

Queensland



EVIDENCE ACT 1977

**Reprinted as in force on 27 November 2000
(includes amendments up to Act No. 58 of 2000)**

Warning—see last endnote for uncommenced amendments

Reprint No. 5B

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Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 27 November 2000. The reprint—

- shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c))
- incorporates all necessary consequential amendments, whether of punctuation, numbering or another kind (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(d)).

The reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see list of legislation and list of annotations in endnotes.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprints for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of earlier reprints is included in the endnotes.

Also see endnotes for information about—

- **when provisions commenced**
- **provisions that have not commenced and are not incorporated in the reprint**
- **editorial changes made in earlier reprints.**

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EVIDENCE ACT 1977

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 27 November 2000]

An Act to consolidate, amend and reform the law of evidence and for related purposes

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Evidence Act 1977*.

Act binds Crown

2. This Act binds the Crown not only in right of the State of Queensland but also, so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

Definitions

3. In this Act—

“**approved form**” see section 134B.¹

“**chief executive (surveys)**” means the chief executive of the department in which the *Surveyors Act 1977* is administered.

“**court**” means the court, tribunal, judge, justice, arbitrator, body or person before whom or which a proceeding is held or taken.

“**criminal proceeding**” includes a proceeding wherein a person is charged with a simple offence, and an examination of witnesses in relation to

¹ Section 134B (Approval of forms)

an indictable offence.

“document” includes, in addition to a document in writing—

- (a) any part of a document in writing or of any other document as defined herein; and
- (b) any book, map, plan, graph or drawing; and
- (c) any photograph; and
- (d) any label, marking or other writing which identifies or describes anything of which it forms part, or to which it is attached by any means whatever; and
- (e) any disc, tape, sound track or other device in which sounds or other data (not being visual images) are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom; and
- (f) any film, negative, tape or other device in which 1 or more visual images are embodied so as to be capable (with or without the aid of some other equipment) of being reproduced therefrom; and
- (g) any other record of information whatever.

“film” includes a microfilm.

“gazette” includes any gazette, or part of a gazette, published by the government printer.

Example—

Queensland Government Industrial Gazette.

“intellectually impaired person” means a person who has a disability that—

- (a) is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive or neurological impairment or a combination of these; and
- (b) results in—
 - (i) a substantial reduction of the person’s capacity for communication, social interaction or learning; and
 - (ii) the person needing support.

“judge” means the member or members of a court.

“proceeding” means any civil, criminal or other proceeding or inquiry, reference or examination in which by law or by consent of parties evidence is or may be given, and includes an arbitration.

“protected witness”, for part 2, division 6, see section 21M.

“statement” includes any representation of fact, whether made in words or otherwise and whether made by a person, computer or otherwise.

“telegraph” means a system of telecommunication operated under Commonwealth law.

“telegraphic message” means any message or other communication transmitted or intended for transmission or purporting to have been transmitted by telegraph.

“telegraph office” means an office or place established or used for receiving or transmitting telegraphic messages.

“undertaking” includes public administration and any business, profession, occupation, calling, trade or undertaking whether engaged in or carried on—

- (a) by the Crown (in right of the State of Queensland or any other right), or by a statutory body, or by any other person; or
- (b) for profit or not; or
- (c) in Queensland or elsewhere.

Meaning of “copy” of document etc.

4. In this Act, any reference to a copy of a document includes—

- (a) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (e) but not paragraph (f) of the definition “document” in section 3—a transcript of the sounds or other data embodied therein; and
- (b) in the case of a document falling within paragraph (f) but not paragraph (e) of that definition—a reproduction or still reproduction of the image or images embodied therein, whether enlarged or not; and
- (c) in the case of a document falling within both those paragraphs—such a transcript together with such a reproduction or still reproduction; and

- (d) in the case of a document not falling within the said paragraph (f) of which a visual image is embodied in a document falling within that paragraph—a reproduction or still reproduction of that image, whether enlarged or not;

and any reference to a copy of the material part of a document shall be construed accordingly.

Meaning of document purporting to be of certain character etc.

5. For the purposes of this Act a document, including any instrument or part of an instrument, purports—

- (a) to be of a certain character; or
- (b) to have been produced or authenticated at a certain time, in a certain manner, by a certain person or body, or by a person having a certain qualification or occupying a certain office; or
- (c) any other matter whatever;

if the document expressly or impliedly represents that matter or a court can assume that matter from the contents of the document or otherwise.

PART 2—WITNESSES

Division 1—Who may testify

Witnesses interested or convicted of offence

6. No person shall be excluded from giving evidence in any proceeding on the ground—

- (a) that the person has or may have an interest in the matter in question, or in the result of the proceeding; or
- (b) that the person has previously been convicted of any offence.

Parties, their wives and husbands as witnesses

7.(1) Each of the parties to a proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) and a person on whose behalf such a proceeding is brought or defended is competent and compellable to give evidence on behalf of either or any of the parties to the proceeding.

(2) The husband or wife of a party to a proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) and the husband or wife of a person on whose behalf such a proceeding is brought or defended is competent and compellable to give evidence on behalf of either or any of the parties to the proceeding.

Witnesses in a criminal proceeding

8.(1) In a criminal proceeding, each person charged is competent to give evidence on behalf of the defence (whether that person is charged solely or jointly with any other person) but is not compellable to do so.

(2) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is competent to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence.

(3) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence on behalf of that person.

(4) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence where—

- (a)** the offence charged against that person is under any provision mentioned in schedule 2 or is an attempt to commit or an attempt to procure the commission of such an offence; and
- (b)** the person against or in respect of whom the offence charged is alleged to have been committed was at the time of the commission of the offence under the age of 16 years.

(5) In a criminal proceeding, the husband or wife of each person charged is compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence wherever at common law he or she would have been competent or compellable to give evidence for the prosecution.

(6) Where the husband or wife of a person charged is competent but not compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or on behalf of the defence,

the presiding judge, stipendiary magistrate or justice shall before the witness gives evidence and, where the proceeding is being conducted before a jury, in the absence of the jury, inform the witness that the witness is not compellable to give evidence if unwilling to do so.

(7) Nothing in this section shall—

- (a) make the husband or wife of a person charged competent or compellable to give evidence for the prosecution or compellable to give evidence for the defence in a criminal proceeding in which that husband or wife is also charged; or
- (b) affect the operation of section 11.

Evidence of person who does not understand oath

9.(1) This section applies if the court considers a person called as a witness in a proceeding (the “**witness**”) does not understand the nature of an oath.

(2) The court must explain to the witness the duty of speaking the truth.

(3) Whether or not the witness understands the duty of speaking the truth, the court must receive the witness’s evidence even though it is not given on oath.

(4) Subsection (3) does not apply if the court is satisfied the witness does not have sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence.

(5) If evidence is admitted under subsection (3)—

- (a) the probative value of the evidence is not decreased only because the evidence is not given on oath; and
- (b) a person charged with an offence may be convicted on the evidence; and
- (c) the witness is liable to be convicted of perjury to the same extent as if the witness had given the evidence on oath.

(6) Evidence admitted under subsection (3) that is written down as a deposition is taken to be a deposition for all purposes.

Expert evidence of ability to give reliable evidence

9A.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a court is deciding whether a person who does not understand the nature of an oath has sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence; or
- (b) the evidence of a child less than 12 years is admitted.

(2) Expert evidence is admissible in the proceeding about the witness's level of intelligence, including the witness's powers of perception, memory and expression, or another matter relevant to the witness's ability to give reliable evidence.

Division 2—Privileges and obligations of witnesses**Privilege against self incrimination**

10.(1) Nothing in this Act shall render any person compellable to answer any question tending to criminate the person.

(2) However, in a criminal proceeding where a person charged gives evidence, the person's liability to answer any such question shall be governed by section 15.

Communications to husband or wife

11. A husband is not compellable in a criminal proceeding in which his wife is charged to disclose any communication made to him by his wife during the marriage and a wife is not compellable in a criminal proceeding in which her husband is charged to disclose any communication made to her by her husband during the marriage.

Admissibility of evidence as to access by husband or wife

12. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Act or any rule of law, neither the evidence of any person nor any statement made out of court by any person shall be inadmissible in any proceeding whatever by reason of the fact that it is tendered with the object of proving, or that it proves or tends to prove, that marital intercourse did or did not take place at any time

or during any period between that person and a person who is or was the person's wife or husband or that any child is or was, or is not or was not, their legitimate child.

Compellability of parties and witnesses as to evidence of adultery

13. Notwithstanding anything in any Act or any rule of law, in any proceeding whatever—

- (a) a party shall not be entitled to refuse to answer any interrogatory or to give discovery of documents;
- (b) a witness, whether a party or not, shall not be entitled to refuse to answer any question, whether relevant to any issue or relating to credit merely;

on the ground solely that such answer or discovery would or might relate to, or would tend or might tend to establish, adultery by that party or that witness, or by any other person with that party or that witness, as the case may be.

Abolition of certain privileges

14.(1) The following rules of law are hereby abrogated except in relation to criminal proceedings, that is to say—

- (a) the rule whereby, in any proceeding, a person cannot be compelled to answer any question or produce any document or thing if to do so would tend to expose the person to a forfeiture;
- (b) the rule whereby, in any proceeding, a person other than a party to the proceeding cannot be compelled to produce any deed or other document relating to the person's title to any land.

(2) The rule of law whereby, in any civil proceeding, a party to the proceeding cannot be compelled to produce any document relating solely to the party's own case and in no way tending to impeach that case or support the case of any opposing party is hereby abrogated.

Division 3—Examination and cross-examination of witnesses**Questioning a person charged in a criminal proceeding**

15.(1) Where in a criminal proceeding a person charged gives evidence, the person shall not be entitled to refuse to answer a question or produce a document or thing on the ground that to do so would tend to prove the commission by the person of the offence with which the person is there charged.

(2) Where in a criminal proceeding a person charged gives evidence, the person shall not be asked, and if asked shall not be required to answer, any question tending to show that the person has committed or been convicted of or been charged with any offence other than that with which the person is there charged, or is of bad character, unless—

- (a) the question is directed to showing a matter of which the proof is admissible evidence to show that the person is guilty of the offence with which the person is there charged;
- (b) the question is directed to showing a matter of which the proof is admissible evidence to show that any other person charged in that criminal proceeding is not guilty of the offence with which that other person is there charged;
- (c) the person has personally or by counsel asked questions of any witness with a view to establishing the person's own good character, or has given evidence of the person's good character, or the nature or conduct of the defence is such as to involve imputations on the character of the prosecutor or of any witness for the prosecution or of any other person charged in that criminal proceeding;
- (d) the person has given evidence against any other person charged in that criminal proceeding.

(3) A question of a kind mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c) may be asked only with the court's permission.

(4) If the proceeding is a trial by jury, an application for the court's permission under subsection (3) must be made in the absence of the jury.

Questioning of witness as to certain convictions

15A. A witness in any criminal or civil proceeding shall not be asked and if asked shall not be required to answer any question tending to show that the witness has committed or been convicted of or been charged with any offence if, where the witness has been convicted of the offence—

- (a) the conviction is one in relation to which a rehabilitation period is capable of running pursuant to the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986*; and
- (b) in relation to the conviction the rehabilitation period within the meaning of that Act is not running at the time of the criminal or civil proceeding;

unless the permission of the court to ask the question has first been obtained, such permission to be applied for in a trial by jury in the absence of the jury.

Witness may be questioned as to previous conviction

16. Subject to this Act, a witness may be questioned as to whether the witness has been convicted of any indictable or other offence and upon being so questioned, if the witness either denies the fact or refuses to answer, it shall be lawful for the party so questioning to prove such conviction.

How far a party may discredit the party's own witness

17.(1) A party producing a witness shall not be allowed to impeach the credit of the witness by general evidence of bad character but may contradict the witness by other evidence, or (in case the witness in the opinion of the court proves adverse) may by leave of the court prove that the witness has made at other times a statement inconsistent with the present testimony of the witness.

(2) However, before such last mentioned proof can be given, the circumstances of the supposed statement sufficient to designate the particular occasion must be mentioned to the witness and the witness must be asked whether or not the witness has made such statement.

Proof of previous inconsistent statement of witness

18.(1) If a witness upon cross-examination as to a former statement made by the witness relative to the subject matter of the proceeding and inconsistent with the present testimony of the witness does not distinctly admit that the witness has made such statement, proof may be given that the witness did in fact make it.

(2) However, before such proof can be given, the circumstances of the supposed statement sufficient to designate the particular occasion must be mentioned to the witness and the witness must be asked whether or not the witness has made such statement.

Witness may be cross-examined as to written statement without being shown it

19.(1) A witness may be cross-examined as to a previous statement made by the witness in writing or reduced into writing relative to the subject matter of the proceeding without such writing being shown to the witness.

(1A) However, if it is intended to contradict the witness by the writing the attention of the witness must, before such contradictory proof can be given, be called to those parts of the writing which are to be used for the purpose of so contradicting the witness.

(2) A court may at any time during the hearing of a proceeding direct that the writing containing a statement referred to in subsection (1) be produced to the court and the court may make such use in the proceeding of the writing as the court thinks fit.

Cross-examination as to credit

20.(1) The court may disallow a question as to credit put to a witness in cross-examination, or inform the witness the question need not be answered, if the court considers an admission of the question's truth would not materially impair confidence in the reliability of the witness's evidence.

(2) In this section—

“question as to credit”, for a witness, means a question that is not relevant to the proceeding except that an admission of the question's truth may affect the witness's credit by injuring the witness's character.

Improper questions

21.(1) The court may disallow a question put to a witness in cross-examination or inform a witness a question need not be answered, if the court considers the question is an improper question.

(2) In deciding whether a question is an improper question, the court must take into account—

- (a) any mental, intellectual or physical impairment the witness has or appears to have; and
- (b) any other matter about the witness the court considers relevant, including, for example, age, education, level of understanding, cultural background or relationship to any party to the proceeding.

(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the matters the court may take into account in deciding whether a question is an improper question.

(4) In this section—

“improper question” means a question that uses inappropriate language or is misleading, confusing, annoying, harassing, intimidating, offensive, oppressive or repetitive.

Division 4—Evidence of special witnesses**Evidence of special witnesses**

21A.(1) In this section—

“relevant matter”, for a person, means the person’s age, education, level of understanding, cultural background or relationship to any party to the proceeding, the nature of the subject-matter of the evidence, or another matter the court considers relevant.

“special witness” means—

- (a) a child under the age of 12 years; or
- (b) a person who, in the court’s opinion—
 - (i) would, as a result of a mental, intellectual or physical impairment or a relevant matter, be likely to be disadvantaged as a witness; or

- (ii) would be likely to suffer severe emotional trauma; or
 - (iii) would be likely to be so intimidated as to be disadvantaged as a witness;
- if required to give evidence in accordance with the usual rules and practice of the court.

(1A) A party to a proceeding or, in a criminal proceeding, the person charged may be a special witness.

(2) Where a special witness is to give or is giving evidence in any proceeding, the court may, of its own motion or upon application made by a party to the proceeding, make or give 1 or more of the following orders or directions—

- (a) in the case of a criminal proceeding—that the person charged be excluded from the room in which the court is sitting or be obscured from the view of the special witness while the special witness is giving evidence or is required to appear in court for any other purpose;
- (b) that, while the special witness is giving evidence, all persons other than those specified by the court be excluded from the room in which it is sitting;
- (c) that the special witness give evidence in a room—
 - (i) other than that in which the court is sitting; and
 - (ii) from which all persons other than those specified by the court are excluded;
- (d) that a person approved by the court be present while the special witness is giving evidence or is required to appear in court for any other purpose in order to provide emotional support to the special witness;
- (e) that a videotape of the evidence of the special witness or any portion of it be made under such conditions as are specified in the order and that the videotaped evidence be viewed and heard in the proceeding instead of the direct testimony of the special witness;
- (f) another order or direction the court considers appropriate about the giving of evidence by the special witness, including, for example, a direction about rest breaks for the special witness or a

direction that questions for the special witness be kept simple.

(3) An order shall not be made pursuant to subsection (2) if it appears to the court that the making of the order would unfairly prejudice any party to the proceeding or, in a criminal proceeding, the person charged or the prosecution.

(4) Subject to any order made pursuant to subsection (5), in any criminal proceeding an order shall not be made pursuant to subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c) excluding the person charged from the room in which a special witness is giving evidence unless provision is made, by means of an electronic device or otherwise, for that person to see and hear the special witness while the special witness is giving evidence.

(5) Where the making of a videotape of the evidence of a special witness is ordered pursuant to subsection (2)(e), the court may further order that all persons other than those specified by the court be excluded from the room in which the special witness is giving that evidence.

(5A) However, any person entitled in the proceeding to examine or cross-examine the special witness shall be given reasonable opportunity to view any portion of the videotape of the evidence relevant to the conduct of that examination or cross-examination.

(6) A videotape, made under this section, of any portion of the evidence of a special witness shall be admissible as if the evidence were given orally in the proceeding in accordance with the usual rules and practice of the court.

(7) The room in which a special witness gives evidence pursuant to an order made pursuant to subsection (2)(c) or the room occupied by a special witness while the evidence of the witness is being videotaped shall be deemed to be part of the court in which the proceeding is being held.

