

Uniform Evidence in Australia 2nd ed. 2018

Neil Williams, John Anderson, Judith Marychurch and Julia Roy

Lexis Nexis

Reviewed by Michael Flanagan, Ogilvie Jennings

This text is a useful guide for students and practitioners and would be appropriate for anyone without a complete grasp of the case law and principles of uniform evidence law.

Similar to other leading texts on the topic, the text goes through the provisions of the evidence acts in order and provides commentary and case law to help explain common issues readers need to overcome when trying to learn or apply the evidence acts. The text also offers commentary for certain provisions of the *Evidence Act 2001 (Tas)* which differ from other uniform evidence acts.

While this style of text may be more useful for students learning uniform evidence law for the first time, it is still an excellent refresher for practitioners looking at issues of evidence law before a hearing or trial.

For the most litigated provisions of the evidence acts, the text is quite detailed and usefully provides the most recent High Court and Appellate Court decisions with useful commentary. For this reason, it is an excellent resource for anyone looking to resolve a broad issue about hearsay, credibility, admissions, tendency, identification or similar.

The text is not an ideal resource for someone looking into a very specific issue of evidence. There is no commentary on rather specific provisions of the evidence acts (for example s196A of the *Evidence Act 2001 (Tas)*) nor does the text do anything to help with specific questions of admissibility of evidence or using evidence in practice, even where case law may be available. The text is quite academic in that sense and does not assist with learning the legislative scheme of evidence and how it operates in a court room.

However, for the most complex and commonly litigated provisions of the evidence acts, the text is an excellent academic guide that highlights what cases should be considered when researching broader issues of evidence.

This text is recommended for any law student or young practitioner wishing to better prepare for hearings and trials.