

Queensland



# **EVIDENCE ACT 1977**

**Reprinted as in force on 3 March 1997  
(includes amendments up to Act No. 79 of 1996)**

**Warning—see last endnote for uncommenced amendments**

**Reprint No. 3A**

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# Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 3 March 1997. The reprint shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c)).

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.**

Queensland



**EVIDENCE ACT 1977**

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# EVIDENCE ACT 1977

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 3 March 1997]

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

“**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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**“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.

**“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 children**

**9.(1)** Where in any proceeding a child called as a witness does not in the opinion of the court understand the nature of an oath, the court—

- (a) shall explain to the child the duty of speaking the truth; and
- (b) whether or not the child understands that duty, shall receive the evidence of the child though not given on oath unless satisfied that the child does not have sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence.

**(2)** A person charged with an offence may be convicted upon evidence admitted by virtue of this section.

**(3)** The fact that the evidence of a child in any proceeding is not given on oath shall not of itself diminish the probative value of the evidence.

**(4)** A child whose evidence has been received by virtue of this section is liable to be convicted of perjury in all respects as if the child had given the evidence upon oath.

**(5)** The evidence of a child, though not given upon oath, but otherwise taken and reduced into writing as a deposition, shall be deemed to be a deposition to all intents and purposes.

**Expert evidence of ability of child under 12 years to give reliable evidence**

**9A.** Where in any proceeding—

- (a) a court is determining whether a child under the age of 12 years has sufficient intelligence to give reliable evidence; or
- (b) the evidence of a child under the age of 12 years is admitted;

expert evidence is admissible relating to the level of intelligence of the child including the child's powers of perception, memory and expression or relating to any other matter relevant to the child'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; or
- (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; or
- (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; or
- (d) the person has given evidence against any other person charged in that criminal proceeding.

(3) Permission of the court to ask any question of a kind mentioned in subsection (2)(c) (to be applied for in a trial by jury in the absence of the jury) must first be obtained.

### **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. Where any question put to a witness in cross-examination is not relevant to the proceeding except in so far as the truth of the matter suggested by the question affects the credit of the witness by injuring the character of the witness, the court has a discretion to disallow the question if, in its opinion, the matter is so remote in time or is of such a nature that an admission of its truth would not materially affect the credibility of the witness.

### **Scandalous and insulting questions**

21.(1) A court may disallow a question which, in the opinion of the court, is indecent or scandalous unless the question relates to a fact in issue in the proceeding or to matters necessary to be known in order to determine whether or not the facts in issue existed.

(2) A court may disallow a question which, in the opinion of the court, is intended only to insult or annoy or is needlessly offensive in form.

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

### **Evidence of special witnesses**

21A.(1) In this section—

“special witness” means—

- (a) a child under the age of 12 years; or

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- (b) a person who, in the court's opinion—
- (i) would, as a result of intellectual impairment or cultural differences, 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 1 or more of the following orders—

- (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.

(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.

## **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 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.

**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, 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, 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 certificate of the incorporation or registration of the company that purports to be given by the Australian securities commission (the “**commission**”) or the delegate or an officer of the commission.

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

**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 a 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**

### **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

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- (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 or supplier made or in the information the maker or 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**

**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 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 is available to give evidence in the proceeding.

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

- (a) that is also contained in the document containing the statement of the child; and
- (b) in response to which the statement of the child 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 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.

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(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 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 declared under a regulation 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.

### **Minister may approve 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 bank as defined in the *Banking Act 1959* (Cwlth), section 5 or any statutory corporation for the time being authorised to carry on any banking business in the State of Queensland or in any other State or Territory; or
- (d) any corporation that is registered under the *Life Insurance Act 1945* (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
- (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.

## **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.

### **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.

**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.

**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 5.1 applies, the document is, for the purposes of section 5.1(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—

- (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.

**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. Chief health officer (of the department in which the *Health Act 1937* is administered).
7. Clerk of the parliament
8. Commissioner for administrative discretions
9. Commissioner of the police service
10. Director of public prosecutions
11. Electoral commissioner
12. Information commissioner
13. Mayor of a local government
14. Parliamentary counsel
15. Public trustee
16. Registrar-general
17. Registrar of titles
18. Solicitor-general

**SCHEDULE 2**

section 8(4)

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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.
1965 No. 42 of 1965	<i>Children's Services Act 1965</i>	Section 69.

