

Adult comparable sentencing decisions database

The Legal Aid Queensland adult comparable sentencing decisions database contains an archive of sentencing decisions from Queensland courts.

Database contents

Decisions

- ▶ The database contains decisions about the sentencing of adult offenders.

Key benefits

- ▶ The database is helpful for targeted searching, such as finding comparable decisions for sentencing submissions, determining a likely range of sentencing options for an offence and finding Queensland cases by searching on particulars.

Unique search fields

Offence details

- ▶ Choose from a validated list of charges.
- ▶ Refine search with fields such as cooperation with authorities and complainant details.
- ▶ Match the circumstances of the offending and sentencing considerations with keywords in the case digest field.

Outcome

- ▶ Narrow by type of sentence, plea, additional orders, and appeal details.

Offender details

- ▶ Consider specifics of the offender like age, employment history, dependants, and criminal history.

Court details

- ▶ Search by court, judge, date, and party names.

How to use the database

Search fields

- ▶ Use the database's unique fields to search for specific aspects of a case.

Operators

- ▶ Employ the database's search operators to create a targeted search string.

Scope of searching

- ▶ This is not a full-text database, meaning the PDF attached to the record is not searched. In addition, the more fields used, the narrower the search becomes, as the fields are joined by an AND operator when the search is executed.

Search basics

Start broad and refine as required

- ▶ Begin with a few basic criteria such as charge and outcome. If you get too many results, add one or more additional search criteria. If you get too few results, take out one or more search criteria.

Useful functionalities

- ▶ View the full PDFs of decisions for a more in-depth understanding of the case or view the decision in AustLII's LawCite for more information such as related cases.

Helpful tips

- ▶ Case is ignored in the database, so you can use either upper or lowercase. Punctuation is ignored as well, except for the search operators: (&, !, /, =, :). Be mindful of all the search fields, as sometimes a dropdown can be active without you realising, which will result in an error or no results returned.

A video tutorial for searching this database is available on Grants Online. The video can be found under the information resources tab, or on the database search page. Contact the library at library@legalaid.qld.gov.au for more information.