

# AUSTLII MEDIA RELEASE



## **Australasian Legal Information Institute**

A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

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### **FIRST FREE CITATOR FOR AUSTRALIAN LAW LAUNCHED**

High Court judge, Justice Michael Kirby has launched Australia's first internet-based system offering free access to citations of Australian law.

LawCite includes citations of Australian law and those of other countries whose case data is available through the Free Access to Law Movement. It includes numerous citations of Australian cases by overseas courts.

The citator was developed by the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), a joint initiative of the University of Technology, Sydney and the University of New South Wales.

Launching LawCite at AustLII, Justice Kirby said free public access to the law and legal materials was crucial.

"With this development, AustLII has made law so accessible that it is now at the fingertips of every Australian who can access the internet," he said.

"It is yet another example of increasing legal accessibility."

Justice Kirby also announced the launch on CommonLII of The English Reports dating from 1220 to 1873.

"These are essentially the foundations of the Common Law in all the countries that share their roots in the English legal system, and as such are a worthy addition to the legal database," he said.

"I welcome the collaboration between the University of Technology, Sydney and the University of New South Wales, and I look forward to further breakthroughs in legal accessibility."

LawCite developer and AustLII co-director, Professor Andrew Mowbray, said LawCite is another free tool that will further benefit all AustLII users.



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“Over 600,000 pages of information held by AustLII are accessed every day by users in the legal profession, education, government, business and the general public,” he said.

“There are currently citations for over two million cases included in LawCite and we expect this to continue to grow.”

LawCite was developed with funding from an ARC Linkage grant.

LawCite: [www.austlii.edu.au/lawcite](http://www.austlii.edu.au/lawcite)

The English Reports: <http://www.commonlii.org/int/cases/EngR/>

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