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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 3 March 1997. 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
ch	=	chapter	prov	=	provision
def	=	definition	pt	=	part
div	=	division	pubd	=	published
exp	=	expires/expired	R[X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
gaz	=	gazette	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
hdg	=	heading	reloc	=	relocated
ins	=	inserted	renum	=	renumbered
lap	=	lapsed	rep	=	repealed
notfd	=	notified	s	=	section
om	=	omitted	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
p	=	page	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
para	=	paragraph	SL	=	subordinate legislation
prec	=	preceding	sub	=	substituted
pres	=	present	unnum	=	unnumbered
prev	=	previous			

### 4 Table of earlier reprints

#### TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

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

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 68 of 1993	27 April 1993
2	to Act No. 76 of 1993	22 December 1993
3	to Act No. 58 of 1995	21 December 1995

### 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 amended by proc pubd gaz 1 July 1989 p 2190)

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

date of assent 14 November 1990

amendments of ss 57–58 commenced 7 December 1989 (see s 2(4)(c))

amendment of s 104 commenced 31 August 1989 (see s 2(2)(a))

### **Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1992 No. 68 ss 1–3 sch 1**

date of assent 7 December 1992

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions commenced 18 December 1992 (1992 SL No. 439)

### **Justice and Attorney-General Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 No. 68 pts 1, 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 ss 1–3(1) sch**

date of assent 10 May 1994

ss 1–2 commenced on date of assent

remaining provisions 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 not yet proclaimed into force (automatic commencement under AIA s 15DA(2) deferred to 14 June 1997) (1996 SL No. 84 s 2(2))**Statute Law (Minor Amendments) Act (No. 2) 1995 No. 51 s 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

pt 1 commenced on date of assent

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

## 7 List of annotations

**Short title**

**s 1** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
(3) renum as s 2 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 “**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** (1) renum as s 3 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
 (2) renum as s 4 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
 pres s 5 (prev (3)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Evidence of children**

**s 9** amd 1989 No. 17 s 61

**Expert evidence of ability of child under 12 years to give reliable evidence**

**s 9A** ins 1989 No. 17 s 62

**Questioning of witness as to certain convictions**

**s 15A** ins 1986 No. 20 s 14(1)

**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

**Division 5—Exclusion of confession induced by threat or promise**

**div hdg** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**Exclusion of confession**

**s 21B** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**Commission, request or order to examine witness**

**s 22** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

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

**s 24** amd 1981 No. 3 s 2

**Definitions for div 2**

**prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
**s 25** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Regulations**

**s 34** om 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

**Definitions for div 3**

**prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
**s 35** (2) renum as s 35A 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Application of division to Crown**

**s 35A** pres s 35A (prev s 35(2)) renum 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Rules of court**

**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

**Acts and statutory instruments to be judicially noticed**

**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  
(2)–(3) renum as s 46A 1995 No. 51 s 4 sch

**Presumption of accuracy of legislation**

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

**Proof of identity of a person convicted**

**s 54** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Proof of incorporation or registration of company in Queensland**

**s 55** sub 1993 No. 68 s 5

**Proof of unallocated State land grants**

**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  
sub 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1  
amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Proof of letters patent**

**s 58** amd 1990 No. 80 s 3 sch 1; 1993 No. 76 s 3 sch 1

**Maps, charts etc.**

**s 65** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Astronomical phenomena**

**s 66** amd 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Definitions for div 3**

**s 67 prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Definitions for div 5**

**s 78 prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Definitions for div 6**

**s 83 prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Statement made before proceeding by child under 12 years**

**s 93A** ins 1989 No. 17 s 64  
amd 1996 No. 79 s 42

**Admissibility of evidence concerning credibility of persons responsible for statement**

**s 94** amd 1989 No. 17 s 65

**Admissibility of statements produced by computers**

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

**Provisions of part are alternative**

**s 103** amd 1989 No. 17 s 66

**Definitions for part**

**prov hdg** sub 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

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

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

**s 105** amd 1984 No. 71 s 2; 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1

**Minister may approve of photographing machines**

**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

**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

**Definitions for part**

**s 129A** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**Requirements for adducing evidence of alibi**

**s 129B** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**Evidence of alibi given by witness**

**s 129C** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**Accused not previously advised of requirements about alibi**

