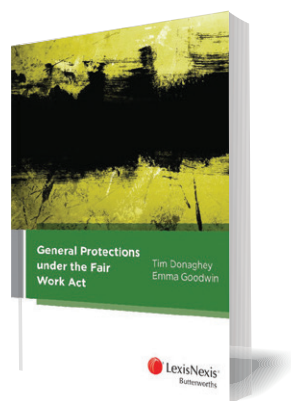


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This month's books cover online courts, law during war time, the Fair Work Act and firm culture.



General Protections under the Fair Work Act

Tim Donaghey and Emma Goodwin, LexisNexis Butterworths, 2019, pb \$130

The grouping and expanding of a number of workplace rights under the heading “General Protections” started with the introduction of the *Fair Work Act* in 2009. Since then, litigation in the area has proved fertile ground for plaintiff employment lawyers. Consequently, it has also been an active area for consideration by the judiciary, whose decisions and reasoning inform this textbook. In the words of Justice Mordecai Bromberg in his foreword to this text, giving due credit to singer-songwriter Paul Kelly, “from little things, big things grow”.

The text is orderly, placing the rights grouped under General Protections in their historical and conceptual framework before leading the reader through how these rights can be understood and applied. It is logical, intuitive and well thought out. It is also well researched.

Those who work in this area are no doubt familiar with the sense that trying to precisely pin down concepts in General Protections can at times feel like juggling jelly, but authors Tim Donaghey and Emma Goodwin do a masterful job in isolating areas of certainty and then providing reasoned commentary on those areas that continue to remain less certain. This makes this textbook easily accessible for lawyers, HR practitioners and students.

It is reassuring to see General Protections given the studied attention it deserves and the text fills a gap that has existed for too long.

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