

CONTENTS

Preface	Preface			
Table of cases		xix		
Table of statutes	S	XXXV		
Acknowledgeme	Acknowledgements			
Note on the text		xlviii		
Guide to studen	t resources	xlix		
1 Introdu	ction	1		
1.1 Introduction		1		
1.2	What is evidence?	2		
	1.2.1 Evidence law	3		
	1.2.2 Principles versus rules	4		
1.3	Background to the Act	4		
	1.3.1 Structure of the Act	5		
	1.3.2 Practical effect of the Act	6		
1.4	Preliminary concepts	7		
	1.4.1 Criminal versus civil proceedings	7		
	1.4.2 Order of court proceedings	8		
	1.4.3 Functions of judge and jury	8		
	1.4.4 Burden and standard of proof: sections 140-2	10		
	Burden of proof	10		
	Standard of proof	11		
	A Victorian variation	13		
	1.4.5 Judicial notice: sections 143–5	15		
	1.4.6 Formal admissions: section 184	16		
	1.4.7 Preliminary questions – the voir dire: section 189			
	1.4.8 Waiver: section 1901.4.9 Judicial directions and leave: section 192	18 19		
		20		
	1.4.10 Advance rulings and findings: section 192A1.4.11 Appeals	20		
1.5		21		
	Types and forms of evidence			
Key	points	23		



	Key terms and definitions				
	Furthe	r reading	g	24	
2	Adducing	ı evider	nce	25	
	2.1	Introdu	uction	26	
	2.2	Calling	a witness	27	
2.3 Presumption of competence and compellability: section			nption of competence and compellability: section 12	28	
	2.4	Compe	etence: section 13	29	
		2.4.1 2.4.2	Children and witnesses who are cognitively impaired Alternative arrangements for giving evidence Adult complainants Children and complainants who are cognitively impaired	31 38 39 39	
	2.5	Compe	ellability	42	
		2.5.1 2.5.2	Defendant: section 17 Defendant's family: section 18 Exclusion of section 18 Silence at trial	43 43 49 49	
		2.3.3	Common law The Act Jury directions in Victoria	49 49 54 55	
	2.6	Oaths	and affirmations: sections 21 and 23-4	57	
	2.7	Questi 2.7.1 2.7.2	oning of witnesses Parties and the judge: sections 26–9 Counsel	59 59 60	
	2.8	2.8.1 2.8.2	nation-in-chief Prohibition of leading questions Reviving memory: sections 32–5 In court Police officers Out of court Unfavourable witnesses: section 38	60 61 62 63 65 67 68	
	2.9	Cross-	examination	82	
		2.9.1	Improper or disallowable questions: section 41 Northern Territory and Victoria: improper questioning and vulnerable witnesses	82 82	
		2.9.2	Leading questions: section 42	89	
		2.9.3 2.9.4	The rule against prior consistent statements	90	
		∠.∀.4	Exceptions to the rule against prior consistent statements: section 108(3)	91	
		2.9.5	Prior inconsistent statements: sections 43–5	93	
		2.9.6	The rule in <i>Browne v Dunn</i>	94	

vi Contents



		Rebuttal and reopening	97
		Civil cases	97
		Criminal cases	97
		Leave to recall witnesses: section 46	98
	2.10	Re-examination: section 39	98
	2.11	Proof of contents of documents: section 48	99
	2.12	Other evidence	102
		2.12.1 Part 2.3 – other evidence	102
	Key p	points	103
	Key t	erms and definitions	105
	Furth	er reading	105
	Pract	ice problem	106
3	Relevano	pe e	108
	3.1	Introduction	108
	3.2	Different types of relevance	109
		3.2.1 Directly relevant evidence	109
		3.2.2 Indirectly relevant evidence	109
	3.3	Defining relevance	119
		3.3.1 The common law	119
		Legal relevance	119
		3.3.2 The Act: sections 55–6	120
		Logical relevance	120
		3.3.3 Judicial discretions: sections 135–7	121
	3.4	Provisional relevance: sections 57–8	131
	Key p	oints	132
	Key te	erms and definitions	132
	Furthe	er reading	133
	Praction	ce problems	133
4	Hearsay		135
	4.1	Introduction	136
	4.2	The common law	137
		4.2.1 Express and implied assertions	137
		4.2.2 Non-hearsay purpose at common law	139
	4.3	The Act: section 59	141
		4.3.1 Representation	141
		4.3.2 Previous representation	142
		4.3.3 Asserted fact	143

Contents vii



		4.3.4 4.3.5	Made by a person Intended to assert	143 143
	4.4	Hears	ay purpose	146
			Non-hearsay purpose: section 60	151
	4.5	Excep	tions to the hearsay rule	157
		4.5.1	Competency: section 61	157
		4.5.2	First-hand hearsay: section 62	158
		4.5.3	Civil proceedings – maker of the statement is not available:	
			section 63	160
		4.5.4	Civil proceedings – maker of the statement is available:	
			section 64	160
		4.5.5	Criminal proceedings – maker of the statement is not	
			available: section 65	161
			Made under a duty: section 65(2)(a)	162
			Made when or shortly after unlikely that the	
			representation is a fabrication: section 65(2)(b)	162
			Highly probable that the representation is reliable:	
			section 65(2)(c)	164
			Against the interests of the person: section 65(2)(d)	168
			Previous representation adduced by a defendant:	475
			section 65(8)	175
			Evidence of a previous representation about	178
		4.5.6	a matter adduced by a defendant: section 65(9) Criminal proceedings – maker of the statement is available:	170
		4.5.0	section 66	179
		_		
	4.6		mporaneous mental and physical states	189
		4.6.1	The common law	189
			Statements of intention	190
			State of mind	190
			Emotional state of mind	191
		4.6.2	Knowledge The Act: section 66A	191 192
	4.7		ess records; section 69	
	4.7			192 199
		4.7.1 4.7.2	Tags, labels and writing: section 70 Electronic communications: section 71	199
	1.7		LIECTIONIC COMMUNICATIONS. SECTION / I	
	Key p			200
	Key t	erms an	d definitions	201
	Furth	er readir	ng	202
	Pract	ice prob	olems	202
5	Opinion			204
	5.1	Introdu	uction	204