**s 129D** ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**When evidence to disprove an alibi may be tendered**s 129E ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Notice of alibi given by accused's lawyer**s 129F ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**PART 7B—EVIDENTIARY MATTERS FOR OFFENCES ABOUT ANIMALS**pt hdg ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Definitions for part**s 129G ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Identification and return of animal for slaughter if ownership not disputed**s 129H ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Identification and handing over of animal for slaughter if ownership disputed**s 129I ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Photographs etc. may be tendered in evidence**s 129J ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**When animal must not be returned or handed over**s 129K ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Identification of animals and return to owner before tender in certain cases**s 129L ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**PART 7C—EVIDENTIARY AND RELATED MATTERS ABOUT PROCEEDINGS FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES**pt hdg ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Definitions for part**s 129M ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Meaning of “complainant”**s 129N ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Special rules of evidence about serious sexual offences**s 129O ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Exclusion of public**s 129P ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Publication at large of complainant's identity prohibited**s 129Q ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Premature publication of charged person's identity prohibited**s 129R ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Exempted reports**s 129S ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Part provides additional protection**s 129T ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Offences**s 129U ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2

**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**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**Executive officers must ensure corporation does not contravene this part**s 129X ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Corroboration**s 130A ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Evidence of previous conviction**s 130B ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Admission by charged person and State in criminal trials**s 130C ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Evidence of lawful custody**s 130D ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Actions for breach of promise of marriage**s 132 sub 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**Inadmissibility of similar fact evidence**s 132A ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**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**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

**Transitional provisions about forms**s 136 ins 1995 No. 58 s 4 sch 1  
exp 28 May 1996 (see s 136(4))**Numbering and renumbering of Act**s 136 ins 1995 No. 37 s 458 sch 2 pt 2**SCHEDULE 1—EXAMPLES OF OFFENCES 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**SCHEDULE 2**

amd 1989 No. 17 s 67

**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)).

**Criminal Code No. 37 of 1995 s 458 sch 2 pt 2 reads as follows—**

### **EVIDENCE ACT 1977**

#### **1. Part 2—**

*insert—*

*‘Division 5—Exclusion of confession induced by threat or promise*

#### **‘Exclusion of confession**

**‘21B.(1)** A confession tendered in evidence in a criminal proceeding cannot be received if it has been induced by a threat or promise by anyone in authority.

**‘(2)** A confession made after a threat or promise by anyone in authority is taken to have been induced by the threat or promise unless the contrary is proved.’.

#### **2. After section 129—**

*insert—*

### **‘PART 7A—EVIDENCE OF ALIBI**

#### **‘Definitions for part**

**‘129A.** In this part—

**“charged person”** means a person on trial on indictment for an offence.

**“evidence in support of an alibi”** means evidence tending to show that, because of the charged person’s presence at a particular place or in a

particular area at a particular time, the charged person was not, or was unlikely to have been, at the place where the offence is claimed to have been committed when it is claimed to have been committed.

**“notice of alibi”** means a written notice of the particulars of the alibi.

**“required period”**, for a charged person giving a notice of alibi, means the period of 14 days after the person was committed for trial.

### **‘Requirements for adducing evidence of alibi**

**‘129B.** A charged person may adduce evidence in support of an alibi only if—

- (a) the person has the judge’s leave to adduce the evidence; or
- (b) the person—
  - (i) has given a notice of alibi for the alibi to the Director of Public Prosecutions within the required period; and
  - (ii) if the evidence is to be given by anyone called by the person—has complied with section 129C.

### **‘Evidence of alibi given by witness**

**‘129C.(1)** The charged person may call someone to give evidence in support of an alibi only if the person—

- (a) has the judge’s leave to call the other person to give the evidence; or
- (b) has complied with this section.

**‘(2)** Before giving the notice of alibi, the charged person must take all reasonable steps to find out the other person’s name and address.

**‘(3)** If the charged person knows the other person’s name and address when giving the notice of alibi, the notice must include the other person’s name and address.

