

## Foreword to the Third Edition

# The Hon Justice Geoffrey Bellew

Whilst it is often observed that the law is ever changing, the nature and pace of such change may vary substantially. In some cases, society's requirements and expectations may be satisfactorily met and governed by laws of long standing which remain largely in the terms in which they were originally enacted. However, there are other areas in which the rapidity of societal change necessitates ongoing legislative revision and amendment, lest such change not be met, adequately or at all. One area in which there has evolved a demonstrated need for ongoing legislative response is that which centres upon those laws of the Commonwealth which impact upon the criminal law. The necessary expansion of that legislation over a number of years was such that the prosecution and defence of Commonwealth criminal offences, and the practices and procedures which govern them, combined to create a distinct and specialised area of legal practice. As a consequence, a corresponding need arose for the availability of a comprehensive and substantive text which assisted practitioners, as well as those who, for academic and related purposes, wished to enhance their knowledge of this area of the law. The response to that need saw the publication of the first edition of *Commonwealth Criminal Law* in 2014, which was followed by a second edition in 2018.

In writing this third edition, the author has drawn on his considerable experience as a senior member of the NSW Bar and has adopted the same approach and style which saw both the first and second editions of the publication meet with considerable success. Building on that success, he has ensured that the reader is kept abreast of all recent developments. This is reflected in, amongst other things, the expanded commentary on areas of increasing significance, such as the investigatory provisions in Part IAA of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth), as well as the provisions of the *Surveillance Devices Act 2004* (Cth) and the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (Cth). Changes to corporate-related offending brought about by the introduction of the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Strengthening Corporate and Financial Sector Penalties) Act 2019* (Cth), and to money laundering offences brought about by the introduction of the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020* (Cth), have been comprehensively addressed, as have recent changes in the law pertaining to child exploitation offences. Terrorism-related offending, an ever-increasing area, is addressed in considerable detail. The importance of sentencing law as it applies to Commonwealth offenders is addressed separately, a recognition of its importance, as well as the fact that the regime for the sentencing of such offenders is different, in varying degrees, from those regimes operating in individual States of Australia.

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The challenge of addressing such voluminous subject matter, in a manner which is comprehensive but easily navigated and understood by the reader, is not one to be underestimated. The author has successfully met that challenge in a way which reflects having approached his task with meticulous attention to detail. The result is the publication of this third edition which will establish *Commonwealth Criminal Law* as the pre-eminent text in this expanding and challenging area of legal practice.

I wish the author, and the publication, every success.

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