Division 6—Cross-examination of protected witnesses

Application of division 6

21L. This division applies only to criminal proceedings, other than summary proceedings under the *Justices Act 1886*.

Meaning of “protected witness”

21M.(1) For this division, each of the following persons is a “**protected witness**”—

- (a) a witness under 16 years;
- (b) a witness who is an intellectually impaired person;
- (c) for a proceeding for a prescribed special offence, an alleged victim of the offence;
- (d) for a proceeding for a prescribed offence, an alleged victim of the offence who the court considers would be likely to be disadvantaged as a witness, or to suffer severe emotional trauma, unless treated as a protected witness.

(2) It does not matter whether the proceeding mentioned in subsection (1)(c) or (d) relates also to another offence that is not a prescribed special offence or a prescribed offence.

(3) In this section—

“**alleged victim**” of an offence means a person, other than the person charged, who is—

- (a) alleged to be a person in relation to whom the offence was committed; or
- (b) alleged to have been subject to violence in relation to the offence.

“**prescribed offence**” means an offence defined in the Criminal Code, section 75, 122, 127, 206, 308, 309, 323, 335, 338, 338A, 339, 340,

346, 354, 354A, 355, 359, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 417A or 419.²

“prescribed special offence” means an offence defined in the Criminal Code, section 208, 209, 210, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 227, 229B, 306, 313, 315, 316, 317, 320, 320A, 322, 323A, 323B, 359E, 363, 363A, 364, 409 or 412 or chapter 32.³

“violence” means—

- (a) an assault on, or injury to, a person; or
- (b) a threat of an assault on, or an injury to, a person.

² Criminal Code, section 75 (Threatening violence), 122 (Corrupting or threatening jurors), 127 (Corruption of witnesses), 206 (Offering violence to officiating ministers of religion), 308 (Threats to murder in document), 309 (Conspiring to murder), 323 (Wounding and similar acts), 335 (Common assault), 338 (Assaults on persons protecting wrecks), 338A (Assaults of member of crew on aircraft), 339 (Assaults occasioning bodily harm), 340 (Serious assaults), 346 (Assaults in interference with freedom of trade or work), 354 (Kidnapping), 354A (Kidnapping for ransom), 355 (Deprivation of liberty), 359 (Threats), 413 (Assault with intent to steal), 414 (Demanding property with menaces with intent to steal), 415 (Demanding property, benefit or performance of services with threats), 416 (Attempts at extortion by threats), 417 (Procuring execution of deeds etc. by threats), 417A (Taking control of aircraft) or 419 (Burglary)

³ Criminal Code, section 208 (Unlawful sodomy), 209 (Attempted sodomy), 210 (Indecent treatment of children under 16), 213 (Owner etc. permitting abuse of children on premises), 215 (Carnal knowledge with or of children under 16), 216 (Abuse of intellectually impaired persons), 217 (Procuring young person etc. for carnal knowledge), 218 (Procuring sexual acts by coercion etc.), 219 (Taking child for immoral purposes), 221 (Conspiracy to defile), 222 (Incest), 227 (Indecent acts), 229B (Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child), 306 (Attempt to murder), 313 (Killing unborn child), 315 (Disabling in order to commit indictable offence), 316 (Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence), 317 (Acts intended to cause grievous bodily harm and other malicious acts), 320 (Grievous bodily harm), 320A (Torture), 322 (Maliciously administering poison with intent to harm), 323A (Female genital mutilation), 323B (Removal of child from State for female genital mutilation), 359E (Punishment of unlawful stalking), 363 (Child-stealing), 363A (Abduction of child under 16), 364 (Cruelty to children under 16), 409 (Definition of “robbery”) or 412 (Attempted robbery) or chapter 32 (Rape and sexual assaults)

No cross-examination of protected witness by person charged

21N. A person charged may not cross-examine a protected witness in person.

Procedure for cross-examination of protected witness if person charged has no legal representative

21O.(1) This section applies if—

- (a) a person charged does not have a legal representative for a proceeding; and
- (b) the court rules that a person is a protected witness for the proceeding.

(2) The court must advise the person charged present before the court that—

- (a) the person charged may not cross-examine the protected witness in person; and
- (b) the court will arrange for the person charged to be given free legal assistance by Legal Aid for the cross-examination unless the person charged—
 - (i) arranges for legal representation; or
 - (ii) does not want the protected witness to be cross-examined.

(3) The court must also require the person charged to advise the court by a particular date or time the court considers reasonable if the person charged—

- (a) has arranged for a legal representative to act for the person charged for the proceeding; or
- (b) has arranged for a legal representative to act for the person charged for cross-examination of the protected witness; or
- (c) does not want the protected witness to be cross-examined.

(4) If, by the particular date or time, the court has not received advice from the person charged under subsection (3) that the person charged has arranged for a legal representative or does not want the protected witness cross-examined, the court must make an order that the person charged be

given free legal assistance by Legal Aid for the cross-examination of the protected witness by a lawyer.

Legal assistance for cross-examination of protected witness

21P. If a person charged is given legal assistance by Legal Aid because of an order under section 21O(4), the lawyer who cross-examines the protected witness for the person charged is the person's legal representative for the purposes only of the cross-examination.

Satisfaction of Criminal Code, section 616

21Q.(1) This section applies if a person charged who does not have a legal representative for the cross-examination of a protected witness refuses legal assistance, available because of an order under section 21O(4), to cross-examine the witness.

(2) The Criminal Code, section 616⁴ is taken to have been satisfied for the person charged in relation to cross-examination of the witness despite the person charged being unable to cross-examine the witness because of section 21N.

Jury direction

21R.(1) This section applies if there is a jury and a person charged—

- (a) does not have a legal representative other than for the cross-examination of a protected witness; or
- (b) does not have a legal representative for the cross-examination of a protected witness.

(2) The court must give the jury any warning the court considers necessary to ensure the person charged is not prejudiced by any inference that might be drawn from the fact the person charged has been prevented from cross-examining the protected witness in person.

⁴ Criminal Code, section 616 (Defence by counsel)

Orders, directions and rulings concerning protected witnesses

21S. The court may make any orders or give any directions or rulings it considers appropriate for the purposes of this division on the court's own initiative or on an application made to the court by a party to the proceeding.

PART 3—MEANS OF OBTAINING EVIDENCE***Division 1—Commissions, requests and orders to examine witnesses*****Commission, request or order to examine witnesses**

22.(1) The Supreme Court or a judge thereof, on application made under the Rules of the Supreme Court, shall have the same powers to issue a commission, request or order to examine witnesses for the purpose of civil proceedings in any court other than the Supreme Court as it or the judge has for the purpose of civil proceedings in the Supreme Court.

(2) The rules of the Supreme Court, with such adaptations as the circumstances may require, shall apply and extend to a commission, request or order to examine witnesses issued by authority of subsection (1) and to all proceedings taken thereunder as if the commission, request or order were issued by authority of those rules.

(3) Subject to all just exceptions, the depositions taken upon the examination of a witness before an examiner by virtue of this section certified under the hand of the examiner are admissible in evidence, without proof of the signature to such certificate, unless it is proved that the witness is at the time of the hearing at which the depositions are offered in evidence within a convenient distance of the place of the hearing and able to attend.

(4) The costs of proceedings taken by virtue of this section shall be costs in the cause, unless otherwise directed either by the judge issuing the commission, request or order or by the court for the purpose of whose proceedings the examination is conducted.

Commission or order in criminal cases

23.(1) In any criminal proceeding, if any witness is out of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or more than 400 km from the intended place of trial or is from age or infirmity unable to attend the trial or if the testimony of any witness is in danger of being lost by reason of the age or infirmity of the witness or by reason of the witness being about to depart out of the jurisdiction or to some place beyond the said distance of 400 km, the Supreme Court or a judge thereof may, on the application or with the consent of the Attorney-General or the crown prosecutor as well as the person charged, but not otherwise, order—

- (a) that any such witness within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court be examined on oath, either viva voce or upon interrogatories or otherwise, before a specified officer of the court or other specified person; or
- (b) that a commission issue for the examination of such witness on oath, either viva voce or upon interrogatories or otherwise, at any place in or out of the jurisdiction.

(2) The Supreme Court or a judge thereof may, at the same time or subsequently, give all such directions touching the time, place and manner of such examination, as well within the jurisdiction as without, and all other matters and circumstances connected with such examination as appear reasonable and just.

(3) Subject to all just exceptions, the depositions taken upon the examination of a witness before an examiner by virtue of this section certified under the hand of the examiner are admissible in evidence, without proof of the signature to such certificate, unless it is proved that the witness is at the time of the hearing at which the depositions are offered in evidence within a convenient distance of the place of the hearing and able to attend.

(4) Any person authorised by any order or commission under this section to take the examination of any witness shall take such examination upon the oath of such witness and may administer the necessary oaths to such witness.

Power of person appointed by foreign authority to take evidence and administer oaths

24.(1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), where an authority desires to take or receive evidence in Queensland, that authority may appoint a person to take or receive evidence in Queensland and a person so appointed has power to take or receive evidence in Queensland for that authority and for that purpose to administer an oath.

(2) Where the authority is not a court or judge, a person so appointed has no power to take or receive evidence, or to administer an oath, in Queensland unless the person has first obtained the consent of the Attorney-General.

(3) This section does not authorise the taking or receiving of evidence by a person so appointed in or for use in criminal proceedings.

(4) In this section—

“**authority**” means any court, judge, or person who, or body which, is authorised under the law of a place outside Queensland to take or receive evidence on oath or under any other sanction authorised by law in that place.

Division 2—Summary procedure to obtain evidence for Queensland or other jurisdictions**Definitions for div 2**

25. In this division—

“**corresponding court**”—

- (a) in relation to a court or person acting judicially in a prescribed country—means the court or person acting judicially in Queensland declared by regulation to be the court or person in Queensland that corresponds to that court or person in the prescribed country; and
- (b) in relation to a court or person acting judicially in Queensland—means the court or person acting judicially in a prescribed country declared by regulation to be the court or person in a prescribed country that corresponds to that court or person in

Queensland.

“examiner” means a judge, magistrate, clerk of a Magistrates Court or any duly qualified legal practitioner.

“prescribed country” means any State or Territory of the Commonwealth, New Zealand and any other State, Territory or country that is declared by regulation to be a prescribed country for the purposes of this division.

Power of Queensland court to request corresponding court in a prescribed country to take evidence for use in Queensland court

26.(1) Where a court or person acting judicially in Queensland is authorised by or under any Act or law to authorise or order evidence to be taken otherwise than at the hearing of the legal proceedings in respect of which the evidence is required, that court or person may on the application of a person who desires to lead evidence, if it or the person is satisfied that it is necessary in the interests of justice, request a corresponding court to order the examination of a witness or the production of documents by a person or both such examination and production.

(2) Any deposition received from a corresponding court which purports to have been signed by the deponent and the examiner or to have been certified as a correct record by the examiner may, subject to all just exceptions, be put in as evidence at the hearing of the legal proceedings and any documents received from a corresponding court may, subject to all just exceptions, be put in at the hearing as if produced at the hearing by the person who produced the documents pursuant to the order of the corresponding court.

(3) A court or person acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the seal of a corresponding court and of the signature of any examiner appointed by a corresponding court.

Power to take evidence on request from corresponding court of a prescribed country

27.(1) Where by or under any Act or law of a prescribed country provision is made for the evidence of any person that is required in connection with any legal proceedings to be taken otherwise than at the

hearing of those proceedings by a court or person acting judicially, a court or person acting judicially in Queensland that is a corresponding court to a court or person acting judicially in the prescribed country before which or whom legal proceedings are being held may, upon receipt of a request in writing from that court or person in the prescribed country, make an order for the examination of a witness and the production of documents by a person or both for such examination or production before an examiner named in the order at a time and place specified in the order.

(2) The order shall require reasonable notice to be given by post to each party to the legal proceedings at the party's address as shown in the request of the time when and place where the examination is to take place or the documents are to be produced.

Summons of witnesses

28. Upon service on a person of an order requiring the person to attend for examination or to produce documents, together with the payment or tender of a reasonable sum for expenses, the person shall attend at the time and place appointed and shall have and be subject to the same rights and liabilities as if the person were summoned before the court or person by which or whom the order was made.

Examination

29.(1) Subject to any directions contained in the order for examination—

- (a) a person ordered to be examined before the examiner may be cross-examined and re-examined; and
- (b) the examination, cross-examination and re-examination of persons before the examiner shall be conducted in like manner as they would have been conducted before the court or person acting judicially who made the order for the examination.

(2) The examiner may put any question to a person examined before the examiner as to the meaning of any answer made by that person or as to any matter arising in the course of the examination.

(3) An examiner shall have and may exercise such of the powers of the court or person acting judicially by whom the examiner was appointed as

are necessary for the proper exercise of the examiner's functions under this division and may administer oaths and adjourn the examination from time to time as the examiner thinks fit.

Objections

30.(1) If a person being examined before an examiner objects to answering any question put to the person, or if objection is taken to any such question that question, the ground for the objection and the answer to any such question to which objection is taken shall be set out in the deposition of that person or any statement annexed thereto.

(2) The validity of the ground for objecting to answer any such question or for objecting to such question shall not be determined by the examiner but by the corresponding court at whose request the examination is being conducted.

Depositions to be signed

31.(1) Where pursuant to an order for examination—

- (a) a witness has given evidence to the examiner, the depositions of the witness shall be signed by the witness and by the examiner or where the witness refuses to sign or requires alterations that the examiner considers to be unjustified the depositions shall be signed by the examiner who shall certify that the depositions are a correct record and the reasons for them not being signed by the witness;
- (b) documents have been produced to the examiner by a person not giving evidence, the examiner shall attach to such documents a certificate signed by the examiner stating the name of that person.

(2) All depositions and documents taken before or produced to the examiner pursuant to any such order shall be delivered by the examiner to the court or person by which or whom the order was made for transmission to the corresponding court.

Power of Queensland court to transmit requests to other places

32. Where a court or person acting judicially in Queensland receives a request from a corresponding court for the examination of a witness or the production of documents by a person and it appears to the court or person acting judicially that the witness or person is not in Queensland and is not proceeding to Queensland but is in or proceeding to another country that is a prescribed country under the law of the country of the corresponding court the court—

- (a) may transmit the request to a corresponding court in that other prescribed country together with such information as it or the person possesses concerning the whereabouts and intended movements of the person;
- (b) shall give notice to the corresponding court from which it received the request that the documents have been so transmitted.

Saving as to personal attendance

33. Nothing in this division limits or abridges the power of a court or a person acting judicially to require a witness to attend in person before the court or person.

Division 3—General procedure to obtain evidence for other jurisdictions**Definitions for div 3**

35. In this division—

“civil proceedings”, in relation to a requesting court, means proceedings in any civil or commercial matter.

“overseas country” means a country, or part of a country, outside the Commonwealth.

“request” includes any commission, order or other process issued by or on behalf of a requesting court.

“requesting court” has the meaning given to it in section 36.

Application of division to Crown

35A. Nothing in this division shall be construed as enabling any court to make an order that is binding on the Crown or on any person in the person's capacity as an officer or servant of the Crown.

Application to Supreme Court to obtain evidence for civil proceedings in another jurisdiction

36. Where an application by way of originating summons is made to the Supreme Court or a judge thereof for an order for evidence to be obtained in the State, and the court or judge is satisfied—

- (a) that the application is made in pursuance of a request issued by or on behalf of a court or tribunal ("**the requesting court**") exercising jurisdiction in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or in an overseas country; and
- (b) that the evidence to which the application relates is to be obtained for the purposes of civil proceedings which either have been instituted before the requesting court or whose institution before that court is contemplated;

the court or judge shall have the powers conferred by the following provisions of this division.

Power of Supreme Court to give effect to application to obtain evidence

37.(1) The Supreme Court or a judge thereof on an application under section 36 shall have power by order to make such provision for obtaining evidence in the State as may appear to be appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to the request in pursuance of which the application is made, and any such order may require a person specified therein to take such steps as the court or judge may consider appropriate for that purpose.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may make provision—

- (a) for the examination of witnesses, either orally or in writing; and
- (b) for the production of documents; and

- (c) for the inspection, photographing, preservation, custody or detention of any property; and
- (d) for the taking of samples of any property and the carrying out of any experiments on or with any property; and
- (e) for the medical examination of any person.

(3) An order under this section shall not require any particular steps to be taken unless they are steps which can be required to be taken by way of obtaining evidence for the purposes of civil proceedings in the Supreme Court (whether or not proceedings of the same description as those to which the application for the order relates), but this subsection shall not preclude the making of an order requiring a person to give testimony (either orally or in writing) otherwise than on oath where this is asked for by the requesting court.

(4) An order under this section shall not require a person—

- (a) to state what documents relevant to the proceedings to which the application for the order relates are or have been in the person's possession or power; or
- (b) to produce any documents other than particular documents specified in the order as being documents appearing to the court making the order to be, or to be likely to be, in the person's possession or power.

(5) A person who, by virtue of an order under this section, is required to attend at any place shall be entitled to the like conduct money and payment for expenses and loss of time as on attendance as a witness in civil proceedings before the Supreme Court.

(6) An order under this section may be enforced in the same manner as if it were an order made by the Supreme Court or a judge thereof in proceedings pending in the Supreme Court or before the judge.