**‘(4)** If the charged person does not know the other person’s name and address when giving the notice of alibi—

- (a) the notice must include all information the charged person has

- that may be of material help in finding the other person; and
- (b) the charged person must continue to take all reasonable steps to find out the name and address; and
  - (c) if the charged person later finds out the name and address or receives other information that may be of material help in finding the other person—the charged person must immediately give written notice of the information to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

‘(5) If the charged person is told by the Director of Public Prosecutions that the other person has not been traced by the name given, or found at the address given, the charged person must immediately give to the director written notice of all information the person then has, or that is later received by the person, that may be of material help in finding the other person.

**‘Accused not previously advised of requirements about alibi**

‘129D. A judge must not refuse leave under this part if the judge considers the charged person was not, on the person’s committal for trial, informed of this part’s requirements by the person presiding at the committal.

**‘When evidence to disprove an alibi may be tendered**

‘129E. Subject to any direction of the judge, evidence tendered to disprove an alibi may be given before or after evidence is given in support of the alibi.

**‘Notice of alibi given by accused’s lawyer**

‘129F. A notice of alibi purporting to be given under this part for the charged person by the person’s lawyer is evidence the notice was given with the person’s permission.



## **‘PART 7B—EVIDENTIARY MATTERS FOR OFFENCES ABOUT ANIMALS**

### **‘Definitions for part**

**‘129G.** In this part—

**“animal”** means any ass, buffalo, camel, cattle, deer, goat, horse, mule, pig or sheep.

**“identifying part”**, of an animal, means the animal’s hide, skin, marked ear, or another part of the animal that may be used to identify the animal.

**“investigating officer”**, for a charge, means the police officer investigating the charge.

**“photographs”** includes tapes, films and other forms of visual reproduction.

### **‘Identification and return of animal for slaughter if ownership not disputed**

**‘129H.(1)** This section applies if—

- (a) an animal connected with a charge of an offence is in the possession, or under the control of, a police officer; and
- (b) ownership of the animal is not disputed; and
- (c) the animal’s owner wants to slaughter the animal, or sell or consign it for slaughter, before it is tendered as an exhibit in connection with the charge; and
- (d) photographs of the animal and of any brand or other mark of identification are available for tendering as exhibits; and
- (e) arrangements are made, between the investigating officer and owner, for an identifying part of the animal to be given to the officer for tendering as an exhibit; and
- (f) a State law officer approves the animal’s return to the owner.

**‘(2)** The arrangements must include an agreement by the owner to ensure

the following conditions are complied with—

- (a) the animal must be slaughtered within 14 days after it is returned to the owner, or the animal must be sold or consigned for slaughter;
- (b) within 14 days of the slaughter, the identifying part must be given to the investigating officer;
- (c) until the identifying part is given to the officer, the officer's directions about security or preservation of the part must be complied with;
- (d) if the animal is sold or consigned by the owner for slaughter—the owner must require the buyer, as a condition of the sale, or the consignee to ensure that—
  - (i) the animal is slaughtered within 14 days after it is sold or received by the consignee; and
  - (ii) the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c) are complied with.

‘(3) If this section applies to the animal, it may be returned to its owner and slaughtered, or sold or consigned for slaughter.

### **‘Identification and handing over of animal for slaughter if ownership disputed**

‘**129I.(1)** This section applies if—

- (a) an animal connected with a charge of an offence is in the possession, or under the control, of a police officer; and
- (b) the ownership of the animal is disputed by at least 2 persons (1 of whom may be the person charged with the offence); and
- (c) all of the persons that the investigating officer is aware are claiming ownership of, or another interest in, the animal (the “**known claimants**”) agree in writing to the animal being slaughtered on their behalf, or sold or consigned on their behalf for slaughter, before it is tendered as an exhibit in connection with the charge; and
- (d) photographs of the animal and of any brand or other mark of

identification are available for tendering as exhibits; and

- (e) arrangements are made, between the investigating officer and the known claimants, for an identifying part of the animal to be given to the officer for tendering as an exhibit; and
- (f) a State law officer approves of the animal being handed over to a person (the “**nominated person**”) nominated in the agreement mentioned in subsection (1)(c).

