

BOOK REVIEW

HOWARD, C., AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION - WHAT IT MEANS
AND HOW IT WORKS (Revised Edition)
Penguin Books, Ringwood 1985
207 + xxii A\$7.95

This reprinting of Professor Howard's most useful introductory text is to be welcomed. Written for the intelligent non-lawyer, this book was first published in 1978 and reprinted in 1982. It has since then filled an important place in Australia's legal literature, explaining the workings of the Constitution without jargon or technicality.

There is however some misrepresentation in referring to the 1985 text as a 'revised edition'. The book includes a preface which devotes 12 pages to summarising the legal changes that have taken place since the first printing, but otherwise the text appears to stand as originally written. This gives the reader, who may reasonably expect a contemporary approach, a feeling that the text is outdated, unless he or she continually refers back to the preface. It is unfortunate that a book designed to make the constitution accessible has been revised in such a clumsy way. Otherwise the book can be commended without reservation to any reader wishing to acquire an introduction to the workings of the Australian political or legal system.

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