Privilege of witnesses

38.(1) A person shall not be compelled by virtue of an order under section 37 to give any evidence which the person could not be compelled to give—

- (a) in civil proceedings in the State; or

- (b) subject to subsection (2), in civil proceedings in the State or Territory of the Commonwealth or the overseas country in which the requesting court exercises jurisdiction.

(2) Subsection (1)(b) shall not apply unless the claim of the person in question to be exempt from giving the evidence is either—

- (a) supported by a statement contained in the request (whether it is so supported unconditionally or subject to conditions that are fulfilled); or
- (b) conceded by the applicant for the order;

and where such a claim made by any person is not supported or conceded as aforesaid the person may (subject to the other provisions of this section) be required to give the evidence to which the claim relates but that evidence shall not be transmitted to the requesting court if that court, on the matter being referred to it, upholds the claim.

(3) In this section, references to giving evidence include references to answering any question and to producing any document and the reference in subsection (2) to the transmission of evidence given by a person shall be construed accordingly.

Judicial proceedings for the purposes of the Criminal Code

39. Proceedings wherein a person gives or is required to give any testimony (either orally or in writing) pursuant to an order under section 37 shall be a judicial proceeding for the purposes of the Criminal Code, chapter 16 whether or not the testimony is given or required to be given on oath or under any other sanction authorised by law.

PART 3A—AUDIO VISUAL LINKS AND AUDIO LINKS

Division 1—Preliminary

Purposes of pt 3A

39A. The purposes of this part are—

- (a) to provide for Queensland to participate in a substantially uniform interstate scheme for the taking or receiving of evidence, and the making or receiving of submissions, from or in participating States; and
- (b) to facilitate the giving and receiving of evidence, and the making and receiving of submissions, in Queensland court proceedings, by audio visual link or audio link.

Application of pt 3A

39B.(1) This part applies to a proceeding whether commenced before or after the commencement of this part.

(2) This part does not limit any law of the State that makes provision for—

- (a) the use of audio visual links or audio links; or
- (b) the taking of evidence, or the making of submissions, in or outside the State for the purpose of a proceeding in the State.

(3) In particular, this part does not affect a prohibition under another Act on the making of an order about the use of an audio visual link or audio link without the consent of all parties to a proceeding.

(4) This part does not authorise a defendant in a criminal proceeding before a Queensland court to appear before, or give evidence or make a submission to the court by audio visual link or audio link unless expressly

authorised by the Criminal Code, section 594(4)⁵, the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 118A⁶ or the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15A.⁷

Definitions for pt 3A

39C. In this part—

“audio link” means facilities, including telephone, that enable reasonably contemporaneous and continuous audio communication between persons at different places.

“audio visual link” means facilities, including closed-circuit television, that enable reasonably contemporaneous and continuous audio and visual communication between persons at different places.

“before”, a court, includes in a court.

“court location” means the courtroom, or other place, where the court is sitting.

“participating State” means another State in which provisions of an Act of that State in terms that substantially correspond to divisions 2 and 3 are in force.

“Queensland court” means—

- (a) the Supreme Court, the District Court or a Magistrates Court; or
- (b) a coroner; or
- (c) another court established under an Act; or
- (d) another tribunal declared under a regulation to be a court for this part.

“recognised court” means a court or tribunal of a participating State that is authorised by the provisions of an Act of that State in terms substantially corresponding to divisions 2 and 3 to direct that evidence

⁵ Criminal Code, section 594 (Accused person to be called upon to plead to indictment)

⁶ *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 118A (Audio visual link or audio link may be used to sentence)

⁷ *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15A (Audio visual link or audio link may be used to sentence)

be taken or submissions be made by audio visual link or audio link from Queensland.

“external location”, for a court, means the location, external to the court location—

- (a) in or outside Queensland or Australia from which evidence or a submission is being, is to be, or has been taken or made by audio visual link or audio link under this part; or
- (b) for the application of this part under the Criminal Code, section 594⁸—at which an accused person is being, is to be, or has been arraigned; or
- (c) for the application of this part under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 118A⁹ or the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15A¹⁰—at which an offender or a child is being, is to be, or has been sentenced.

“tribunal” means a body or person that may take evidence on oath.

Division 2—Use of interstate audio visual links or audio links in proceedings before Queensland courts

Application of div 2

39D. This division applies to any proceeding, including a criminal proceeding, before a Queensland court.

State courts may take evidence and submissions from outside State

39E.(1) The court may, on the application of a party to a proceeding before the court, direct that evidence be taken or submissions be made by audio visual link or audio link from a participating State.

⁸ Criminal Code, section 594 (Accused person to be called upon to plead to indictment)

⁹ *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 118A (Audio visual link or audio link may be used to sentence)

¹⁰ *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15A (Audio visual link or audio link may be used to sentence)

(2) The court may exercise in the participating State, in connection with taking evidence or receiving submissions by audio visual link or audio link, any of its powers that the court may be permitted, under the law of the participating State, to exercise in the participating State.

Legal practitioners entitled to practice

39F. A person who is entitled to practise as a legal practitioner in a participating State is entitled to practise as a barrister or solicitor or both in relation to the following—

- (a) the examination-in-chief, cross-examination or re-examination of a witness in the participating State whose evidence is being given by audio visual link or audio link in a proceeding before the court;
- (b) making of submissions by audio visual link or audio link from the participating State in a proceeding before the court.

Division 3—Use of interstate audio visual links or audio links in proceedings in participating States

Application of div 3

39G. This division applies to any proceeding, including a criminal proceeding, before a recognised court.

Recognised courts may take evidence or receive submissions from persons in Queensland

39H. The court may, for a proceeding before it, take evidence or receive submissions, by audio visual link or audio link, from a person in Queensland.

Powers of recognised courts

39I.(1) The court may, for the proceeding, exercise in Queensland, in connection with taking evidence or receiving submissions by audio visual link or audio link, any of its powers other than its powers—

- (a) to punish for contempt; and
- (b) to enforce or execute its judgments or process.

(2) The laws of the participating State, including rules of court, that apply to the proceeding in that State also apply to the practice and procedure of the court in taking evidence or receiving submissions by audio visual link or audio link from a person in Queensland.

(3) For the purposes of the court exercising its powers in Queensland, the external location in Queensland is taken to be part of the court location.

Orders made by recognised court

39J. Without limiting section 39I, the court may, by order—

- (a) direct that the proceeding, or a part of the proceeding, be conducted in private at the external location in Queensland; and
- (b) require a person to leave the external location in Queensland; and
- (c) prohibit or restrict the publication of evidence given in the proceeding or the name of a party to, or a witness in, the proceeding.

Enforcement of order

39K.(1) An order under section 39J must be complied with.

(2) Subject to rules of court made under the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991*, the order may be enforced by the Supreme Court as if the order were an order of that court.

(3) Without limiting subsection (2), a person who contravenes the order—

- (a) is taken to be in contempt of the Supreme Court; and
- (b) is punishable accordingly;

unless the person establishes that the contravention should be excused.

Privileges, protection and immunity of participants in proceedings before recognised court

39L.(1) A judge or other person presiding at or otherwise taking part in a judicial capacity in the proceeding before the court has, in connection with evidence being taken or submissions being received by audio visual link or audio link from the external location in Queensland, the same privileges, protection and immunity as a Supreme Court judge.

(2) A person appearing as a legal practitioner in the proceeding before the court has, in connection with evidence being taken or submissions being received by audio visual link or audio link from the external location in Queensland, the same protection and immunity as a barrister appearing before the Supreme Court.

(3) A person at the external location in Queensland appearing as a witness in the proceeding before the court by audio visual link or audio link has the same protection and immunity as a witness in a proceeding before the Supreme Court.

Recognised court may administer oath in the State

39M.(1) The court may administer an oath or affirmation in accordance with its practice and procedure for the purpose of obtaining the testimony of a person in Queensland by audio visual link or audio link in the proceeding.

(2) Evidence given on the oath or affirmation is taken to be given in a Queensland judicial proceeding for the purposes of Queensland law.

Assistance to recognised court

39N. An officer of a Queensland court may, if asked by the recognised court, do any of the following things for the proceeding—

- (a) attend at the external location in Queensland;
- (b) take the action the recognised court directs to facilitate the proceeding;
- (c) administer an oath or affirmation.

Contempt of recognised court

39O. A person must not, in connection with evidence or a submission that is to be, is being, or has been given or made at the external location in Queensland in the proceeding before the court, do any of the following things—

- (a) assault, in Queensland—
 - (i) a witness in the proceeding; or
 - (ii) a person appearing in the proceeding as a legal practitioner; or
 - (iii) an officer of a Queensland court giving assistance under section 39N;
- (b) deliberately interrupt or obstruct the court;
- (c) create or continue, or join in creating or continuing, a disturbance at the external location in Queensland;
- (d) attempt to influence improperly anyone in connection with the proceeding;
- (e) deliberately and without lawful excuse, disobey an order or direction given by the court to regulate conduct happening while evidence is being given or a submission is being made by audio visual link or audio link;
- (f) do anything in connection with the proceeding that would be a contempt of court if the thing done were done in, or in relation to, a Queensland judicial proceeding.

Maximum penalty—imprisonment for 3 months.

Double jeopardy

39P.(1) This section applies to a person who does an act or makes an omission that is an offence both—

- (a) under this part; and
- (b) under a law of a participating State.

(2) The person must not be prosecuted or punished under this part for the offence if the person has been prosecuted or punished under the law of the participating State for the offence.

Division 4—General provisions about the use of audio visual links or audio links

Application of div 4

39Q.(1) This division applies to any proceeding, including a criminal proceeding, before a Queensland court.

(2) This division does not limit, and is not limited by, division 2 or 3.

Queensland courts may take evidence and submissions from external location

39R.(1) Subject to any rules of the court, the court may, on the application of a party to the proceeding before the court, direct that a person appear before, or give evidence or make a submission to, the court by audio visual link or audio link from a location inside or outside Queensland, including a location outside Australia.

(2) The court may, at any time, vary or revoke a direction made under this section on its own initiative or on the application of a party to the proceeding.

Failure of the link

39S. If an audio visual link or audio link fails in the proceeding, the court may adjourn the proceeding, or make another appropriate order, as if a person present at the external location were at the court location.

Expenses

39T. The court may make the orders it considers just for payment of expenses incurred in connection with taking evidence or making submissions by audio visual link or audio link.

External location to be considered part of Queensland court location

39U.(1) An external location in the proceeding before the court is taken to be part of the court location in the proceeding for all purposes relating to a Queensland law for the administration of justice.

(2) In this section—

“a law for the administration of justice” includes a law about any of the following—

- (a) compulsory attendance at court;
- (b) punishment for failing to attend at court;
- (c) the presence of a person at court;
- (d) evidence, including compellability to give evidence;
- (e) perjury, contempt, procedure, privileges, protection or immunities.

“law” includes any written or unwritten law, and a rule, practice or procedure of the court.

Witness outside Queensland—when compellable

39V. If the external location from which a witness giving evidence by audio visual link or audio link in the proceeding is outside Queensland, the witness is compellable to give evidence only to the extent the witness—

- (a) would be compellable to give the evidence if present in Queensland; and
- (b) would be compellable to give the evidence in court proceedings under the law of the place from which the evidence is given.

Administration of oaths and affirmations

39W. An oath or affirmation may be sworn for giving testimony by audio visual link or audio link—

- (a) over the link in a way that is as near as practicable to the way the witness could be sworn at the court location; or

- (b) by a person at the external location in accordance with the court's direction.

Testimony from outside Australia other than on oath

39X.(1) This section applies if the external location is in a country other than Australia and an oath is not allowed under the law of the country.

(2) The evidence may be given otherwise than on oath under a caution or admonition that would be accepted by a court in that country for the purpose of giving evidence in the court.

(3) The probative value of the evidence given under subsection (2) is not diminished merely because the evidence is not given on oath.

(4) A person giving the evidence under subsection (2) is liable to be convicted of perjury as if the evidence were given on oath.

Putting documents to a person at an external location

39Y.(1) If in the course of examination of a person by audio visual link or audio link it is necessary to put a document to the person, the court may permit the document to be put to the person—

- (a) if the document is at the court location—by sending a copy of it to the external location in any way and the copy then put to the person; or
- (b) if the document is at the external location—by putting it to the person and then sending it to the court location in any way.

(2) A document put to a person under subsection (1) is admissible as evidence without proof that the transmitted copy is a true copy of the relevant document.

Extension of rule-making power

39Z. If there is a power under another Act to make rules for the court, the power includes a power to make rules, not inconsistent with this part, that are necessary or convenient for carrying out or giving effect to this part.

PART 4—JUDICIAL NOTICE OF SEALS, SIGNATURES AND LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

Seal of Queensland

41. All courts shall take judicial notice of the impression of the seal of Queensland without evidence of such seal having been impressed or any other evidence relating thereto.

Signatures of holders of public offices etc. to be judicially noticed

42.(1) Judicial notice must be taken of—

- (a) the signature of a person who is or has been the holder of a public office; and
- (b) the fact that the person holds or has held the office.

(2) For subsection (1), the following offices are public offices—

- (a) the office of Governor;
- (b) the office of a Minister;
- (c) the office of a judge, magistrate or warden;
- (d) the office of an official of a court;
- (e) the office of a justice of the peace or commissioner for declarations;
- (f) another office of a public nature established under an Act;
- (g) an office prescribed under an Act for this section.

(3) Schedule 1 provides examples of offices of a public nature established under an Act.

(4) This section is in addition to, and does not limit, the common law, another provision of this Act or a provision of another Act.

Certain seals to be judicially noticed etc.

42A.(1) Judicial notice must be taken of the imprint of any seal of an office or entity established under an Act, and a document on which the

imprint appears must be presumed to have been properly sealed unless the contrary is established.

(2) This section is in addition to, and does not limit, the common law, another provision of this Act or a provision of another Act.

Acts and statutory instruments to be judicially noticed

43. Judicial notice must be taken of the following—

- (a) every Act;
- (b) every statutory instrument;
- (c) the time when every Act or statutory instrument commenced, and every provision of every Act or statutory instrument commenced.

PART 5—PROOF OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Division 1—Proof of official and judicial documents and matters

Proof by purported certificate, document etc.

44. Where by a law in force in Queensland—

- (a) a certificate; or
- (b) an official or public document; or
- (c) a document of a corporation; or
- (d) a copy of, or extract from, a document;

is admissible in evidence for any purpose, a document purporting to be the certificate, document, copy or extract shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be admissible in evidence to the same extent and for the same purpose provided that it purports to be authenticated in the manner (if any) directed by that law.

Proof of gazette

45. The production of a document purporting to be the gazette shall be evidence that the document is the gazette and was published on the day on which it bears date.

Proof of printing by government printer etc.

46.(1) The production of a document purporting to be printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State shall be evidence that the document was printed by the government printer or by such authority.

(2) The production of a document purporting to be authorised by the parliamentary counsel is evidence that the document was authorised by the parliamentary counsel.

Presumption of accuracy of copy of legislation

46A.(1) A document purporting to be—

- (a) a copy of an Act or a copy of an Act incorporating all amendments to a date specified therein; and
- (b) printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State, or authorised by the parliamentary counsel;

shall be taken to be a correct copy of the Act or, as the case may be, of the Act as amended to that date until the contrary is proved and the date appearing therein as the date on which the Act was assented to by and on behalf of the Crown shall for all purposes be evidence of the date of such assent.

(2) A document purporting to be—

- (a) a copy of an item of subordinate legislation or a copy of an item of subordinate legislation incorporating amendments to a stated date; and
- (b) printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State, or authorised by the parliamentary counsel;

is to be taken to be a correct copy of the subordinate legislation or of the subordinate legislation as amended to that date, as the case may be, unless the contrary is established, and the date stated on the document as the date when the subordinate legislation was made or approved is evidence of that date.

Court or tribunal may inform itself about Act or statutory instrument

46B.(1) A court or tribunal may inform itself about an Act or statutory instrument in any way it considers appropriate.

Examples of ways that may be appropriate—

1. Using an electronic version of an Act as available on the internet or on a CD-ROM other than an authorised reprint under the *Reprints Act 1992*.
2. Using a printed copy of an Act in a publication other than an authorised reprint under the *Reprints Act 1992*.

(2) However, the court or tribunal must consider whether the document or source it intends to consult appears to be a reliable source of information.

(3) Subsection (1) does not limit any law providing for a way in which a court or tribunal may be informed about an Act or statutory instrument, including any other provision of this Act or the *Reprints Act 1992*.

Proof of votes and proceedings of Legislature and of legislative material

47.(1) All documents purporting to be copies of the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislature or of any House of the Legislature or copies of legislative material, if purporting to be printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State or, for documents purporting to be legislative material, authorised by the parliamentary counsel, shall on their production be admitted as evidence thereof.

(2) In this section—

“legislative material” includes—

- (a) a Bill, an amendment of a Bill or an explanatory note for a Bill, introduced into, moved in, tabled in, or circulated to members of, the Legislative Assembly; or

- (b) an explanatory note or regulatory impact statement for subordinate legislation.

“Votes and Proceedings” shall be deemed to include journals and minutes, Bills before the Legislature and any papers purporting to be printed by the authority of and to be laid before the Legislature or any House of the Legislature.

Proof of proclamations, orders in council etc.