‘(2) The arrangements must include an agreement by the known claimants to ensure the following conditions are complied with—

- (a) the animal must be slaughtered within 14 days after it is handed over to the nominated person, or the animal must be sold or consigned for slaughter;
- (b) within 14 days of the slaughter, the identifying part must be given to the investigating officer;
- (c) until the identifying part is given to the officer, the officer’s directions about security or preservation of the part must be complied with;
- (d) if the animal is sold or consigned by the known claimants for slaughter—the known claimants must require the buyer, as a condition of the sale, or the consignee to ensure that—
  - (i) the animal is slaughtered within 14 days after it is sold or received by the consignee; and
  - (ii) the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c) are complied with.

‘(3) If this section applies to the animal, it may be handed over to the nominated person and slaughtered, or sold or consigned for slaughter.

### ‘**Photographs etc. may be tendered in evidence**

‘**129J.(1)** This section applies if, because an animal has been slaughtered under arrangements made under section 129H or 129I,<sup>2</sup> the animal is not

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<sup>2</sup> Section 129H (Identification and return of animal for slaughter if ownership not disputed)  
Section 129I (Identification and handing over of animal for slaughter)

tendered as an exhibit in a proceeding in connection with a charge, but—

- (a) the photographs and identifying part of the animal are tendered in the proceeding; or
- (b) the photographs are tendered in the proceeding and evidence is given in the proceeding showing that, although the arrangements required by the section were made, the identifying part is nevertheless not available for tendering in evidence.

‘(2) Objection may not be taken (or if taken must not be allowed) to any of the photographs or any identifying part being received in evidence as evidence of the following—

- (a) the animal’s existence at the material time;
- (b) for photographs—the animal’s condition at the material time;
- (c) a brand or other mark or feature of identification at the material time for the animal.

**‘When animal must not be returned or handed over**

‘**129K.** A State law officer may not approve the return or handing over of an animal under this part if, in the officer’s opinion—

- (a) its production for tender as an exhibit is, or is likely to be, necessary; or
- (b) in the circumstances, it is desirable that it be produced for tender as an exhibit.

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

‘**129L.(1)** This section applies if—

- (a) an animal connected with a charge of an offence is in the possession, or under the control, of a police officer; and
- (b) the ownership of the animal is not disputed; and
- (c) the animal’s owner wants the animal returned before it is tendered as an exhibit in connection with the charge; and

(d) the owner agrees in writing to produce the animal for tendering as an exhibit when directed to produce it; and

(e) a State law officer approves the animal's return to the owner.

‘(2) The animal may be returned to its owner if it is first—

(a) branded or marked by the police officer, or anyone acting under the officer's instructions, to identify it as an animal held as an exhibit; and

(b) photographed.

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

### **‘Definitions for part**

‘129M. In this part—

**“charged person”** means a person charged with committing a sexual offence.

**“committal proceeding”** means a committal proceeding for a sexual offence.

**“complainant”** see section 129N.

**“identifying particular”**, of a person, means—

(a) the name, address, school, place of employment or another particular of the person or anyone else that is likely to lead to the person's identification; or

(b) a photograph, picture, videotape or other visual representation of the person or anyone else that is likely to lead to the person's identification.

**“report”** means a written account, or an account broadcast in any way.

**“serious sexual offence”** means any of the following offences, or an offence of attempting to commit any of them—

- (a) assault, if it is committed with intent to commit rape;
- (b) rape;
- (c) indecent assault;
- (d) procuring an act of gross indecency;
- (e) having unlawful sexual intercourse with a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment;
- (f) indecently dealing with a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment;
- (g) procuring a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment for sexual intercourse;
- (h) unlawfully procuring a person to engage in a sexual act.<sup>3</sup>

**“sexual offence”** means an offence of a sexual nature, and includes a serious sexual offence.

**“trial”** means a trial of a charged person, or a proceeding taken for sentencing a charged person convicted of a sexual offence.

### **‘Meaning of “complainant”**

**‘129N.(1)** A **“complainant”** is the person in relation to whom a sexual offence is claimed to have been committed.

**‘(2)** However, a person is not a complainant if the person is—

- (a) at least 17 years when the sexual offence is claimed to have been committed; and
- (b) an accomplice in its commission.

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<sup>3</sup> See the Criminal Code, sections 114 (Assault), 116 (Rape), 117 (Sexual assault), 118 (Procuring act of gross indecency), 233 (Unlawful sexual intercourse with a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment), 234 (Indecently dealing with a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment), 236 (Procuring a person who has an intellectual or psychiatric impairment for sexual intercourse) and 237 (Procuring sexual acts by deception or coercion).

