

PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES - A USER'S GUIDE

This *Legal Studies for Queensland* textbook is full of a **wide variety of engaging, practical activities**. The following is a guide to the purpose and value of these activities.

INQUIRY FOCUS – This is a new, extended activity which is used through the textbook to assist students in developing the inquiry-based approach to learning recommended by the 2013 Queensland Legal Studies Senior Syllabus. The steps in INQUIRY FOCUS are clearly linked to the Syllabus' new dimensions of Knowing and understanding the law [K], Investigating legal issues [I] and Responding to the law [R].

Case study – Students quickly learn to follow the steps of **Facts, Legal Issue and Decision** as a logical way of understanding and appreciating the importance of **identifying material facts and significant legal principles** in the many Case studies in *Legal Studies for Queensland*. This method, which is recommended in the *Legal Studies Senior Syllabus*, helps students to progressively acquire the important skills necessary to **critically evaluate the merits of a court's decision after applying legal principles to the facts** which are unique to each case. Students also gain an understanding of **how the common law is developed** into persuasive and legally binding case authorities.

Practical application – These activities focus on **topical stimulus materials**, such as newspaper articles, internet website extracts, Acts of Parliament, statistics, quotations and cartoons, which serve to **actively engage students with the legal topics** they are studying. **Logically ordered questions**, clearly marked to show the **relevant Syllabus dimensions** being addressed [K, I, R], provide excellent opportunities for students to **understand, legally investigate and respond to the law**.

Hypothetical – These activities feature **fictitious characters** involved in various scenarios from which real-life issues arise. They are an excellent source of individual inquiry learning and group discussion.

Research – Students are encouraged to **conduct research online or in the wider community** throughout the text. These are valuable opportunities for locating, analysing and selecting authoritative sources.

What do you think? – These questions actively involve students in *examining the attempts of the law to achieve just, fair and equitable outcomes to legal issues* (**Responding dimension**, 2013 Syllabus, page 3) directly related to the legal topics under consideration.

You be the judge – In these activities, students enjoy the challenge of assuming the role of a judge in order to *explore legal situations through selecting, organizing and analyzing information to demonstrate legal inquiry process* (**Investigating dimension**, 2013 Syllabus, page 3).

Hot topic – These activities focus on **controversial legal issues** that encourage students to carefully consider relevant arguments before arriving at their viewpoints.

Review – At the end of each chapter is a set of questions designed to enable students to have an **excellent summary** of the law covered in the chapter.