48. Evidence of—

- (a) a proclamation, order in council, commission, order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by the Governor or Governor in Council; or
- (b) an order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by or under the authority of any Minister or of any public commission or board; or
- (c) other subordinate legislation;

may be given—

- (d) by the production of the gazette purporting to contain it; or
- (e) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State; or
- (f) for subordinate legislation—by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it, and purporting to be authorised by the parliamentary counsel; or
- (g) by the production (in the case of a proclamation, order in council, commission, order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by the Governor or Governor in Council) of a copy or extract purporting to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of the clerk of the Executive Council; or
- (h) by the production (in the case of any order, rule, regulation or other instrument made or issued by or under the authority of any Minister) of a copy or extract purporting to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of any Minister.

Proof of standard rules, codes and specifications

49. If an Act, or statutory instrument adopts by way of reference, wholly or in part, any of the standard rules, codes or specifications of the bodies known as the Standards Association of Australia, Standards Australia, the British Standards Institution or other body expressly or impliedly identified in the Act, evidence of any such standard rule, code or specification may be given—

- (a) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be published by or on behalf of the Standards Association of Australia, Standards Australia, the British Standards Institution or other body concerned; or
- (b) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of it and purporting to be printed by the government printer or by the authority of the Government of the State.

Proof of act done by Governor or Minister

50. Where by any law at any time in force the Governor or the Governor in Council or a Minister is authorised or empowered to do any act, production of the gazette purporting to contain a copy or notification of any such act shall be evidence of such act having been duly done.

Proof of public documents

51. Where a document is of such a public nature as to be admissible in evidence on its mere production from proper custody, a copy of or extract from the document shall be admissible in evidence if—

- (a) it is proved to be an examined copy or extract; or
- (b) it purports to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of a person described in the certificate as the person to whose custody the original is entrusted.

Proof of registers of British vessels etc.

52.(1) Every register of a vessel kept under any of the Acts relating to the registry of British vessels may be proved by the production of—

- (a) the original; or
- (b) an examined copy of the original; or
- (c) a copy purporting to be certified as a true copy under the hand of the person having the charge of the original.

(2) A person having the charge of the original of such register is required to furnish such certified copy to any person applying at a reasonable time for the same upon payment of such fee (if any) as is prescribed by law.

(3) Every—

- (a) such register or such copy of a register; and
- (b) certificate of registry granted under any of the said Acts relating to the registry of British vessels and purporting to be signed as required by law;

shall be admissible in evidence of—

- (c) all the matters contained or recited in such register when the register or such copy of the register is produced; and
- (d) all the matters contained recited in or endorsed on such certificate of registry when the said certificate is produced.

Proof of judicial proceedings

53.(1) Where it is sought to prove any of the following matters—

- (a) a judgment, decree, rule, conviction, acquittal, sentence or other order, process, act or decision of any court;
- (b) an affidavit, pleading, will, codicil, indictment or other legal document filed, deposited or presented in any court;
- (c) the pendency or existence at any time before any court of any proceeding;

evidence of such matter and, as the case may be, of any particulars relating thereto may be given by the production of—

- (d) the original of the order, process, act, decision or document; or
- (e) a document proved to be an examined copy of the order, process, act, decision or document; or

- (f) a document purporting to be a copy of the order, process, act, decision or document and to be sealed with the seal of the court; or
- (g) a certificate showing such matter and such particulars and purporting to be under the hand of—
 - (i) a registrar of the court; or
 - (ii) a person having the custody of the records or documents of the court; or
 - (iii) any other proper officer of the court; or
 - (iv) a deputy of such registrar, person or officer.

(2) In this section—

“**court**” means any court of Queensland, of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory.

Proof of identity of a person convicted

54.(1) An affidavit purporting to be made by a fingerprint expert who is a member of the police force of Queensland or of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory and in the approved form shall be admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving the identity of any person alleged to have been convicted in Queensland, in the Commonwealth or in the other State or Territory of any offence.

(2) Any such affidavit shall be evidence that the person, a copy of whose fingerprints is exhibited to such affidavit—

- (a) is the person who, in any document exhibited to such affidavit and purporting to be a certificate of conviction or certified copy of such conviction, is referred to as having been convicted; and
- (b) has been convicted of the offences mentioned in such affidavit.

Proof of incorporation or registration of company in Queensland

55.(1) Evidence of the incorporation of a company incorporated or registered in Queensland may be given by the production of—

- (a) a certificate of the incorporation or registration of the company that purports to be given by the Australian securities commission (the “**commission**”), the commission’s delegate or a commission officer; or
- (b) an affidavit or statutory declaration of an officer of the company (“**company verification**”) made under the *Oaths Act 1867*.

(2) The date of incorporation or registration mentioned in the certificate or company verification is evidence of the date on which the company was incorporated or registered.

(2A) Evidence that a company is not incorporated or registered, or no longer incorporated or registered, in Queensland may be given by the production of a certificate that purports to be given by the commission, the commission’s delegate or a commission officer.

(2B) The date a company ceased being incorporated or registered in Queensland mentioned in the certificate is evidence of the date on which the company ceased being incorporated or registered.

(3) A document that purports to be—

- (a) a copy of, or extract from, a document kept and registered in the office of the commission in Queensland; and
- (b) certified by the commission or the delegate or an officer of the commission;

is admissible in evidence in all cases in which the original document is admissible and for the same purposes and to the same extent.

(4) If the prosecution in a criminal proceeding intend to rely on a company verification, the prosecutor must serve a copy of it on the defendant or the defendant’s legal representative—

- (a) for a summary trial or committal proceeding—
 - (i) when the summons is served on the defendant; or
 - (ii) not later than 14 days after the defendant first appears in court for the alleged offence; or
- (b) for a trial on indictment—not later than 14 days after the indictment against the defendant is presented.

(5) A defendant who is served with a copy of a company verification under subsection (4) must give the prosecution a written notice stating whether the defendant intends to contest a following matter about the company's incorporation or registration mentioned in the company verification—

- (a) the fact of its incorporation or registration;
- (b) the date of its incorporation or registration;
- (c) the date on which it ceased being incorporated or registered.

(6) The defendant must give the notice by not later than—

- (a) 10 days before the day the trial of the proceedings to which the notice relates starts; or
- (b) the end of a later period allowed by the court, if the court considers it just to extend the period in the particular circumstances.

(7) If, in a proceeding before it, a court considers the defendant or the defendant's lawyer has unnecessarily caused the prosecution to prove the incorporation or registration of a company, the court may order the defendant to pay the prosecution's costs of proving the incorporation or registration.

(8) For this section, a defendant is taken to be served with a copy of a company verification if the copy is served on the defendant's lawyer.

Proof of unallocated State land grants

56. Upon its production in any proceeding wherein it is sought to prove any grant from the Crown of land within the State a document that purports—

- (a) to be a copy of the instrument of grant or of an entry of such instrument; and
- (b) to be certified under the hand of the registrar of titles;

shall be evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of the matters contained therein.

Proof of lease or licence

57.(1) This section applies to an instrument of lease or licence issued or continued in force and held under any of the following Acts—

- *Coal Mining Act 1925*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Mineral Resources Act 1989*
- *State Housing Act 1945.*

(2) An instrument may be proved by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of the instrument certified by the chief executive of the issuing department.

(3) In this section—

“issuing department”, for an instrument of a lease or licence, means the department dealing with matters about the provisions of the Act under which the lease or licence was issued or continued in force and held.

Proof of letters patent

58. Upon its production in any proceeding wherein it is sought to prove any letters patent issued by the Crown in relation to the State or in relation to any matter that concerns the State a document that purports—

- (a) to be a copy of the letters patent; and
- (b) to be certified by the chief executive of the department dealing with matters under the *Constitution Act 1867*;

shall be evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of the matters contained therein.

Division 2—Proof of certain miscellaneous documents and matters**Comparison of disputed writing**

59.(1) Comparison of a disputed writing with any writing proved to the satisfaction of the judge to be genuine shall be permitted to be made by witnesses and such writings and the evidence of witnesses respecting the

same may be submitted as evidence of the genuineness or otherwise of the writing in dispute.

(2) A court may compare a disputed writing with any writing that is genuine and act upon its own conclusions in relation thereto.

Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is not necessary

60. It shall not be necessary to prove by the attesting witness any instrument to the validity of which attestation is not requisite, and such instrument may be proved by admission or otherwise as if there had been no attesting witness thereto.

Proof of instrument to validity of which attestation is necessary

61.(1) Any instrument to the validity of which attestation is requisite may, instead of being proved by an attesting witness, be proved in the manner in which it might be proved if no attesting witness were alive.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to the proof of wills or other testamentary documents.

Presumption as to documents 20 years old

62. Where any document is proved or purports to be not less than 20 years old, there shall be made any presumption which immediately before the date of the passing of the *Evidence Acts Amendment Act 1962* would have been made in the case of a document of like character proved or purporting to be not less than 30 years old.

Wills, deeds etc. may be verified by declaration

63.(1) Any attesting witness to the execution of any will or codicil, deed, or instrument in writing, and any other competent person, may verify and prove the signing, sealing, publication, or delivery of any such will, codicil, deed or instrument in writing by declaration in writing made under the *Oaths Act 1867*.

(2) A party who intends to adduce in evidence as proof of the execution of a will, codicil, deed or instrument in writing a declaration made in

accordance with subsection (1) shall give such notice of the party's intention to do so as may be required by rules of court.

(3) The method of proof prescribed by this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other method of proving the due execution of a will or codicil prescribed by rules of court.

Evidentiary effect of probate etc.

64.(1) The probate of a will or letters of administration with a will annexed are evidence of the due execution of the will.

(2) The copy of a will annexed to a probate or to letters of administration is evidence of the contents of the will.

(3) The probate of a will is evidence of the death of the testator and, if the probate states the date of death of the testator, of the date of the testator's death.

(4) Letters of administration of the estate of a deceased person are evidence of the death of the person and, if the letters of administration state the date of death of the person, of the date of the person's death.

(5) In this section—

- (a) a reference to probate shall be read as a reference to probate, and to an exemplification of probate, whether granted within or outside the State; and
- (b) a reference to letters of administration shall be read as a reference to letters of administration, to an exemplification of letters of administration, whether granted within or outside the State and to an order to administer the estate of a deceased person granted to the public trustee.

Maps, charts etc.

65.(1) Where in a proceeding there is a question as to the territorial limits or situation of an area or place, or the distance between 2 places, a court may admit in evidence—

- (a) a published book, map, chart or document that appears to the court to be a reliable source of information in relation to the

question; or

- (b) a certificate purporting to be given by the chief executive (surveys), or the holder of another office that, in the court's opinion, qualifies the person to express an opinion about the question.

(2) In any proceeding a map, chart or plan purporting to be issued or published by any department of the Government of the State or of the Commonwealth or by an officer thereof in discharge of the officer's functions shall, upon its production, be sufficient evidence of the matters stated or delineated thereon until the contrary is proved.

Astronomical phenomena

66.(1) Where in a proceeding there is a question as to the time or duration of any astronomical phenomenon that has occurred or shall occur in relation to a place, a court may admit in evidence a certificate about the question given by the chief executive (surveys).

(2) The certificate may include an explanation of the terms used therein, a statement of their recognised practical application, and the basis for calculating the time or duration of the astronomical phenomenon.

(3) In this section—

“astronomical phenomenon” includes the rising or setting of the sun or moon, the position of the sun or moon, the phase of the moon and the degree of twilight.

Division 3—Proof of certain Australian and overseas documents and matters

Definitions for div 3

67. In this division—

“overseas country” means a country or part of a country outside the Commonwealth and includes any international organisation of which the Commonwealth or an overseas country is a member.

“**statute**” includes any instrument of a legislative nature made, granted or issued under a statute.

Proof of certain Australian and overseas written laws etc.

68. Evidence of—

- (a) a statute, proclamation or act of state of a State or Territory other than Queensland; or
- (b) a statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state of an overseas country;

may be given by the production of—

- (c) a copy proved to be an examined copy thereof; or
- (d) a copy purporting to be sealed with the seal of that State, Territory or country; or
- (e) a book or pamphlet purporting to be published by the authority of the government of that State, Territory or country or by the government or official printer of that State, Territory or country containing the statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state; or
- (f) a book or publication that appears to the court to be a reliable source of information containing the statute, proclamation, treaty or act of state; or
- (g) a book or pamphlet that is proved to the satisfaction of the court to be admissible in the courts in that State, Territory or country as evidence of the statutes, proclamations, treaties or acts of state of that State, Territory or country contained in that book or pamphlet.

Proof of judicial proceedings of an overseas country

69. Evidence of—

- (a) a judgment, decree, rule, conviction, acquittal, sentence or other order, process, act or decision of any court in an overseas country; or
- (b) an affidavit, pleading, will, codicil, indictment or other legal document filed, deposited or presented in any such court;

may be given by the production of a copy thereof—

- (c) proved to be an examined copy thereof; or
- (d) purporting—
 - (i) to be sealed with the seal of such court; or
 - (ii) to be signed by a judge of such court with a statement in writing attached by the judge to the judge's signature that such court has no seal and without proof of the judge's judicial character or of the truth of such statement.

Proof of certain documents admissible elsewhere in Australia

70. Any document which by a law at any time in force in a State or Territory other than Queensland is admissible in evidence for any purpose in a court of that State or Territory without proof of—

- (a) the seal or stamp or signature authenticating the same; or
- (b) the judicial or official character of the person appearing to have signed the same, shall be admissible in evidence to the same extent and for the same purpose in all courts in Queensland without such proof.

Royal proclamations, orders of the Privy Council etc.

71.(1) Evidence of any royal proclamation, order of Her Majesty's Privy Council, order, regulation, dispatch, or any other instrument made or issued by Her Majesty or by Her Majesty's Privy Council, or by or under the authority of any of Her Majesty's Secretaries of State, or of any department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, may be given—

- (a) by the production of a document purporting to be a copy of the London gazette or of the government gazette purporting to contain a reprint of such proclamation, order of the Privy Council, order, regulation, dispatch or other instrument; or
- (b) by the production in the case of any such proclamation of a copy purporting to be printed by the government printer.

(2) In this section (but without affecting the generality of the expression when used elsewhere)—

“**Her Majesty**” includes any predecessors of Her Majesty.

Proof of certain Australian and overseas public documents

72. Where a document of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or of an overseas country is of such a public nature that it would if it were a Queensland document be admissible in evidence in Queensland on its mere production from proper custody, a copy of or extract from the document shall be admissible in evidence if—

- (a) it is proved to be an examined copy or extract; or
- (b) it purports to be certified as a true copy or extract under the hand of a person described in the certificate as the person to whose custody the original is entrusted.

Proof of incorporation of certain Australian and overseas companies

73. Evidence of the incorporation of a company incorporated or registered in a State or Territory of the Commonwealth other than Queensland or in an overseas country may be given by the production of a certificate of the incorporation or registration of that company which purports to be signed or issued by the registrar of companies, commissioner for corporate affairs or other proper officer or body in that State, Territory or country, and the date of incorporation or registration mentioned in such certificate shall be evidence of the date on which the company was incorporated or registered.

Proof of birth, adoption, death or marriage

74. A document purporting to be either the original or a certified copy of a certificate, entry or record of a birth, adoption, death or marriage alleged to have taken place whether in Australia or elsewhere is evidence in a proceeding of the matters contained therein.

Division 4—Proof of telegraphic messages**Notice of intention to adduce telegraphic message in evidence**

75.(1) In any proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding), any party may at any time after the commencement thereof give notice to any other party that the party proposes to adduce in evidence at the trial or hearing any telegraphic message that has been sent by telegraph from any place in the Commonwealth to any other place in the Commonwealth.

(1A) However—

- (a) the time between the giving of such notice and the day on which such evidence shall be tendered shall not in any case be less than 2 days; and
- (b) every such notice shall specify the names of the sender and receiver of the message, the subject matter thereof, and the date as nearly as may be.

(2) Any such notice may be served and the service thereof proved in the same manner as notices to produce may now be served and proved.

Proof of message

76. Where a notice under section 75 has been given, the production of a telegraphic message described in the notice and purporting to have been sent by any person, together with evidence that the same was duly received from a telegraph office, shall be evidence that such message was sent by the person so purporting to be the sender thereof to the person to whom the same is addressed.

Proof of sending a message

77. Where a notice under section 75 has been given, the production of a telegraphic message, or a copy thereof verified on oath, together with evidence that such message was sent to or delivered at a telegraph office and that the fees (if any) for the transmission thereof were duly paid shall be evidence that such message was duly delivered to the person named therein as the person to whom the same was to be transmitted.

*Division 5—Admissibility of convictions in civil proceedings***Definitions for div 5**

78. In this division—

“conviction” does not include—

- (a) a conviction that has been set aside or quashed; or
 - (b) where the person convicted of an offence has been granted a pardon in respect of that offence, such a conviction;
- and the term **“convicted”** has a corresponding meaning.

“court” means any court of Queensland, of the Commonwealth or of any other State or Territory but does not include a court martial.

Convictions as evidence in civil proceedings

79.(1) In this section—

“civil proceeding” does not include an action for defamation.

(2) In any civil proceeding the fact that a person has been convicted by a court of an offence is admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving, where to do so is relevant to any issue in that proceeding, that the person committed that offence.

(3) In any civil proceeding in which by virtue of this section a person is proved to have been convicted by a court of an offence the person shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken to have committed the acts and to have possessed the state of mind (if any) which at law constitute that offence.