**‘Special rules of evidence about serious sexual offences**

**‘1290.(1)** This section applies to a committal proceeding or trial for a serious sexual offence.

**‘(2)** The court must not receive evidence of, and must disallow a question about, the complainant’s general reputation about chastity.

**‘(3)** Without the court’s leave—

- (a) the complainant must not be cross-examined about the complainant’s sexual activities with anyone other than the charged person; and
- (b) evidence must not be received about the complainant’s sexual activities with anyone other than the charged person.

**‘(4)** The court may give leave under subsection (3) only if it is satisfied the evidence sought to be elicited or led—

- (a) has substantial relevance to the facts in issue; or
- (b) is appropriate matter for cross-examination about credit.

**‘(5)** Evidence about, or tending to establish, the fact the complainant was accustomed to engage in sexual activities with anyone other than the charged person is not taken to—

- (a) have substantial relevance to the facts in issue only because of an inference it may raise about general disposition; or
- (b) be appropriate matter for cross-examination about credit in the absence of special circumstances because of which it would be likely to materially impair confidence in the reliability of the complainant’s evidence.

**‘(6)** For subsection (5), and without limiting the substantial relevance of other evidence, evidence of an act or event is taken to have substantial relevance to the facts in issue if the act or event—

- (a) is substantially contemporaneous with an offence with which a charged person is charged in the committal proceeding or the trial; or
- (b) is part of a sequence of acts or events that explains the circumstances in which the offence was committed.

‘(7) An application for leave under subsection (3) must be—

- (a) made in the absence of the jury (if any) and, if the charged person requires it, in the absence of the complainant; and
- (b) decided after the court has heard the submissions and evidence (sworn or unsworn) the court considers necessary for it to make the decision.

‘(8) It is immaterial whether or not the committal proceeding or trial also relates to a charge of another offence that is not a serious sexual offence against the charged person or another charged person.

### **‘Exclusion of public**

‘**129P.(1)** While a complainant is giving evidence in a committal proceeding or trial, the court must exclude everyone from the place where it is sitting except—

- (a) the complainant’s lawyer; and
- (b) the charged person; and
- (c) the charged person’s lawyer; and
- (d) a State law officer or a person authorised by a State law officer to be present; and
- (e) the prosecutor; and
- (f) a person whose presence is, in the court’s opinion, necessary or desirable for the appropriate conduct of the committal proceeding or trial; and
- (g) a person whose presence will give emotional support to the complainant; and
- (h) if the complainant is under, or apparently under, 17 years—the complainant’s parent or guardian unless the court considers the person’s presence would not be in the complainant’s interest; and
- (i) a person who applies to the court to be present and whose presence the court considers—
  - (i) would serve an appropriate interest of the person; and
  - (ii) would not prejudice the complainant’s interests.



‘(2) Subsection (1) does not limit the court’s power under an Act or rule of law to exclude a person, including a charged person, from the place where it is sitting.

### **‘Publication at large of complainant’s identity prohibited**

‘**129Q.(1)** A report made or published about a committal proceeding or trial must not reveal an identifying particular of a complainant in the proceeding or trial, unless the court otherwise orders.

‘(2) The court may make the order only if it has a good and sufficient reason to make it.

‘(3) The order may state—

- (a) the particulars that may be revealed; and
- (b) the extent to which publication of the report is permitted.

### **‘Premature publication of charged person’s identity prohibited**

‘**129R.(1)** A report made or published about a committal proceeding for a serious sexual offence must not reveal an identifying particular of a charged person in the proceeding, unless the court otherwise orders.

‘(2) The court may make the order only if it has good and sufficient reason to make it.

‘(3) The order may state—

- (a) the particulars that may be revealed; and
- (b) the extent to which publication of the report is permitted.

### **‘Exempted reports**

‘**129S.(1)** Sections 129Q and 129R<sup>4</sup> do not apply to—

- (a) a report made for—
  - (i) a committal proceeding or trial; or

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<sup>4</sup> Sections 129Q (Publication at large of complainant’s identity prohibited) and 129R (Premature publication of accused’s identity prohibited)

- (ii) a proceeding on appeal arising from a trial; or
- (b) a report—
  - (i) made verbatim of a judgment or decision given in a trial, or in a proceeding on appeal arising from a trial; and
  - (ii) contained in a recognised series of law reports; or
- (c) a report made to or for an interested department for that department's purposes.

