DATABASE GUIDE

ComLaw

ComLaw contains Commonwealth primary legislation and other ancillary documents as well as the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI). FRLI was established on 1 January 2005 under the Legislative Instruments Act 2003, as the authoritative source for legislative instruments and compilations of legislative instruments. ComLaw also provides links to sites that provide access to State Legislation and Commonwealth and State case law.

How to Access Database
To access this database go to http://library.vu.edu.au
1. Click Databases & E-Journals
2. Select C
3. Select ComLaw
4. Click ComLaw or Connect to: ComLaw

Advanced Search
The following search options are available from the ComLaw homepage:

Searching by ComLaw/FRLI Number
In the navigation pane under the Browse/Search option, click on Advanced Search
1. In Section A in the ComLaw/FRLI no. text box, type in the number of the legislation (eg.C2006C00026 or F2005C00380)
2. Click Search

Searching by Series Number and Year
1. In the navigation pane under the Browse/Search option, click on Advanced Search
2. Scroll to Section B
3. In the Year text box, enter the year of the legislation
4. In the Number text box, enter the number of the legislation
6. Click Search.

Search by Title/Phrase and Legislation Type
1. In the navigation pane under the Browse/Search option, click on Advanced Search
2. Scroll to Section C
3. To find law and related materials that are Current Law, in the Status section click in the Current Law check box
4. To find law and related materials that are historical law, in the Status section click in the Historical Law check box
5. To search for specific types of law and related materials in the And that is section, click in any or all of the boxes
6. In the Title text box, enter all or part of the legislation's title
7. Set limit searches to exact matched if required
8. In the Phrase text box, enter phrase to be found within either title or text of the legislation
9. Click search (See the Boolean operators and other tips table to refine a search)

**Browsing FRLI to locate a Legislative Instrument**

1. In the Navigation pane on the left, under the Look At heading, click on FRLI
2. From the Browse for dropdown list, select a category. eg. Legislation Instruments Compilations Current
3. Scroll to view the alphabetical listing of All legislation for your selected category or, select the classification of legislation you want to browse from the Classified as dropdown list.
4. Select the required hyperlinked alphabet.
5. You will be presented with the Legislative Item page of your selected LI

**Browsing ComLaw to Locate a Current Act.**

1. In the Navigation pane on the left, under the Tools heading, click on Browse
2. From the Browse for dropdown list, select a category For example, Act compilations.
3. Scroll to view the alphabetical listing of current acts. If you wish to view the list of superseded Acts, click on the Superseded tab.
4. Click on the required hyperlinked alphabet.
5. You will be presented with the Legislative Item page of your selected Act.

**Boolean Operators & Other Tips**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Enter Search</th>
<th>To Find</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>and/or</td>
<td>negligenv^ and defamv^</td>
<td>Document contains both terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not</td>
<td>Weapon or gun or firearm</td>
<td>Document contains either term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trust not family</td>
<td>Document contains 1st term but not 2nd term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trad^</td>
<td>Trade, trader, trading...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>