(4) This section applies—

- (a) whether or not a person was convicted upon a plea of guilty; and
- (b) whether or not the person convicted is a party to the civil proceeding.

Convictions as evidence in actions for defamation

80. In an action for defamation in which the question whether a person did or did not commit a criminal offence is relevant to an issue arising in the action, proof that at the time when the issue falls to be determined that person stands convicted by a court of that offence is conclusive evidence that the person committed that offence.

Evidence identifying the particulars of a conviction

81. Without prejudice to the reception of any other evidence for the purpose of identifying the particulars of a conviction—

- (a) the contents of any document which is admissible as evidence of the conviction; and
- (b) the contents of any document which is admissible as evidence of the complaint, information, indictment or charge on which the person in question was convicted;

shall be admissible for that purpose where by virtue of section 79 or 80 evidence of the conviction may be given.

Operation of other laws not affected

82. Nothing in this division derogates from the operation of any other law under which a conviction or finding of fact in a criminal proceeding is, for the purposes of any proceeding, made evidence or conclusive evidence of any fact.

Division 6—Books of account**Definitions for div 6**

83. In this division—

“**book of account**” includes any document used in the ordinary course of any undertaking to record the financial transactions of the undertaking or to record anything acquired or otherwise dealt with by, produced in, held for or on behalf of, or taken or lost from the undertaking and any particulars relating to any such thing.

“court” means—

- (a) in relation to any proceeding in the Supreme Court—the Supreme Court or a judge thereof; and
- (b) in relation to any proceeding in the District Court—the District Court or a judge thereof; and
- (c) in relation to any proceeding in a Magistrates Court or before justices—the Magistrates Court, a stipendiary magistrate or a justice; and
- (d) in relation to any other proceeding—the Supreme Court or a judge thereof.

Entries in book of account to be evidence

84. Subject to this division, in all proceedings—

- (a) an entry in a book of account shall be evidence of the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded; and
- (b) a copy of an entry in a book of account shall be evidence of the entry and of the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded.

Proof that book is a book of account

85.(1) An entry or a copy of an entry in a book of account shall not be admissible in evidence under this division unless it is first proved that the book was at the time of the making of the entry 1 of the ordinary books of account of the undertaking to which it purports to relate and that the entry was made in the usual and ordinary course of that undertaking.

(2) Such proof may be given by a responsible person familiar with the books of account of the undertaking and may be given orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Verification of copy

86.(1) A copy of an entry in a book of account shall not be admissible in

evidence under this division unless it is further proved that the copy has been examined with the original entry and is correct.

(2) Such proof may be given by some person who has examined the copy with the original entry and may be given either orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Matters which may be proved under this division ordinarily to be so proved

87. A person engaged in any undertaking or an employee of that person shall not in any proceeding to which the person is not a party be compellable to produce any book of account the contents of which can be proved under this division or to appear as a witness to prove the matters transactions and accounts therein recorded unless by order of a court.

Court may order books of account or copies to be made available

88.(1) On the application of any party to a proceeding, a court may order that such party be at liberty to inspect and take copies of or extracts from any entries in a book of account of any undertaking for any of the purposes of such proceeding.

(2) An order under this section may be made either with or without summoning the person engaged in the undertaking or any other party and shall be served on the person engaged in the undertaking 3 clear days before the same is to be obeyed unless the court otherwise directs.

(3) An order under this section may direct that the person engaged in the undertaking shall, on payment of such fee as is specified in the order, prepare and deliver to the party who obtained that order a duly verified copy of such entries as may be required for evidence in the proceeding.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), Saturday, Sunday, and any day which is a public holiday throughout the State or in that part of the State in which the order is to be obeyed shall be excluded from the computation of time.

(5) Where a person engaged in any undertaking is a party to a proceeding, the other party or parties thereto shall be at liberty to inspect and

make copies of or extracts from the original entries and the accounts of which such entries form a part and the documents in respect of which such entries were made as though this division had not been enacted.

Proof that a person has no account

89.(1) Where it is sought to prove for the purposes of a proceeding that a person did not at a given time have an account with an undertaking or with any branch thereof, evidence of the fact may be given by a responsible person familiar with the books of account of the undertaking or, as the case may be, of the branch thereof.

(2) Such evidence may be given by such person orally or by an affidavit sworn or by a declaration made before a commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits or statutory declarations.

Costs

90.(1) The costs of any application to a court under or for the purposes of this division and the costs of anything done or to be done under an order of a court made under or for the purposes of this division shall be in the discretion of the court, who may order the same or any part thereof to be paid to any party by the person engaged in the undertaking concerned where the same have been occasioned by any default or delay on the part of that person.

(2) Any such order against a person engaged in an undertaking may be enforced as if the person were a party to the proceeding.

Application of ss 84–86 and 89

91. Sections 84 to 86 and 89 shall apply to and in relation to books of account and persons engaged in undertakings in any State or Territory.

PART 6—ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue

92.(1) In any proceeding (not being a criminal proceeding) where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the maker of the statement had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement, and is called as a witness in the proceeding; or
- (b) the document is or forms part of a record relating to any undertaking and made in the course of that undertaking from information supplied (whether directly or indirectly) by persons who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with in the information they supplied, and the person who supplied the information recorded in the statement in question is called as a witness in the proceeding.

(2) The condition in subsection (1) that the maker of the statement or the person who supplied the information, as the case may be, be called as a witness need not be satisfied where—

- (a) the maker or supplier is dead, or unfit by reason of bodily or mental condition to attend as a witness; or
- (b) the maker or supplier is out of the State and it is not reasonably practicable to secure the attendance of the maker or supplier; or
- (c) the maker or supplier cannot with reasonable diligence be found or identified; or
- (d) it cannot reasonably be supposed (having regard to the time which has elapsed since the maker or supplier made the statement, or supplied the information, and to all the circumstances) that the maker or supplier would have any recollection of the matters dealt with by the statement the maker made or in the information the supplier supplied; or

- (e) no party to the proceeding who would have the right to cross-examine the maker or supplier requires the maker or supplier being called as a witness; or
- (f) at any stage of the proceeding it appears to the court that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, undue delay or expense would be caused by calling the maker or supplier as a witness.

(3) The court may act on hearsay evidence for the purpose of deciding any of the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a), (b), (c), (d) or (f).

(4) For the purposes of this part, a statement contained in a document is made by a person if—

- (a) it was written, made, dictated or otherwise produced by the person; or
- (b) it was recorded with the person's knowledge; or
- (c) it was recorded in the course of and ancillary to a proceeding; or
- (d) it was recognised by the person as the person's statement by signing, initialling or otherwise in writing.

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue in criminal proceedings

93.(1) In any criminal proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the document is or forms part of a record relating to any trade or business and made in the course of that trade or business from information supplied (whether directly or indirectly) by persons who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with in the information they supplied; and
- (b) the person who supplied the information recorded in the statement in question—
 - (i) is dead, or unfit by reason of the person's bodily or mental condition to attend as a witness; or

- (ii) is out of the State and it is not reasonably practicable to secure the person's attendance; or
- (iii) cannot with reasonable diligence be found or identified; or
- (iv) cannot reasonably be supposed (having regard to the time which has lapsed since the person supplied the information and to all the circumstances) to have any recollection of the matters dealt with in the information the person supplied.

(2) In this section—

“business” includes any public transport, public utility or similar undertaking carried on in Queensland or elsewhere by the Crown (in right of the State of Queensland or any other right) or a statutory body.

Statement made before proceeding by child under 12 years or intellectually impaired person

93A.(1) In any proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement tending to establish that fact, contained in a document (within the meaning of section 3), shall, subject to this part, be admissible as evidence of that fact if—

- (a) the maker of the statement was a child under the age of 12 years or an intellectually impaired person at the time of making the statement and had personal knowledge of the matters dealt with by the statement; and
- (b) the statement was made soon after the occurrence of the fact or was made to a person investigating the matter to which the proceeding relates; and
- (c) the child or intellectually impaired person is available to give evidence in the proceeding.

(2) Where a statement made by a child or intellectually impaired person is admissible as evidence of a fact pursuant to subsection (1), a statement made to the child or intellectually impaired person by any other person—

- (a) that is also contained in the document containing the statement of the child or intellectually impaired person; and

- (b) in response to which the statement of the child or intellectually impaired person was made;

shall, subject to this part, be admissible as evidence if that other person is available to give evidence.

(3) Where the statement of a person is admitted as evidence in any proceeding pursuant to subsection (1) or (2), the party tendering the statement shall, if required to do so by any other party to the proceeding, call as a witness the person whose statement is so admitted and the person who recorded the statement.

(4) In the application of subsection (3) to a criminal proceeding—

“party” means the prosecution or the person charged in the proceeding.

Admissibility of representation in prescribed criminal proceedings if person who made it is unavailable

93B.(1) This section applies in a prescribed criminal proceeding if a person with personal knowledge of an asserted fact—

- (a) made a representation about the asserted fact; and
- (b) is unavailable to give evidence about the asserted fact because the person is dead or mentally or physically incapable of giving the evidence.

(2) The hearsay rule does not apply to evidence of the representation given by a person who saw, heard or otherwise perceived the representation, if the representation was—

- (a) made when or shortly after the asserted fact happened and in circumstances making it unlikely the representation is a fabrication; or
- (b) made in circumstances making it highly probable the representation is reliable; or
- (c) at the time it was made, against the interests of the person who made it.

(3) If evidence given by a person of a representation about a matter has been adduced by a party and has been admitted under subsection (2), the hearsay rule does not apply to the following evidence adduced by another

party to the proceeding—

- (a) evidence of the representation given by another person who saw, heard or otherwise perceived the representation;
- (b) evidence of another representation about the matter given by a person who saw, heard or otherwise perceived the other representation.

(4) To avoid any doubt, it is declared that subsections (2) and (3) only provide exceptions to the hearsay rule for particular evidence and do not otherwise affect the admissibility of the evidence.

(5) In this section—

“prescribed criminal proceeding” means a criminal proceeding against a person for an offence defined in the Criminal Code, chapters 28 to 32.¹¹

“representation” includes—

- (a) an express or implied representation, whether oral or written; and
- (b) a representation to be inferred from conduct; and
- (c) a representation not intended by the person making it to be communicated to or seen by another person; and
- (d) a representation that for any reason is not communicated.

Warning and information for jury about hearsay evidence

93C.(1) This section applies if evidence is admitted under section 93B (**“hearsay evidence”**) and there is a jury.

(2) On request by a party, the court must, unless there are good reasons for not doing so—

- (a) warn the jury the hearsay evidence may be unreliable; and
- (b) inform the jury of matters that may cause the hearsay evidence to be unreliable; and

¹¹ Chapters 28 (Homicide—Suicide—Concealment of Birth), 29 (Offences endangering life or health), 30 (Assaults) and 32 (Rape and sexual assaults)

- (c) warn the jury of the need for caution in deciding whether to accept the hearsay evidence and the weight to be given to it.

(3) It is not necessary for a particular form of words to be used in giving the warning or information.

(4) This section does not affect another power of the court to give a warning to, or to inform, the jury.

Admissibility of evidence concerning credibility of persons responsible for statement

94.(1) Where in any proceeding a statement is given in evidence by virtue of section 84, 92, 93 or 93A and a person who made the statement or supplied the information recorded in it is not called as a witness in the proceeding—

- (a) any evidence which, if that person had been so called, would be admissible for the purpose of destroying or supporting the person's credibility as a witness shall be admissible for that purpose in that proceeding;
- (b) any evidence tending to prove that, whether before or after the person made that statement or supplied that information, the person made another statement or supplied other information (whether orally or in a document or otherwise) inconsistent therewith shall be admissible for the purpose of showing that the person has contradicted himself or herself;

but nothing in paragraphs (a) or (b) shall enable evidence to be given of any matter of which, if the person in question had been called as a witness and had denied that matter in cross-examination, evidence could not have been adduced by the cross-examining party.

(2) Where in any proceeding a statement is given in evidence by virtue of section 84, 92, 93 or 93A and a person who made the statement or supplied the information recorded in it is not called as a witness in the proceeding any evidence proving that that person has been guilty of any indictable or other offence shall, with the leave of the court, be admissible in the proceeding to the same extent as if that person had been so called and on being questioned as to whether the person had been convicted of an indictable or other offence had denied the fact or refused to answer the question.

Admissibility of statements produced by computers

95.(1) In any proceeding where direct oral evidence of a fact would be admissible, any statement contained in a document produced by a computer and tending to establish that fact shall, subject to this part, be admissible as evidence of that fact, if it is shown that the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) are satisfied in relation to the statement and computer in question.

(2) The said conditions are—

- (a) that the document containing the statement was produced by the computer during a period over which the computer was used regularly to store or process information for the purposes of any activities regularly carried on over that period, whether for profit or not, by any person; and
- (b) that over that period there was regularly supplied to the computer in the ordinary course of those activities information of the kind contained in the statement or of the kind from which the information so contained is derived; and
- (c) that throughout the material part of that period the computer was operating properly or, if not, that any respect in which it was not operating properly or was out of operation during that part of that period was not such as to affect the production of the document or the accuracy of its contents; and
- (d) that the information contained in the statement reproduces or is derived from information supplied to the computer in the ordinary course of those activities.

(3) Where over a period the function of storing or processing information for the purposes of any activities regularly carried on over that period as mentioned in subsection (2)(a) was regularly performed by computers, whether—

- (a) by a combination of computers operating over that period; or
- (b) by different computers operating in succession over that period; or
- (c) by different combinations of computers operating in succession over that period; or

- (d) in any other manner involving the successive operation over that period, in whatever order, of 1 or more computers and 1 or more combinations of computers;

all the computers used for that purpose during that period shall be treated for the purposes of this part as constituting a single computer and references in this part to a computer shall be construed accordingly.

(4) In any proceeding where it is desired to give a statement in evidence by virtue of this section, a certificate doing all or any of the following things, that is to say—

- (a) identifying the document containing the statement and describing the manner in which it was produced;
- (b) giving such particulars of any device involved in the production of that document as may be appropriate for the purpose of showing that the document was produced by a computer;
- (c) dealing with any of the matters to which the conditions mentioned in subsection (2) relate;

and purporting to be signed by a person occupying a responsible position in relation to the operation of the relevant device or the management of the relevant activities (whichever is appropriate) shall be evidence of the matters stated in the certificate and for the purposes of this subsection it shall be sufficient for a matter to be stated to the best of the knowledge and belief of the person stating it.

(5) Any person who in a certificate tendered in evidence by virtue of subsection (4) wilfully makes a statement material in that proceeding which the person knows to be false or does not believe to be true is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty—20 penalty units or 1 year's imprisonment.

(6) For the purposes of this part—

- (a) information shall be taken to be supplied to a computer if it is supplied thereto in any appropriate form and whether it is so supplied directly or (with or without human intervention) by means of any appropriate equipment;
- (b) where, in the course of activities carried on by any person, information is supplied with a view to its being stored or

processed for the purposes of those activities by a computer operated otherwise than in the course of those activities, that information, if duly supplied to that computer, shall be taken to be supplied to it in the course of those activities;

- (c) a document shall be taken to have been produced by a computer whether it was produced by it directly or (with or without human intervention) by means of any appropriate equipment.

(7) Subject to subsection (3), in this section—

“computer” means any device for storing and processing information, and any reference to information being derived from other information is a reference to its being derived therefrom by calculation, comparison or any other process.

Inferences concerning admissibility

96.(1) For the purpose of deciding whether or not a statement is admissible in evidence by virtue of this part, the court may draw any reasonable inference from the form or contents of the document in which the statement is contained, or from any other circumstances.

(2) For the purpose of deciding whether or not a statement is admissible in evidence by virtue of section 92 or 93, the court may, in deciding whether or not a person is fit to attend as a witness, act on a certificate purporting to be a certificate of a legally qualified medical practitioner.

Authentication

97. Where in any proceeding a statement contained in a document is proposed to be given in evidence by virtue of this part, it may be proved by the production of that document or (whether or not that document is still in existence) by the production of a copy of that document, or the material part thereof, authenticated in such manner as the court may approve.

Rejection of evidence

98.(1) The court may in its discretion reject any statement or representation notwithstanding that the requirements of this part are satisfied with respect thereto, if for any reason it appears to it to be inexpedient in the

interests of justice that the statement should be admitted.

(2) This section does not affect the admissibility of any evidence otherwise than by virtue of this part.

Withholding statement from jury room

99. Where in a proceeding there is a jury, and a statement in a document is admitted in evidence under this part, and it appears to the court that if the jury were to have the document with them during their deliberations they might give the statement undue weight, the court may direct that the document be withheld from the jury during their deliberations.

Corroboration

100. For the purpose of any rule of law or practice requiring evidence to be corroborated or regulating the manner in which uncorroborated evidence is to be treated, a statement rendered admissible as evidence by this part shall not be treated as corroboration of evidence given by the maker of the statement or the person who supplied the information from which the record containing the statement was made.