‘(2) Section 129R does not apply to a report about a committal proceeding that reveals an identifying particular of a charged person in the proceeding if—

- (a) the person is committed for trial or sentence on a charge of a sexual offence because of the proceeding; and
- (b) the report—
  - (i) is made after the committal order is made; and
  - (ii) does not reveal an identifying particular of another charged person in the proceeding who is not committed for trial or sentence.

‘(3) In this section—

“**interested department**” means—

- (a) the department; or
- (b) the department in which the *Police Service Administration Act 1990* is administered; or
- (c) the department in which the *Children's Services Act 1965* is administered.

### ‘Part provides additional protection

‘129T. Sections 129Q and 129R<sup>5</sup> add to, but do not limit, an Act or rule of law about the protection from identification of witnesses or other persons in a committal proceeding or trial.

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<sup>5</sup> Sections 129Q (Publication at large of complainant's identity prohibited) and 129R (Premature publication of accused's identity prohibited)

**‘Offences**

**‘129U.(1)** A person must not make or publish a report that contravenes section 129Q or 129R.<sup>105</sup>

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.

**‘(2)** If a court order permits a report to which section 129Q or 129R applies to be made or published, a person must not make or publish the report in a way that does not comply with the order.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.

**‘(3)** A person must not, by a statement or representation made or published other than in a report about a committal proceeding or a trial, reveal the name, address, school or place of employment of—

- (a) a complainant, at any time; or
- (b) a charged person charged with a serious sexual offence to which the statement or representation relates, before the person is committed for trial or to be sentenced on the charge.

Maximum penalty—10 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment.

**‘(4)** Subsection (3) does not apply if the statement or representation is made or published for an authorised purpose.

**‘(5)** The fact a person commits an offence against subsection (2) does not limit the power of a court to deal with the person for the contempt of court evidenced by the offence.

**‘(6)** In this section—

**“authorised purpose”** means—

- (a) the investigation of the complaint made by or for a complainant; or
- (b) the preparation for, or conduct of, a committal proceeding or trial, or a proceeding on appeal arising from a trial.

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

**‘129V.(1)** A charged person may, before the start of a committal proceeding or trial for the sexual offence with which the person is charged,

apply to a Supreme Court judge for a direction that section 129U(3)<sup>6</sup> does not apply to the charged person or a complainant for the offence.

‘(2) The judge must give the direction if the charged person satisfies the judge that—

- (a) the direction is necessary to induce persons who are likely to be needed as witnesses at the proceeding or trial to come forward; and
- (b) the conduct of the charged person’s defence at the proceeding or trial is likely to be substantially prejudiced if the direction is not given.

‘(3) The direction may be given on the terms the judge considers appropriate.

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

‘129W.(1) A person who has been convicted of a sexual offence and has given notice of appeal, or of an application for leave to appeal, against the conviction to the Court of Appeal may apply to the court or a Supreme Court judge for a direction that section 129U(3)<sup>7</sup> does not apply to the complainant for the offence.

‘(2) The court or judge must give the direction if the applicant satisfies the court or judge that—

- (a) the direction is necessary to obtain evidence to support the appeal; and
- (b) the applicant is likely to suffer substantial injustice if the direction is not given.

‘(3) The direction may be given on terms the court or judge considers appropriate.

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<sup>6</sup> Section 129U (Offences)

<sup>7</sup> Section 129U (Offences)

**‘Executive officers must ensure corporation does not contravene this part**

**‘129X.(1)** The executive officers of a corporation must ensure that the corporation does not contravene this part.

**‘(2)** If a corporation commits an offence against a provision of this part, each of the corporation’s executive officers also commit an offence, namely, the offence of failing to ensure the corporation complies with the provision.

Maximum penalty—the penalty prescribed for the contravention of the provision by an individual.

**‘(3)** Evidence that a corporation has been convicted of an offence against a provision of this part is evidence each of the corporation’s executive officers committed the offence of failing to ensure the corporation complies with the provision.

