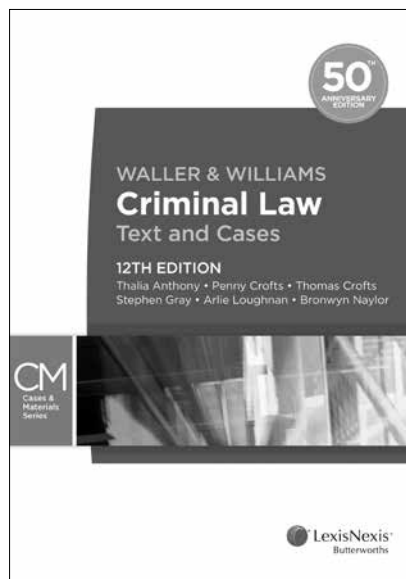


Waller & Williams Criminal Law Text and Cases, 12th edition

By Thalia Anthony et al | LexisNexis | 2013



This is a very comprehensive criminal law textbook, in excess of 1,000 pages, mainly dealing with criminal law as it applies in NSW and Victoria.

Chapter 1 is headed 'Foundations' and deals with important topics such as 'What is a crime', the sources of the criminal law, how a crime can be committed (i.e., the

different mental elements and physical acts needed), who can commit a crime, and an introduction to punishment, discretion and appeals among other things. Chapter 2 deals with assault and related offences such as stalking and affray, as well as an interesting discussion about ritual circumcision and the limits of consent in contact sports and some surgery.

Chapter 3 deals with sexual offences, including child sexual assault and sexual servitude. Chapter 4 deals with murder and chapters 5 and 6 deal with manslaughter, including an interesting discussion on industrial manslaughter. Chapters 7 and 8 deal with property offences in NSW and Victoria; and chapter 9 discusses drug offences, dealing also with the relevant Commonwealth legislation in relation to the importation of narcotics. Chapters 10 and 11 then deal with the law of attempting to commit an offence and the law in relation to the extension of criminal liability

including the law of conspiracy.

Chapters 12 – 15 deal with the most common defences relied upon in criminal law including self defence, necessity, duress, mistake (and strict liability), mental impairment and intoxication.

As stated above, in my view the textbook is very comprehensive, covering all of the main areas associated with criminal law, although mainly concentrating on the state criminal laws of NSW and Victoria. The actual commentary is well written, easy to read and comprehensive. Most of the case law extracts are the standard authorities and there are some English decisions as well, but this is understandable given that the primary purpose of the book is for law students and therefore for teaching law.

This textbook would be useful and valuable to any criminal law practitioner.

Reviewed by **Caroline Dobraszcyk**

Crossword solution