Witness's previous statement, if proved, to be evidence of facts stated

101.(1) Where in any proceeding—

- (a) a previous inconsistent or contradictory statement made by a person called as a witness in that proceeding is proved by virtue of section 17, 18 or 19; or
- (b) a previous statement made by a person called as aforesaid is proved for the purpose of rebutting a suggestion that the person's evidence has been fabricated;

that statement shall be admissible as evidence of any fact stated therein of which direct oral evidence by the person would be admissible.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply to any statement or information proved by virtue of section 94(1)(b) as it applies to a previous inconsistent or contradictory statement made by a person called as a witness which is proved as mentioned in subsection (1)(a).

(3) Nothing in this part shall affect any of the rules of law relating to the circumstances in which, where a person called as a witness in any proceeding is cross-examined on a document used by the person to refresh the person's memory, that document may be made evidence in that proceeding, and where a document or any part of a document is received in evidence in any such proceeding by virtue of any such rule of law, any statement made in that document or part by the person using the document to refresh the person's memory shall by virtue of this subsection be admissible as evidence of any fact stated therein of which direct oral evidence by the person would be admissible.

Weight to be attached to evidence

102. In estimating the weight (if any) to be attached to a statement rendered admissible as evidence by this part, regard shall be had to all the circumstances from which an inference can reasonably be drawn as to the accuracy or otherwise of the statement, including—

- (a) the question whether or not the statement was made, or the information recorded in it was supplied, contemporaneously with the occurrence or existence of the facts to which the statement or information relates; and
- (b) the question whether or not the maker of the statement, or the supplier of the information recorded in it, had any incentive to conceal or misrepresent the facts.

Provisions of part are alternative

103. Sections 92 to 95 and 101 shall be construed as in aid of and as alternative to one another, any other provision in any other part, and any other law practice or usage with respect to the admissibility in evidence of statements.

PART 7—REPRODUCTIONS OF DOCUMENTS

Division 1—Preliminary

Definitions for part

104. In this part—

“affidavit” includes statutory declarations.

“business” includes any undertaking.

“machine copy”, in relation to a document, means a copy of the document made by a machine performing a process—

- (a) involving the production of a latent image of the document (not being a latent image on photosensitive material on a transparent base) and the development of that image by chemical means or otherwise; or
- (b) that, without the use of photosensitive material, produces a copy of the document simultaneously with the making of the document.

“original document” means—

- (a) when referred to in connection with the production of a document in answer to legal process issued by a court, the document that would, if this part had not been enacted, be required to be produced in answer to that process; or
- (b) when referred to in connection with the admissibility of a document in evidence in a proceeding—
 - (i) a document that would, if this part had not been enacted, be admissible in evidence in that proceeding in lieu of another document where a party to the proceeding failed to produce that other document in response to notice to do so given to the party by another such party; or
 - (ii) any other document that would, if this part had not been enacted, be admissible in evidence in that proceeding.

“reproduction” in relation to a document means a machine copy of the document or a print made from a transparency of the document and “reproduce” and any derivatives thereof have a corresponding meaning.

“transparency”, in relation to a document, means—

- (a) a developed negative or positive photograph of that document (an **“original photograph”**) made on a transparent base by means of light reflected from, or transmitted through, the document; or
- (b) a copy of an original photograph made by the use of photosensitive material (being photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with the original photograph; or
- (c) any 1 of a series of copies of an original photograph, the first of the series being made by the use of photosensitive material (being photosensitive material on a transparent base) placed in surface contact with a copy referred to in paragraph (b) of this definition, and each succeeding copy in the series being made, in the same manner, from any preceding copy in the series.

Division 2—Reproduction of official documents

Certified reproductions of certain official documents etc. to be admissible without further proof

105.(1) In this section—

“approved person” means—

- (a) a person the Minister declares by gazette notice to be an approved person; or
- (b) where an original document to which this section relates is a document filed in a court or the official record of a proceeding, the registrar or other proper officer of the court in which the document was filed or before which the proceeding took place.

(2) A person shall not fail or cease to be an approved person by reason only of a misdescription or an abbreviated description of a designated office by virtue of which the person would, but for the misdescription or

abbreviated description, be an approved person, where the misdescription or abbreviation does not materially affect identification of that person.

(3) A document that purports to be a copy of an original document shall, without further proof, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were the original document of which it purports to be a copy, if it bears or is accompanied by a certificate, purporting to have been signed by an approved person, that it is a reproduction of a document that was in the custody or control of that person in the person's official capacity—

- (a) where the reproduction is a machine copy, at the time the machine copy was made; or
- (b) where the reproduction is a print made from a transparency, at the time when the transparency was made.

(4) Where an approved person is served with legal process to produce a document to a court it shall be a sufficient answer to such process if the person to whom the process is addressed sends by post, or causes to be delivered, to the registrar or proper officer of the court requiring the production of the document a reproduction, certified as provided by this section, of the document and, where more than 1 document is specified howsoever in the legal process, further certifies, that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the reproductions so sent or caused to be delivered are reproductions of the whole of the documents in question.

(5) For the purposes of this section and without prejudice to any form of custody or control, an approved person shall be deemed to have custody or control of a document at the time the transparency of the document was made if—

- (a) the person has custody or control of the transparency; and
- (b) the transparency—
 - (i) incorporates a transparency of a certificate purporting to have been signed by an approved person to the effect that the transparency was made as a permanent record of a document in the custody or under the control of the person who signed the certificate; or
 - (ii) is 1 of a series of transparencies that incorporates, as part of the series, a transparency of such a certificate relating to the transparencies in the series.

(6) Division 3 of this part shall not apply to or in respect of a reproduction of a document referred to in this division.

Division 3—Reproduction of business documents

Admissibility of reproductions of business documents destroyed, lost or unavailable

106.(1) Subject to this part, a document that purports to be a copy of an original document made or used in the course of a business shall, upon proof that it is a reproduction made in good faith and that the original document has been destroyed or lost, whether wholly or in part, or that it is not reasonably practicable to produce the original document or to secure its production, be admissible in evidence in any proceeding to the extent to which the contents of the original document of which it purports to be a copy would have been admissible and it shall, subject to proof of the same matters, be a sufficient answer to legal process issued by a court, requiring production of a document to the court, for the person required by that process to produce the document to produce such a reproduction of the document.

(2) Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person made a machine copy of or photographed a document—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation; and
- (b) identifying or describing the document and indicating whether the document is itself a reproduction; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the person made the machine copy or photograph, the condition of the document at that time with respect to legibility and the extent of any damage thereto; and
- (d) describing the machine or process by which the person made the machine copy or photograph; and
- (e) stating that the making of the machine copy or photograph was properly carried out by the use of apparatus or materials in good working condition with the object of making a machine copy or, as the case may be, a transparency of the document; and

- (f) stating that the machine copy or photograph is a machine copy or photograph made in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether or not such person is available to be called as a witness, that the machine copy or, as the case may be, a transparency of the document referred to in the affidavit is a machine copy or transparency made in good faith and, in the case of a machine copy is, or in the case of a transparency can be used to produce, a reproduction of the document.

Use of photographing machines

107.(1) For this part, a regulation may declare a machine to be an approved machine.

(2) Subject to this part, but in addition to and without derogating from the provisions of section 106(1), a print made from a transparency of an original document (being a document made or used in the course of business) shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding to the extent to which the contents of the original document would have been admissible, whether the document is still in existence or not, upon proof that the transparency was made in good faith by using a machine that, at the time the transparency was made, was an approved machine and that the print is a print of the image on the transparency.

(3) Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person photographed a document by means of an approved machine—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation and the person's functions or duties (if any) in relation to copying documents; and
- (b) identifying or describing the document and indicating whether the document is itself a reproduction; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the document was photographed, the condition of the document at that time with respect to legibility and the extent of any damage to the document; and
- (d) stating the person from whose custody or control the document was produced for photographing or on whose behalf or in the course of whose business the document was photographed; and

- (e) identifying the approved machine and stating that the photographing was properly carried out in the ordinary course of business by the use of apparatus and materials in good working order and condition and in accordance with the conditions (if any) attaching to the approval of such machine as so notified; and
- (f) stating that the document was photographed in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether such person is available to be called as a witness or not, that a transparency of the document referred to in the affidavit was made in good faith by using an approved machine and bears an image of the document.

Affidavit of maker of print from transparency to be evidence

108. Without prejudice to any other mode of proof an affidavit purporting to have been made by a person at or about the time the person made a print from a transparency of a document—

- (a) stating the person's full name, address and occupation; and
- (b) identifying the transparency; and
- (c) stating the day upon which the print was made, the condition of the transparency and the extent of any damage thereto; and
- (d) describing the process by which the person made the print; and
- (e) stating that the printing was properly carried out by the use of apparatus and materials in good working order and condition with the object of reproducing the whole of the image on the transparency; and
- (f) stating that the print was made in good faith;

shall be evidence, whether such person is available to be called as a witness or not, that the print was made in good faith and reproduces the whole of the image on the transparency.

Proof where document processed by independent processor

109. Where a person having the custody or control of a document—

- (a) delivers the document, or causes it to be delivered to another person (“**the processor**”) whose business is or includes the reproduction or photographing of documents for other persons; and
- (b) receives from the processor—
 - (i) a machine copy or transparency of a document; and
 - (ii) an affidavit by the processor under section 106 or 107;

an affidavit made by the person at or about that time giving particulars of the person’s custody or control of the document, its delivery to the processor and the person’s receipt from the processor, of the document and the machine copy or transparency shall, whether the person who had the custody or control of the document is available to be called as a witness or not, be admissible in a proceeding as evidence of the facts stated therein.

Reproduction not to be admitted as evidence unless transparency in existence

110.(1) Save as provided in subsection (2) a reproduction made from a transparency shall not be admitted as evidence pursuant to this division in any proceeding unless the court is satisfied—

- (a) that the transparency is in existence at the time of the proceeding; and
- (b) that the document reproduced was—
 - (i) in existence for a period of at least 12 months after the document was made; or
 - (ii) delivered or sent by the party tendering the reproduction to the other party or 1 of the other parties to the proceeding.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) do not apply with respect to a print made from a transparency made by using an approved machine where, at the time the print was made, the transparency was in the custody or control of—

- (a) a Minister of the Crown in right of the Commonwealth or of the State of Queensland or of any other State or any officer in any government department under the direct control of any such

Minister; or

- (b) any council, board, commission, trust or other body established or constituted by or under the law of the Commonwealth or of the State of Queensland or of any other State or Territory for any public purpose; or
- (c) a financial institution; or
- (d) any corporation that is registered under the *Life Insurance Act 1945*¹² (Cwlth) where the document reproduced relates to the life insurance business of that corporation.

Transparency etc. may be preserved in lieu of document

111. Where any Act passed before or after the commencement of this Act requires a document to which this division applies to be preserved for any purpose for a longer period of time than 3 years it shall be a sufficient compliance with such a requirement to preserve, in lieu of any such document more than 3 years old, a transparency thereof made by using an approved machine together with an affidavit relating to the transparency being a transparency and an affidavit to which section 115 applies.

Proof of destruction of documents etc.

112. A statement by any person in an affidavit made for the purposes of this division—

- (a) that the person destroyed or caused the destruction of a document; or
- (b) that after due search and inquiry a document cannot be found; or
- (c) that, for the reasons specified therein, it is not reasonably practicable to produce a document or secure its production; or
- (d) that a transparency of a document is in the custody or control of a person, corporation or body referred to in section 110(2); or

¹² Now see *Life Insurance Act 1995* (Cwlth), section 254 (Companies registered under Life Insurance Act 1945).

- (e) that a document was made or was used in the course of the person's or the person's employer's business; or
- (f) that the person has made transparencies of a series of documents including the affidavit by photographing them in their proper order;

shall be evidence of the fact or facts stated, whether that person is available to be called as a witness or not.

One affidavit sufficient in certain circumstances

113.(1) This section applies to and in respect of transparencies, made by using an approved machine, of a series of documents that—

- (a) bear or have been given serial numbers in arithmetical order; or
- (b) bear or have been marked with the same distinctive identification mark; or
- (c) purport from their contents to relate to the same subject matter, to the same person or persons or to a matter between persons;

where the documents are photographed in their proper order on a continuous length of film or, where the documents are marked in accordance with paragraph (a) or (b), on separate films.

(2) An affidavit made pursuant to this division shall be deemed to be an affidavit in respect of all or any of the transparencies of a series of documents to which this section applies if it is photographed as part of the series and in lieu of identifying or describing each individual document photographed, it states the general nature of the documents in the series and—

- (a) the serial numbers of the first and last document in the series; or
- (b) the distinctive identification mark; or
- (c) the person or persons, or the matter between persons, to which the documents refer;

as the case may require.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this division, a print that purports to be made from a transparency of an affidavit referred to in subsection (2) shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were

the affidavit from which the transparency was made, if—

- (a) it is produced or tendered with a print made from a transparency of a document in the series to which the affidavit relates; and
- (b) an affidavit under section 108 relating to both prints is also produced or tendered.

Certification required when affidavit etc. not contained in length or series of film

114. Where any affidavit relating to the reproduction of a document is not an affidavit referred to in section 113(2), a copy thereof duly certified to be a true copy—

- (a) in the case of an affidavit in the custody of a body corporate—by the chairperson, secretary or by a director or manager thereof; or
- (b) in any other case—by a justice of the peace;

shall, unless the court otherwise orders, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding as if it were the affidavit of which it is certified to be a true copy.

Discovery, inspection and production where document destroyed or lost

115.(1) In this section—

“**affidavit**” includes—

- (a) a transparency, made as provided in section 113, of an affidavit; and
- (b) a copy, certified as provided in section 114, of an affidavit.

(2) This section applies to—

- (a) a transparency of a destroyed or lost document, where a print made from the transparency would, subject to compliance with the conditions prescribed by this part for the purpose, be admissible in evidence in a proceeding; and
- (b) an affidavit that would be evidence or, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, that could be the means of providing evidence, pursuant to this part, of compliance with

those conditions in so far as they relate to the making of the transparency and the destruction or loss of the document.

(3) Where any person has the custody or control of a transparency and an affidavit to which this section applies and, but for the destruction or loss of the document from which the transparency was made would be required by any law, order of court, practice or usage—

- (a) to give discovery of the document; or
- (b) to produce the document for inspection; or
- (c) to permit the making of a copy of the document or the taking of extracts therefrom; or
- (d) to supply a copy of the document;

the law, order, practice or usage shall, subject to this section, be deemed to extend to the transparency and affidavit.

(4) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) the obligation imposed by this section in respect of a requirement referred to in subsection (3)(b) shall be deemed to include an obligation—
 - (i) to provide proper facilities for reading the image on the transparency and, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, the image on the transparency of the affidavit; or
 - (ii) to produce for inspection a print made from the transparency and, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, a print made from the transparency of the affidavit, together in each case, with an affidavit that would under section 108, be evidence that the print was made in good faith and reproduces the image on the transparency; and
- (b) the obligation imposed by this section in respect of a requirement referred to in subsection (3)(d) shall be deemed not to include an obligation to supply a copy of any transparency but to include, in lieu thereof, an obligation to supply the print and affidavit or, as the case may require, the prints and affidavits, referred to in paragraph (a)(ii).

(5) Where any person has the custody or control of a transparency and an affidavit to which this section applies and is required by legal process issued by a court to produce to the court the document from which the transparency was made, that legal process shall be deemed to require the production by the person of—

- (a) a print, made in good faith, that reproduces the image on the transparency; and
- (b) the affidavit or, where the affidavit is itself in the form of a transparency, a print, made in good faith, that reproduces the image on the transparency of the affidavit.

Division 4—General

Copies to be evidence

116. Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, where a document has been copied by means of a photographic or other machine which produces a facsimile copy of the document, the copy is, upon proof to the satisfaction of the court that the copy was taken or made from the original document by means of the machine, admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original document would be admissible in evidence without—

- (a) proof that the copy was compared with the original document; and
- (b) notice to produce the original document having been given.

Further reproduction may be ordered by court

117.(1) Subject to this section, where a print made from a transparency is, in a proceeding, tendered in evidence pursuant to the provisions of this part and—

- (a) the court is not satisfied that the print is a legible copy of the original document; or
- (b) a party to the proceeding questions the authenticity of the print and applies for an order under this section;

the court may reject the print tendered and order that a further print be made

from a transparency of the original document.

(2) A further print made in compliance with an order made under this section shall be made—

- (a) where the order is made under subsection (1)(a), at the cost of the party who tendered the rejected print; or
- (b) where the order is made under subsection (1)(b), in the presence of a person appointed by the court for the purpose and at the cost of the party who applied for the order.

(3) Where a print to which division 2 of this part relates is rejected under this section, a print made in compliance with an order under this section shall be made in the same premises as the rejected print or, where this is not practicable, in accordance with directions given by the court.

Colours and tones of reproductions

118.(1) For the purposes of this part, the production of a reproduction of a document to a court in answer to a legal process, or the admission of such a reproduction in evidence in a proceeding, shall not be precluded on the ground that it is not a copy of an original document or, where the reproduction is a print made from a transparency, on the ground that the transparency does not bear an image of an original document, if the reproduction is not such a copy, or the transparency does not bear such an image, by reason only of the fact—

- (a) that, in the process by which the reproduction or transparency was made, the colours or tones appearing in the original document were altered or reversed in the reproduction or transparency; or
- (b) that any number or mark of identification added for the purposes of section 113 appears in the reproduction or transparency.