**‘(4)** However, it is a defence for an executive officer to prove—

- (a) if the officer was in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the offence—the officer exercised reasonable diligence to ensure the corporation did not contravene the provision; or
- (b) the officer was not in a position to influence the conduct of the corporation in relation to the offence.

**‘(5)** In this section—

**“convicted”**, of an offence, means that the corporation has been found guilty of the offence, on a plea of guilty or otherwise, whether or not a conviction was recorded.

**“executive officer”**, of a corporation, means—

- (a) a person who is concerned with, or takes part in, the corporation’s management, whether or not the person is a director or the person’s position is given the name of executive officer; or
- (b) if the offence involves the publication by the corporation of material in a newspaper—the newspaper’s editor.’.

### 3. After section 130—

*insert—*

#### **‘Corroboration**

**‘130A.(1)** A person may be convicted of an offence on the uncorroborated testimony of 1 witness, whether or not the witness is a complainant, the person’s accomplice or anyone else.

**‘(2)** On the trial of a person for an offence before a jury, the judge is not required by any rule of law or practice to warn the jury that it is unsafe to convict the person on the uncorroborated testimony of 1 witness.

**‘(3)** Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) stops a judge from commenting on testimony given in a trial, if the comment is appropriate in the interests of justice.

**‘(4)** In this section—

**“uncorroborated testimony”** means testimony that is not corroborated in some material particular by other evidence implicating the person.

#### **‘Evidence of previous conviction**

**‘130B.(1)** On the trial of a person (the **“charged person”**) charged with an offence claimed to have been committed after a previous conviction, a certificate under subsection (2) is evidence of the conviction on proof of the identity of the person mentioned in the certificate.

**‘(2)** A certificate is sufficient for subsection (1) if it—

- (a) states the substance and effect only of the indictment, verdict and judgment, or of the complaint and conviction; and
- (b) purports to be signed by the proper officer of the court where the charged person was first convicted.

**‘(3)** If the previous conviction was a summary conviction, the conviction is presumed not to have been appealed against unless it is shown otherwise.

**‘(4)** The certificate need not state the formal parts of—

- (a) the indictment, verdict and judgment; or
- (b) the complaint and conviction.

‘(5) It is unnecessary to prove the signature or official character of the person who appears to have signed the certificate.

‘(6) In this section—

“**proper officer**”, of a court, means the officer who has custody of the court’s records, and includes the officer’s deputy.

### ‘Admissions by charged person and State in criminal trials

‘**130C.(1)** On the trial of a person for an indictable offence—

- (a) the person may admit a fact claimed against the person; and
- (b) the person may also make the admission by his or her lawyer; and
- (c) if the person agrees, the State may, by its lawyer, admit a fact relevant to the trial.

‘(2) The admission is sufficient evidence of the fact without other evidence.

‘(3) In this section—

“**trial**”, of a person for an indictable offence, includes summary proceedings for the indictable offence.

### ‘Evidence of lawful custody

‘**130D.(1)** Evidence given by a person authorised by the Corrective Services Commission to give the evidence that a person is, or on a particular day was, in lawful custody must be admitted as evidence of the custody.

‘(2) A document purporting to be a certificate signed by a person authorised by the commission to sign the certificate stating that a person is, or on a particular day was, in lawful custody is, on its production, evidence of the custody.’.

## 4. Section 132—

*omit, insert—*

**‘Evidence of domestic violence**

‘**132.(1)** This section applies to a criminal proceeding against a person for an offence defined in the Criminal Code, chapter 2, part 1 or 2.<sup>8</sup>

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

**‘Inadmissibility of similar fact evidence**

‘**132A. (1)** In a criminal proceeding, similar fact evidence from different complainants is inadmissible if there is a real chance the evidence is concocted.

‘(2) The mere possibility that the complainants concocted the evidence does not make the evidence inadmissible.’.

**5. After section 135—**

*insert—*

**‘Numbering and renumbering of Act**

‘**136.** In the next reprint of this Act produced under the *Reprints Act 1992*, section 43 of that Act must be used to number and renumber the provisions of this Act occurring after section 129.’.

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<sup>8</sup> Criminal Code, chapter 2 (Personal offences), part 1 (Homicide and associated offences) or 2 (Grievous bodily harm and assault)