

## Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) provides a national free access legal database. Until its creation there was no free public access to legal information in Australia.

It has also played a leading role in promoting free access to law internationally and has been instrumental in the establishment of free legal access systems in the UK, Pacific, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Cyprus, India, Southern and Eastern Africa and Liberia. It also operates a number of international portals.

AustLII's research pioneered the use of the internet to enable access to legal information. Its system is used by the legal profession, government, courts, education institutions and the public. The novel software and search approaches, the unique ability to cross reference, and many other technical advancements such as mark-up tools were produced from the group's research and have enabled a robust and sustainable model of on-line free access to legal information.

It has shaped public policy so there is now a general acceptance of the right of free access to public legal information including legislation, case law, treaties, law reform, legal scholarship and other publicly created legal documents. The AustLII system currently contains more than 520 databases that include full texts of decisions from nearly all Australian and New Zealand courts and Tribunals.

AustLII is a joint research initiative of the law faculties at UTS and the University of New South Wales.

The AustLII system currently contains more than 520 databases that include full texts of decisions from nearly all Australian and New Zealand courts and Tribunals.

# 16

ATN UNIVERSITY  
UTS

### CASE STUDY

AustLII – Australasian Legal Information Institute

### DISCIPLINE

Law and Information Services

### CREDITS

Andrew Mowbray (UTS)  
A joint project with the University of New South Wales

FREE  
ACCESS