Australia's leading legal publisher, The Federation Press, has published the following new work:

Leading Cases in Australian Law by Daniel Reynolds and Lyndon Goddard with a forward by the Hon R French, Chief Justice of Australia.

Whilst each decision of the Court is important to the litigants who agitate their interests in it and whilst some have wider application to a larger section of society, there are only a handful of cases which impact upon the character of Australian law for a sustained period. In this latest offering from that rather excellent publisher, The Federation Press, those cases which have shaped Australian jurisprudence are collected, collated and analysed. The cases are presented in the order in which they have been most frequently cited in later decisions. However, as the Chief Justice points out in his forward, the names of cases frequently cited are often used as incantations or minor spells which are trotted out in judgments to give reasons for judgment an authenticity which they otherwise do not deserve. So it is appropriate that this work provides an adumbrated analysis of each of 200 most cited cases which reminds the reader of their importance and what they actually decided. Each consideration of the cases contains an

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outline of the facts, the issues and the decision as well as an identification of the most frequently cited portion. Additionally, the discussion of each case provides cross-references to commentaries where the decision is authoritatively discussed.

Needless to say there are some well-known cases which appear in the top 20 and then others which might surprise. Whilst the decision in *General Steel* is the second most cited authority and *Project Blue Sky* the third, decisions such as *Veen v The Queen (No 2)* is number 15 and *R v Thompson & Houlton* is number 20.

The work has some interesting appendixes which analyse these 200 most frequently cited cases in various ways. In Appendix 4 for example, the judges who have contributed to the key statements in the leading cases are identified in order of the most frequently participating judge. Not surprisingly, Sir Anthony Mason tops that list. Of that, it might be said that he had the advantage of leading an incredibly impressive Court which was, then, at the zenith of its standing and influence. And given that it is apparent that such lists must be influenced by temporal considerations, Appendix 5 lists those cases within the 200 which have had the most prodigious rate of citation since being handed down. In effect the list identifies the potency of the decisions of the Court.

This is a most interesting work which should be read by all lawyers and law students alike. The greatest benefit from reading it will be that which is indirectly conveyed; being the revelation of the connecting principles which underpin Australian jurisprudence across its wide variety of taxonomical categories.

This work can be purchased from the Federation Press website for the extremely reasonable price of \$75.00. The webpage can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

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