(2) A document may be certified under division 2 of this part to be a reproduction of an original document notwithstanding that—

- (a) any writing or representation describing or identifying colours in the original document appears in the reproduction; or
- (b) any colours appearing in the reproduction were added after it was made and before certification.

Notice to produce not required

119. Where a reproduction of a document is admissible in evidence pursuant to this part, it shall be so admissible whether or not notice to produce the document of which it is a reproduction has been given.

Proof of comparisons not required

120. Where a reproduction of a document is tendered as evidence pursuant to this part, no proof shall be required that the reproduction was compared with the original document.

Presumptions as to ancient documents

121. Any presumption that may be made in respect of a document over 20 years old may be made with respect to any reproduction of that document admitted in evidence under this part in all respects as if the reproduction were the document.

Reproductions made in other States

122. Where a reproduction is made of a document in another State or in a Territory and would be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in that State or Territory under a law of that State or Territory corresponding with this part, or a law of that State or Territory that a regulation declares to correspond with this part, the reproduction shall be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in Queensland in the same circumstances, to the same extent and for the like purpose as it would be admissible in evidence in a proceeding in that State or Territory under the law of that State or Territory.

Judicial notice

123. Where any Act or law requires a court to take judicial notice of the seal or signature of any court, person or body corporate appearing on a document and a reproduction of that document is, pursuant to this part, admitted in evidence in a proceeding, the court shall take judicial notice of the image of the seal or signature on the reproduction to the same extent as it would be required to take judicial notice of the seal or signature on the document.

A court may reject reproduction

124. Notwithstanding anything contained in this part, a court may refuse to admit in evidence a reproduction tendered pursuant to this part if it considers it inexpedient in the interests of justice to do so as a result of any reasonable inference drawn by the court from the nature of the reproduction, the machine or process by which it or, in the case of a print from a transparency, by which the transparency was made, and any other circumstances.

Weight of evidence

125. In estimating the weight to be attached to a reproduction of a document admitted in evidence pursuant to this part, regard shall be had to the fact that, if the person making an affidavit pursuant to this part is not called as a witness, there has been no opportunity to cross-examine the person, and to all the circumstances from which any inference may reasonably be drawn as to—

- (a) the necessity for making the reproduction or, in the case of a print from a transparency, the transparency or for destroying or parting with the document reproduced; or
- (b) the accuracy or otherwise of the reproduction; or
- (c) any incentive to tamper with the document or to misrepresent the reproduction.

Provisions of part are alternative

126. The provisions of this part shall be construed as in aid of and as alternative to any provision of any other part, any other law or any practice or usage with respect to the production to a court or the admissibility in evidence in a proceeding of reproductions of documents.

Stamp duty

127. Notwithstanding the provisions of this part, where a document is chargeable with stamp duty under the *Stamp Act 1894* a reproduction of the document shall not be admissible in evidence under this Act unless—

- (a) the reproduction of the document shows or establishes to the satisfaction of the court or it is otherwise so established that the document was duly stamped in accordance with that Act; or
- (b) the provisions of that Act which relate to documents that are not duly stamped in accordance therewith are complied with in respect of the reproduction as if it were the document of which it is a reproduction.

Regulation may exclude application of provisions

128. A regulation may declare that this part, or a provision of this part, does not apply to a document.

Libraries and Archives Act 1988, part 5 not affected

129. This Act does not affect the *Libraries and Archives Act 1988*, part 5.¹³

PART 8—MISCELLANEOUS

Rejection of evidence in criminal proceedings

130. Nothing in this Act derogates from the power of the court in a criminal proceeding to exclude evidence if the court is satisfied that it would be unfair to the person charged to admit that evidence.

Witnesses for defence to be sworn

131. In a criminal proceeding, any person who gives evidence on behalf of the defence shall first take an oath in such manner as the person would by law be obliged to do if the person were a witness for the prosecution.

¹³ *Libraries and Archives Act 1988*, part 5 (Reporting)

Court may order interpreter to be provided

131A.(1) In a criminal proceeding, a court may order the State to provide an interpreter for a complainant, defendant or witness, if the court is satisfied that the interests of justice so require.

(2) In deciding whether to make an order under subsection (1), the court must have regard to the fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime declared by the *Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995*, part 2.

Actions for breach of promise of marriage

132. The plaintiff in an action for breach of promise of marriage shall not recover a verdict unless the plaintiff's testimony is corroborated by some other material evidence in support of such promise.

Admissibility of similar fact evidence

132A. In a criminal proceeding, similar fact evidence, the probative value of which outweighs its potentially prejudicial effect, must not be ruled inadmissible on the ground that it may be the result of collusion or suggestion, and the weight of that evidence is a question for the jury, if any.

Evidence of domestic violence

132B.(1) This section applies to a criminal proceeding against a person for an offence defined in the Criminal Code, chapters 28 to 30.

(2) Relevant evidence of the history of the domestic relationship between the defendant and the person against whom the offence was committed is admissible in evidence in the proceeding.

Fact finding on sentencing

132C.(1) This section applies to any sentencing procedure in a criminal proceeding.

(2) The sentencing judge or magistrate may act on an allegation of fact that is admitted or not challenged.

(3) If an allegation of fact is not admitted or is challenged, the sentencing judge or magistrate may act on the allegation if the judge or magistrate is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the allegation is true.

(4) For subsection (3), the degree of satisfaction required varies according to the consequences, adverse to the person being sentenced, of finding the allegation to be true.

(5) In this section—

“**allegation of fact**” includes the following—

- (a) information under the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15;¹⁴
- (b) information under the *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 109(3) or in a presentence report under section 110 of that Act;¹⁵
- (c) information under the *Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995*, section 14;¹⁶
- (d) other information or evidence.

Impounding documents

133. Where a document has been tendered or produced before a court, the court may, whether or not the document is admitted in evidence, direct that the document shall be impounded and kept in the custody of an officer of the court or of another person for such period and subject to such conditions as the court thinks fit.

Power to appoint a government printer

134. The Governor in Council may appoint a government printer for the State.

¹⁴ *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*, section 15 (Information on sentence)

¹⁵ *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*, section 109 (Sentencing principles) or 110 (Presentence report)

¹⁶ *Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995*, section 14 (Information during sentencing of impact of crime on victim)

Production of documents by agencies in relation to civil proceedings

134A.(1) A person who is a party to a civil proceeding may make written application to the principal officer of an agency to produce for inspection a document that—

- (a) is in the possession of, or under the power of, the agency; and
- (b) is relevant to an issue in the proceeding;

if the agency, the principal officer, or a member, officer or employee of the agency, could be ordered, on the application of the person, to produce the document in the proceeding.

(2) The principal officer may permit the person, on payment of the prescribed fee, to inspect the document, and take a copy of, or an extract from, the document, at a time and place nominated by the principal officer.

(3) If the principal officer permits the person to inspect and take a copy of, or an extract from, the document, the principal officer, and all persons acting on behalf of the principal officer, are entitled to the same protection as they would have had if the acts concerned had been carried out in obedience to a process of the Supreme Court.

(4) The principal officer is not required to notify another party to the proceeding of—

- (a) the making of the application; or
- (b) any action taken in relation to the application.

(4A) The principal officer may delegate his or her powers under this section to an officer or employee of the principal officer's agency.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), this section does not affect—

- (a) the operation of any law relating to the disclosure or non-disclosure of information; or
- (b) the operation of another law that authorises the inspection or copying of a document otherwise than as provided in this section; or
- (c) the power of a court to order the inspection or production of a document.

(6) If a document mentioned in subsection (1) is a document that contains information to which the *Health Services Act 1991*, section 63¹⁷ applies, the document is, for the purposes of section 63(2)(a) of that Act, information that is expressly authorised or permitted to be given under this Act.

(7) In this section—

“agency” means—

- (a) a department; or
- (b) a public authority within the meaning of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*; or
- (c) a person or body declared by regulation to be an agency;

but does not include a person or body declared by regulation not to be an agency.

“principal officer” means—

- (a) in relation to a department—the chief executive of the department; or
- (b) in relation to an agency for which a regulation declares an officer to be the principal officer—the holder of the office; or
- (c) in relation to another agency—
 - (i) if it is an incorporated body that has no members—the person who manages the body’s affairs; or
 - (ii) if it is a body (whether or not incorporated) that is constituted by 1 person—the person; or
 - (iii) if it is a body (whether or not incorporated) that is constituted by 2 or more persons—the person who is entitled to preside at a meeting of the body at which the person is present.

Approval of forms

134B.(1) The chief executive may approve forms for—

¹⁷ *Health Services Act 1991*, section 63 (Confidentiality)

- (a) anything for which this Act requires or permits an approved form to be used; or
- (b) another use under this Act.

(2) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to forms for court proceedings.

Regulation making power

135.(1) The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Act.

(2) A regulation may be made about—

- (a) fees to be charged under this Act; or
- (b) the payment of fees and expenses for, or incurred in, taking evidence under part 3, division 2.

PART 9—TRANSITIONAL PROVISION

Transitional—Evidence Amendment Act 2000

136.(1) Section 132C applies to a sentencing procedure regardless of whether the offence or the conviction for the offence giving rise to the sentencing procedure happened before or after the commencement of this section.

(2) In this section—

“conviction” means a finding of guilt, or the acceptance of a plea of guilty, by a court.

“sentencing procedure” means a sentencing procedure started after the commencement of this section.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

EXAMPLES OF OFFICES OF A PUBLIC NATURE ESTABLISHED UNDER AN ACT

section 42

1. Auditor-general
2. Chair of the public sector management committee
3. Chairperson of the criminal justice commission
4. Chief executive of a department
5. Chief executive officer of a local government
6. Clerk of the Parliament
7. Commissioner for administrative discretions
8. Commissioner of the police service
9. Director of public prosecutions
10. Electoral commissioner
11. Information commissioner
12. Mayor of a local government
13. Parliamentary counsel
14. Public trustee
15. Registrar-general
16. Registrar of titles
17. Solicitor-general

SCHEDULE 2

section 8(4)

Year and Number	Title	Provisions referred to
1899 63 Vic No. 9	The Criminal Code	Sections 208, 209, 210, 211, 215, 216, 219, 222, 223, 229B, 302, 303, 306, 308, 311, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 319A, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 335, 336, 337, 339, 340, 343, 343A, 344, 347, 349.

ENDNOTES

1 Index to endnotes

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2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 27 November 2000. Future amendments of the Evidence Act 1977 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

3 Key

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

AIA	=	Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	=	previously
amd	=	amended	proc	=	proclamation
amdt	=	amendment	prov	=	provision
ch	=	chapter	pt	=	part
def	=	definition	pubd	=	published
div	=	division	R[X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
exp	=	expires/expired	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
gaz	=	gazette	reloc	=	relocated
hdg	=	heading	renum	=	renumbered
ins	=	inserted	rep	=	repealed
lap	=	lapsed	s	=	section
notfd	=	notified	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
om	=	omitted	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
orig	=	original	SIR	=	Statutory Instruments Regulation 1992
p	=	page	SL	=	subordinate legislation
para	=	paragraph	sub	=	substituted
prec	=	preceding	unnum	=	unnumbered
pres	=	present			
prev	=	previous			

4 Table of earlier reprints

TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

[If a reprint number includes a roman letter, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.]

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 68 of 1992	27 April 1993
2	to Act No. 76 of 1993	22 December 1993
3	to Act No. 58 of 1995	21 December 1995
3A	to Act No. 79 of 1996	3 March 1997
3B	to Act No. 17 of 1997	4 July 1997
4	to Act No. 17 of 1997	22 September 1997
4A	to Act No. 82 of 1997	9 December 1997
4B	to Act No. 41 of 1998	5 March 1998
4C	to Act No. 16 of 1999	30 April 1999
4D	to Act No. 39 of 1999	2 December 1999
5	to Act No. 65 of 1999	2 June 2000
5A	to Act No. 46 of 2000	7 November 2000

5 Tables in earlier reprints

TABLES IN EARLIER REPRINTS

Name of table	Reprint No.
Changed names and titles	3
Comparative legislation	1
Corrected minor errors	1
Obsolete and redundant provisions	3
Renumbered provisions	1, 2

6 List of legislation

Evidence Act 1977 No. 47

date of assent 3 October 1977
s 1 commenced on date of assent
remaining provisions commenced 1 January 1978 (see s 1(2))
as amended by—

Criminal Law Amendment Act 1979 No. 2 pt 3

date of assent 6 April 1979
commenced 7 April 1979 (proc pubd gaz 7 April 1979 p 1359)

Evidence Act Amendment Act 1981 No. 3

date of assent 30 March 1981
commenced on date of assent

Evidence Act Amendment 1984 No. 71

date of assent 12 October 1984
commenced on date of assent

Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 No. 20 s 14

date of assent 8 April 1986
commenced 1 November 1986 (proc pubd gaz 18 October 1986 p 1118)

Corrective Services (Consequential Amendments) Act 1988 No. 88 s 3 sch 1

date of assent 1 December 1988
commenced 15 December 1988 (see s 2(2) and order pubd gaz 10 December 1988 p 1675)

Criminal Code, Evidence Act and other Acts Amendment Act 1989 No. 17 pt 3

date of assent 30 March 1989
commenced 3 July 1989 (proc pubd gaz 24 June 1989 p 1821 as amd proc pubd gaz 1 July 1989 p 2190)

Public Service (Administrative Arrangements) Act (No. 2) 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 1

date of assent 14 November 1990
amnds of ss 57–58 commenced 7 December 1989 (see s 2(4)(c))
amdt of s 104 commenced 31 August 1989 (see s 2(2)(a))

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1992 No. 68 s 3 sch 1

date of assent 7 December 1992

commenced 18 December 1992 (1992 SL No. 439)

Justice and Attorney-General Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 No. 68 pt 3

date of assent 23 November 1993

commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1993 No. 76 ss 1–3 sch 1

date of assent 14 December 1993

commenced on date of assent

Justice and Attorney-General (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1994 No. 24 s 3(1) sch

date of assent 10 May 1994

commenced 30 May 1994 (1994 SL No. 168)

Criminal Code No. 37 of 1995 ss 1–2, 458 sch 2 pt 2

date of assent 16 June 1995

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions never proclaimed into force and on 1997 No. 3 s 121

Statute Law (Minor Amendments) Act (No. 2) 1995 No. 51 ss 1, 3–4 sch

date of assent 22 November 1995

commenced on date of assent

Statute Law Revision Act (No. 2) 1995 No. 58 ss 1–2, 4 sch 1

date of assent 28 November 1995

s 4 sch 1 amdt 10 commenced 12 April 1996 (automatic commencement under AIA s 15DA(2)) (see also 1995 No. 58 s 2(1) sch 1)

remaining provisions commenced on date of assent

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 No. 79 pts 1, 13

date of assent 12 December 1996

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 28 February 1997 (1997 SL No. 35)

Criminal Law Amendment Act 1997 No. 3 ss 1, 2(2), 122 sch 2

date of assent 3 April 1997

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 July 1997 (1997 SL No. 152)

Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 No. 9 ss 1–2(1) pt 10

date of assent 15 May 1997

commenced on date of assent

Miscellaneous Acts (Non-bank Financial Institutions) Amendment Act 1997 No. 17 ss 1–2, 74 sch

date of assent 15 May 1997

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 July 1997 (1997 SL No. 163)

Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1997 No. 82 ss 1–2 pt 11

date of assent 5 December 1997

commenced on date of assent

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 1998 No. 41 ss 1, 2(2), 14(1) sch

date of assent 27 November 1998

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 21 December 1998 (1998 SL No. 346)

Child Protection Act 1999 No. 10 ss 1, 2(2), 205 sch 3

date of assent 30 March 1999

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 23 March 2000 (2000 SL No. 45)

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 16 ss 1–2 sch

date of assent 22 April 1999

commenced on date of assent

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 19 ss 1–3 sch

date of assent 30 April 1999

commenced on date of assent

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 No. 39 ss 1–2, 299 sch 1

date of assent 2 September 1999

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions not yet proclaimed into force (automatic commencement under AIA s 15DA(2) deferred to 2 September 2001 (2000 SL No. 226 s 2))

Audio Visual and Audio Links Amendment Act 1999 No. 65 pts 1–2

date of assent 6 December 1999

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 1 March 2000 (2000 SL No. 14)

Evidence Amendment Act 2000 No. 41

date of assent 13 October 2000

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 27 October 2000 (2000 SL No. 271)

Criminal Law Amendment Act 2000 No. 43 pts 1, 6

date of assent 13 October 2000

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 27 October 2000 (2000 SL No. 270)

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000 No. 46 ss 1, 3 sch

date assent 25 October 2000

commenced on date of assent

Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Amendment Act 2000 No. 57 pts 1–2

date of assent 17 November 2000

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions not yet proclaimed into force

Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2000 No. 58 ss 1–2 sch

date of assent 17 November 2000

commenced on date of assent

7 List of annotations**Short title****s 1** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**Act binds Crown****prov hdg** ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**s 2** prev s 2 amd 1989 No. 17 s 60
om R1 (see RA s 36)
pres s 2 (prev s 1(3)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**Definitions****prov hdg** ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**s 3** prev s 3 om R1 (see RA s 40)
pres s 3 (prev s 5(1)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
def “**approved form**” ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
def “**chief executive (surveys)**” ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
def “**gazette**” ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
def “**intellectually impaired person**” ins 2000 No. 43 s 43
def “**protected witness**” ins 2000 No. 43 s 43
def “**telegraph**” sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
def “**telegraph office**” sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**Meaning of “copy” of document etc.****prov hdg** ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**s 4** prev s 4 om R1 (see RA s 38)
pres s 4 (prev s 5(2)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**Meaning of document purporting to be of certain character etc.****prov hdg** ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**s 5** (prev s 5(3)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1**Evidence of person who does not understand oath****s 9** amd 1989 No. 17 s 61
sub 2000 No. 43 s 44**Expert evidence of ability to give reliable evidence****s 9A** ins 1989 No. 17 s 62
sub 2000 No. 43 s 44**Questioning a person charged in a criminal proceeding****s 15** amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch**Questioning of witness as to certain convictions****s 15A** ins 1986 No. 20 s 14(1)

Cross-examination as to credit**s 20** sub 2000 No. 43 s 45**Improper questions****s 21** sub 2000 No. 43 s 45**Division 4—Evidence of special witnesses****div hdg** ins 1989 No. 17 s 63**Evidence of special witnesses****s 21A** ins 1989 No. 17 s 63
amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1; 2000 No. 43 s 46**Division 5—Exclusion of confession induced by threat or promise****div hdg** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
1997 No. 3 s 121); 2000 No. 57 s 4**Exclusion of confession****s 21B** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
1997 No. 3 s 121); 2000 No. 57 s 4**Application of division****s 21C** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Witness anonymity certificate****s 21D** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**What witness anonymity certificate must state****s 21E** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Effect of witness anonymity certificate****s 21F** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Persons to give copy of witness anonymity certificate****s 21G** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Orders relevant entity may make on filing of witness anonymity certificate****s 21H** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Relevant entity may grant leave to disclose identity****s 21I** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Review of giving of witness anonymity certificates other than by criminal justice commission****s 21J** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Review of operation of division****s 21K** ins 2000 No. 57 s 4**Division 6—Cross-examination of protected witnesses****div 6 (ss 21L–21S)** ins 2000 No. 43 s 47**Commission, request or order to examine witnesses****s 22** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

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s 39L ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39M ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39N ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

Contempt of recognised court

s 39O ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39P ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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div hdg ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39Q ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39R ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

Failure of the link

s 39S ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

Expenses

s 39T ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

External location to be considered part of Queensland court location

s 39U ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

Witness outside Queensland—when compellable

s 39V ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39W ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39X ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39Y ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 39Z ins 1999 No. 65 s 4

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s 40 om 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Signatures of holders of public offices etc. to be judicially noticed

s 42 amd 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1
sub 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Certain seals to be judicially noticed etc.

s 42A ins 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

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s 43 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1; 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Proof of printing by government printer etc.

prov hdg sub 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch
s 46 amd 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Presumption of accuracy of copy of legislation

prov hdg ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
s 46A (prev ss 46(2)–(3)) renum 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Court or tribunal may inform itself about Act or statutory instrument

s 46B ins 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

Proof of votes and proceedings of Legislature and of legislative material

prov hdg amd 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch
s 47 amd 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Proof of proclamations, orders in council etc.

s 48 amd 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

Proof of standard rules, codes and specifications

prov hdg sub 1995 No. 51 s 5 sch
s 49 amd 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch; 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

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s 54 amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

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s 55 sub 1993 No. 68 s 5
amd 1997 No. 9 s 33

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s 56 amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Proof of lease or licence

s 57 amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 1
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PART 6—ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS AND REPRESENTATIONS

pt hdg amd 2000 No. 43 s 48

Admissibility of documentary evidence as to facts in issue

s 92 amd 2000 No. 58 s 2 sch

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prov hdg amd 1997 No. 3 s 122 sch 2

s 93A ins 1989 No. 17 s 64

amd 1996 No. 79 s 42; 1997 No. 3 s 122 sch 2; 2000 No. 43 s 49

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s 93B ins 2000 No. 43 s 50

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s 93C ins 2000 No. 43 s 50

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s 94 amd 1989 No. 17 s 65

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s 95 amd 1979 No. 2 s 10; 1988 No. 88 s 3 sch 1; 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

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s 98 amd 2000 No. 43 s 51

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s 103 amd 1989 No. 17 s 66

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s 104 amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 1; 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

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s 105 amd 1984 No. 71 s 2; 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1; 1997 No. 82 s 36

Use of photographing machines

prov hdg amd 1999 No. 16 s 2 sch

s 107 amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Reproduction not to be admitted as evidence unless transparency in existence
s 110 amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1; 1997 No. 17 s 74 sch

Reproductions made in other States
s 122 amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Regulation may exclude application of provisions
s 128 sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Libraries and Archives Act 1988, part 5 not affected
s 129 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

PART 7A—EVIDENCE OF ALIBI

pt hdg ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Definitions for part

s 129A ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Requirements for adducing evidence of alibi

s 129B ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Evidence of alibi given by witness

s 129C ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Accused not previously advised of requirements about alibi

s 129D ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

When evidence to disprove an alibi may be tendered

s 129E ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Notice of alibi given by accused's lawyer

s 129F ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

PART 7B—EVIDENTIARY MATTERS FOR OFFENCES ABOUT ANIMALS

pt hdg ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Definitions for part

s 129G ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Identification and return of animal for slaughter if ownership not disputed

s 129H ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Identification and handing over of animal for slaughter if ownership disputed

s 129I ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Photographs etc. may be tendered in evidence

s 129J ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

When animal must not be returned or handed over

s 129K ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Identification of animals and return to owner before tender in certain cases

s 129L ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

PART 7C—EVIDENTIARY AND RELATED MATTERS ABOUT PROCEEDINGS FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES

pt hdg ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Definitions for part

s 129M ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Meaning of “complainant”

s 129N ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Special rules of evidence about serious sexual offences

s 129O ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Exclusion of public

s 129P ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Publication at large of complainant’s identity prohibited

s 129Q ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Premature publication of charged person’s identity prohibited

s 129R ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Exempted reports

s 129S ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Part provides additional protection

s 129T ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Offences

s 129U ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Charged person may apply for direction that s 129U(3) does not apply

s 129V ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Certain convicted persons may apply for direction that s 129U(3) does not apply

s 129W ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Executive officers must ensure corporation does not contravene this part

s 129X ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Corroboration

s 130A ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Evidence of previous conviction

s 130B ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Admission by charged person and State in criminal trials

s 130C ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Evidence of lawful custody

s 130D ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Court may order interpreter to be provided

s 131A ins 1997 No. 3 s 122 sch 2

Actions for breach of promise of marriage

s 132 sub 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121)

Admissibility of similar fact evidence

s 132A ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om 1997 No. 3 s 121); 1997 No. 3 s 122 sch 2

Evidence of domestic violence

s 132B ins 1997 No. 3 s 122 sch 2

Fact finding on sentencing

s 132C ins 2000 No. 41 s 4

Production of documents by agencies in relation to civil proceedings

s 134A ins 1992 No. 68 s 3 sch 1
amd 1994 No. 24 s 3(1) sch; 2000 No. 46 s 3 sch

Approval of forms

s 134B ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

Regulation making power

s 135 sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

PART 9—TRANSITIONAL PROVISION**pt hdg** ins 2000 No. 41 s 5**Transitional—Evidence Amendment Act 2000****s 136** prev s 136 ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1
exp 28 May 1996 (see s 136(4))
pres s 136 ins 2000 No. 41 s 5**Numbering and renumbering of Act****s 136** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 (never proclaimed into force and om
1997 No. 3 s 121)**SCHEDULE 1—EXAMPLES OF OFFICES OF A PUBLIC NATURE
ESTABLISHED UNDER AN ACT**prev sch 1 om R1 (see RA ss 38, 40)
pres sch 1 ins 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch
amd 1998 No. 41 s 14(1) sch**SCHEDULE 2**

amd 1989 No. 17 s 67; 1999 No. 10 s 205 sch 3

SCHEDULE 3

om 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**8 Provisions that have not commenced and are not
incorporated into reprint**

The following provisions are not incorporated in this reprint because they had not commenced before the reprint date (see Reprints Act 1992, s 5(c)).

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 No. 39 s 299 sch 1 reads as follows—

1. Section 57(1), first dot point, ‘Coal Mining Act 1925’—

omit.

Evidence (Witness Anonymity) Amendment Act 2000 No. 57 s 4 reads as follows—

‘Division 5—Witness anonymity

‘Definitions for div 5

‘21B. In this division—

“controlled operation” means a controlled operation approved under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, chapter 5, part 2, division 3¹⁸ for the purposes of an investigation being conducted by a law enforcement agency.

“covert operative”, for a controlled operation conducted by a law enforcement agency, means a police officer or another person named as a covert operative in an approval under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, section 178.¹⁹

“law enforcement agency” means—

- (a) the crime commission; or
- (b) the criminal justice commission; or
- (c) the police service.

“protected witness” has the meaning given by section 21F.²⁰

“relevant entity”, for a relevant proceeding, means the entity before whom the relevant proceeding is being heard or conducted.

“relevant proceeding” means a proceeding before a court, including a criminal proceeding.

‘Application of division

‘21C. This division applies to a relevant proceeding in which a witness who is or was a covert operative is or may be required to give evidence that

¹⁸ *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, chapter 5 (Controlled operations and controlled activities), part 2 (Controlled operations), division 3 (Approval of controlled operations)

¹⁹ *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, section 178 (What approval must state)

²⁰ Section 21F (Effect of witness anonymity certificate)

was obtained when the operative was engaged in activities for a controlled operation.

‘Witness anonymity certificate

‘21D.(1) The chief executive officer of a law enforcement agency may, for the agency, give a witness anonymity certificate in the approved form for the purposes of a relevant proceeding if the officer considers it is reasonably necessary to protect a person—

- (a) who is, or was, a covert operative for the agency; and
- (b) who is, or may be, required to give evidence in the proceeding.

‘(2) Also, a senior police officer may, for the police service, give the witness anonymity certificate for the purposes of a relevant proceeding if the senior police officer considers it is reasonably necessary to protect a person—

- (a) who is, or was, a covert operative for the police service; and
- (b) who is, or may be, required to give evidence in the proceeding.

‘(3) The law enforcement agency must—

- (a) file the witness anonymity certificate with the relevant entity before the person for whom the certificate was given is called to give evidence; and
- (b) if the agency is not the criminal justice commission, give to the chairperson of the criminal justice commission a copy of the certificate and notice of the date it was filed.

‘(4) Power to give a witness anonymity certificate under subsection (1) or (2) may not be delegated.

‘(5) Subsection (4) applies despite any other Act.

‘(6) A decision to give a witness anonymity certificate under this section—

- (a) is final and conclusive; and
- (b) can not be impeached for informality or want of form; and
- (c) can not be appealed against, reviewed, quashed or invalidated in any court.

‘(7) In this section—

“senior police officer” means a person performing functions in the police service as—

- (a) a deputy commissioner; or
- (b) the assistant commissioner responsible for crime operations.

‘What witness anonymity certificate must state

‘21E.(1) A witness anonymity certificate must state the following in relation to a person for whom the certificate is given (the **“witness”**)—

- (a) the name the witness used in the relevant controlled operation;
- (b) for a stated period the witness was a covert operative for a stated law enforcement agency;
- (c) the witness has not been convicted of any offence, other than a stated offence;
- (d) if the witness is a police officer, whether the witness has at any time been found guilty of misconduct or a breach of discipline within the meaning of either of the following and if so, details of the misconduct or breach of discipline—
 - (i) the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*;
 - (ii) a law of the Commonwealth or another State that corresponds to the *Police Service Administration Act 1990*;
- (e) if, to the knowledge of the person giving the certificate, a court or judge has made any adverse comment on the credibility of the witness, what was said about the witness.

‘(2) A witness anonymity certificate must not include any information that may enable the actual identity of the witness, or where the witness lives, to be revealed.

‘Effect of witness anonymity certificate

‘21F. On the filing of a witness anonymity certificate—

- (a) the witness (“**protected witness**”) may give evidence in the relevant proceeding under the name the witness used in the relevant controlled operation; and
- (b) subject to section 21I—
 - (i) a question may not be asked that may lead to the disclosure of the actual identity of the protected witness or where the protected witness lives; and
 - (ii) a witness, including the protected witness, can not be required to answer a question, give any evidence, or provide any information, that may lead to the disclosure of the actual identity of the protected witness or where the protected witness lives; and
 - (iii) a person involved in a relevant proceeding must not make a statement that discloses or could disclose the actual identity of the protected witness or where the witness lives.

‘Persons to be given copy of witness anonymity certificate

‘21G.(1) On the filing of a witness anonymity certificate, the relevant law enforcement agency must give a copy of the certificate to the following—

- (a) for a criminal proceeding—each accused person to whom the relevant proceeding relates or the person’s lawyer;
- (b) for a civil proceeding—each party to the relevant proceeding or the party’s lawyer;
- (c) for another proceeding—each person who has been given leave to appear in the relevant proceeding or the person’s lawyer.

‘(2) The relevant entity may also require the relevant law enforcement agency to give a copy of the witness anonymity certificate to a person the relevant entity considers should be given a copy.

‘Orders relevant entity may make on filing of witness anonymity certificate

‘21H.(1) The relevant entity may make any order it considers necessary to protect the identity of the protected witness.

Example of types of orders—

1. An order prohibiting sketching of the witness.
2. An order that the witness give evidence in the absence of the public.

‘(2) A person must not contravene an order made under subsection (1).

Maximum penalty—85 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment.

‘(3) Subsection (2) does not limit the relevant entity’s power to punish for contempt.

‘Relevant entity may grant leave to disclose identity

‘**21L.(1)** The relevant entity may, on application to it, give leave to any of the following (“**relevant party**”) to ask questions of a witness, including the protected witness, or make a statement that, if answered or made, may disclose the protected witness’s actual identity or where the protected witness lives—

- (a) for a criminal proceeding—each accused person to whom the relevant proceeding relates or the person’s lawyer;
- (b) for a civil proceeding—each party to the relevant proceeding or the party’s lawyer;
- (c) for another proceeding—each person who has been given leave to appear in the relevant proceeding or the person’s lawyer;
- (d) a lawyer assisting the relevant entity.

‘(2) The relevant entity may direct that the application be heard in the absence of any jury empanelled for the proceeding and the public.

‘(3) The relevant entity must not give leave under subsection (1) unless satisfied—

- (a) there is some evidence that, if believed, would call into question the credibility of the protected witness; and
- (b) it is in the interests of justice for the relevant party to be able to test the credibility of the protected witness; and
- (c) it would be impractical to test properly the credibility of the protected witness without knowing the actual identity of the witness.

‘(4) If the relevant entity gives leave, a person may, in accordance with the leave—

- (a) ask a question that may lead to the disclosure of the actual identity of the protected witness or where the protected witness lives; or
- (b) answer a question, give evidence, or provide information that may lead to the disclosure of the actual identity of the protected witness or where the protected witness lives; or
- (c) make a statement that discloses or could disclose the actual identity of the protected witness or where the witness lives.

‘(5) The relevant entity may also make any orders the entity considers appropriate in the circumstances, including, for example, orders about hearing the relevant part of the proceeding in the absence of the public, and suppressing the publication of anything said in the relevant part of the proceeding.

‘(6) A person must not contravene an order made under subsection (5).

Maximum penalty—85 penalty units or 1 year’s imprisonment.

‘(7) Subsection (5) does limit the relevant entity’s power to punish for contempt.

‘Review of giving of witness anonymity certificates other than by criminal justice commission

‘**21J.(1)** This section applies to witness anonymity certificates filed with a relevant entity by a law enforcement agency other than the criminal justice commission.

‘(2) As soon as practicable after the end of a proceeding in which a witness anonymity certificate is filed by the crime commission or the police service, the chief executive officer of the relevant law enforcement agency must give the chairperson of the criminal justice commission notice of the date the proceeding to which the certificate relates ended.

‘(3) The chairperson must—

- (a) review the giving of each witness anonymity certificate as soon as practicable after the end of the proceeding to which the certificate relates and, in any event, within 3 months after the end of the year

in which the certificate is filed; and

- (b) consider whether, in the circumstances, it was appropriate to give the certificate; and
- (c) if the chairperson considers it was inappropriate to give the certificate, notify whichever of the following is relevant of that fact as soon as practicable—
 - (i) for a criminal proceeding—each accused person to whom the relevant proceeding relates or the person’s lawyer;
 - (ii) for a civil proceeding—each party to the relevant proceeding or the party’s lawyer;
 - (iii) for another proceeding—each person who has been given leave to appear in the relevant proceeding or the person’s lawyer;
 - (iv) a lawyer assisting the relevant entity.

‘(4) The chief executive officer of the relevant law enforcement agency, if asked by the chairperson, must give the chairperson—

- (a) all the information the law enforcement agency used for deciding to give a witness anonymity certificate; and
- (b) particulars relating to each person to whom a copy of the certificate was given under section 21G.

‘(5) The chairperson—

- (a) must give a copy of any report on the review to the law enforcement agency affected by the review as soon as practicable after the report is completed; and
- (b) may include a report about the reviews in the annual report of the operations of the criminal justice commission.

‘Review of operation of division

‘21K.(1) The Attorney-General must ensure the operation of this division is reviewed within 5 years after it commences.

‘(2) Also, the Attorney-General must table a report on the review in the Parliament within 3 months after the review is complete.’.