

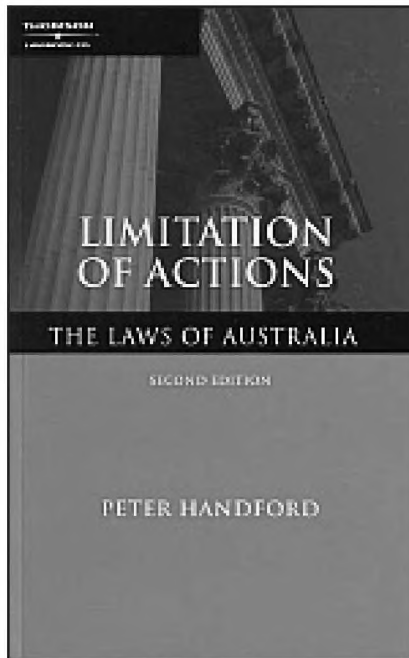
Limitation of Actions

Second Edition, by Peter Hanford

Published by Thompson Law Book Co.

Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, wondering whether you issued an action within the time limitation period provided by the statute of limitations? Then rest easy knowing that you have within reach, on your bedside table, the Second Edition of Peter Hanford's "Limitation of Actions", published 2007 by Thomson Law Book Company. One way or another you will know whether you need to notify your professional indemnity insurer of a possible claim or get cracking on that Writ.

In all seriousness, considerations of the relevant limitation expiry date should be one of the first questions on your mind when you are initially consulted to advise a client. This text, some 300 pages in length, concisely states the law in Australia



Review By Rennie Anderson, Northern Territory Law Society Representative for Alice Springs of Povey Stirk Lawyers & Notaries

as at 1 April 2007. It enables a practitioner to find the relevant commentary on the limitation statutes in the Commonwealth, States and Territories of Australia. It ranges all areas of litigation except criminal procedure. Each State and Territory limitation statute is dealt with independently for claims in tort and comparatively in respect of other areas of claim.

Of particular practical use is a table at the beginning of the work allowing a ready reckoning of the time limitation period for an action in each State and Territory, with a cross-reference to applicable statutes and citation of commentary in the text. Of course, as with most works of commentary, this text is a starting point for further investigation into any specific question which may arise in actual practice, but it certainly is a useful beginning to your enquiry.

One of the more obscure points you may find interesting is there are in excess of 100 pieces of relevant legislation throughout the Australian Commonwealth:

at a State, Territory or Federal level governing a limitation period which may apply in respect of any given action, depending on the subject matter, about 12 of which should be considered in the Northern Territory on point. I did not know this until I had read "Limitation of Actions". It does not quite read as prosaically as the Epic of Gilgamesh. All in all, I commend you to read it, if not out of pure interest in the subject matter, so you are generally aware of what ultimately will be a topic of interest to any practitioner who has ever missed a limitation period. Because by then it will be too late.



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