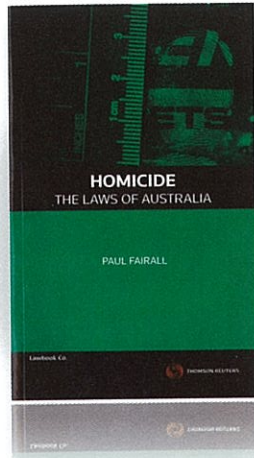


INPRINT

This month's reviews cover homicide laws, VCAT procedures, the work health and safety regime, and family law.



Homicide: The laws of Australia

Paul Fairall, *Homicide: The laws of Australia*, 2012, Thomson Reuters (Professional), pb \$119.95.

This book is a conversion of the author's chapter on homicide from the *Laws of Australia* into book form. It is a comprehensive and detailed exposition of all the laws relating to homicide in Australia.

The scholarship is of a high order. The writing is erudite. And it is clear and accessible to any practitioner who is required to advise a client on the most serious of the crimes in the criminal calendar.

The structure of the book allows a practitioner to deal logically and clearly with the law related to homicide at each step of the curial process, which is one of the book's key strengths.

So it commences with a treatment of general principles – such as jurisdiction and state of mind – and then moves to the “conduct” elements of homicide. The section on “omissions” is outstanding. It then shifts to the mental element required for murder. Partial defences are then considered. And finally manslaughter is given its own separate consideration.

Usefully, the work concludes with a chapter on the procedural and punishment aspects of homicide. In this way, every stage

of the curial process – apart from appeals – is dealt with.

Although the work does not delve too deeply into some of the more controversial aspects of particular homicide laws, such as defensive homicide in Victoria, there is sufficient reference to secondary material for those practitioners who wish to investigate further the deeper, jurisprudential aspects of the treatment of homicide under Australian criminal law.

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