viii Contents



	5.2	Definir	ng opinion evidence	205
	5.3	The op	pinion rule: section 76	207
	5.4	Excep	tion – dual relevance: section 77	209
	5.5	Excep	tion – lay opinions: section 78	210
	5.6	5.6.1 5.6.2	tion – expert opinions: section 79 Basis rule Expert opinion basis and hearsay Procedural issues	215 219 223 224
	5.7	Other	admissible opinions	225
	5.8	Scope	e of application – ultimate issue and common knowledge: n 80	226
	Key p	oints		227
			d definitions	228
	-	er readir		228
		ice prob		229
6	Admissio	ns		230
	6.1	Introdu	uction	231
	6.2	6.2.1	is an admission? Exception to the hearsay and opinion rules: section 81 Personal knowledge: section 82 No application against third parties without consent: section 83	231 232 234 235
	6.3	Admis 6.3.1 6.3.2	sions and confessions made in police custody Electronic recording In the course of official questioning	235 235 243
	6.4	Volunt 6.4.1 6.4.2	ariness and reliability of admissions The common law The Act Violent, oppressive, inhuman or degrading conduct: section 84	244 244 245 245
			Reliability of admissions: section 85 'Investigating official' or an 'act of another person' Circumstances in which the admission was made Exclusion of records of oral questioning: section 86 Authority to make statements: section 87 Proving admissions: section 88	243 246 253 253 261 262 265
	6.5	Staten 6.5.1	nents and conduct that amount to admissions Failure to call witnesses or produce evidence in civil	265
			proceedings	267

Contents ix



		6.5.2 Pre-trial silence in criminal proceedings Pre-trial silence: section 89 Consciousness of guilt Inculpatory and exculpatory statements of the accused	267 267 270 271
	6.6	Discretions to exclude admissions 6.6.1 The unfairness discretion: section 90 6.6.2 The case of <i>Haddara</i>	277 278 292
	Key p	points	293
	Key t	terms and definitions	294
	Furth	ner reading	295
	Pract	tice problems	295
7 T	endenc	ey and coincidence	297
	7.1	Introduction	298
	7.2	When the rules do not apply 7.2.1 Non-application: section 94 Evidence of credibility of witness Bail or sentencing Fact in issue 7.2.2 Use of evidence for other purposes: section 95 7.2.3 Use of evidence to prove good character	299 299 300 300 300 301 302
	7.3	Formal requirements: sections 97–100 7.3.1 Purpose Tendency and/or coincidence purpose Tendency reasoning in civil cases Tendency reasoning in criminal cases Coincidence reasoning in criminal cases Coincidence reasoning in criminal cases 7.3.2 Notice 7.3.3 Significant probative value (A) How is 'significant probative value' assessed? (B) Should the court assume the truthfulness and reliability of the evidence? Applying tendency evidence Applying coincidence evidence Some basic differences between tendency and coincidence reasoning	302 302 304 305 306 307 310 311 316 348
	7.4	Further restrictions in criminal cases: section 101 7.4.1 Probative value versus prejudicial effect 7.4.2 Collusion, concoction or contamination 7.4.3 Prejudicial effect	351 351 363 365

x Contents



	7.5	Comp	beting with other interences	367		
	7.6	Judicia	al directions	368		
		7.6.1	Jury directions in Victoria	369		
	Key _k	ooints		372		
	Key t	erms an	nd definitions	372		
	Further reading					
	Pract	tice prob	olem	373		
8	Credibili	ty		374		
	8.1	Introd	uction	374		
	8.2	The co	ollateral nature of credibility evidence	375		
	8.3	What	is credibility evidence?	377		
		8.3.1	Current definition: section 101A	377		
		8.3.2	Redefining credibility evidence under the Act	379		
	8.4	The cr	redibility rule: section 102	384		
	8.5	Excep	otions to the credibility rule	385		
		8.5.1	Evidence adduced in cross-examination: section 103	385		
		8.5.2	Evidence adduced in cross-examination of an accused:	007		
		0 5 2	section 104 Evidence in rebuttal of denials: section 106	387 389		
			Evidence in reputital of denials, section 100 Evidence to re-establish credibility: section 108	393		
	8.6		pility of non-witnesses	396		
	0.0	8.6.1	Evidence about a person who has made a previous	000		
			representation: section 108A	396		
		8.6.2	Previous representations of an accused: section 108B	398		
		8.6.3	Expert opinion on a witness's credibility: section 108C	400		
	Key r	ooints		402		
	Key t	erms an	nd definitions	402		
	Furth	er readir	ng	403		
	Pract	tice prob	blems	403		
9	Characte	er		405		
	9.1	Introdu	uction	405		
	9.2	The me	eaning of 'character'	406		
	9.3	Charac	cter evidence about the accused	407		
		9.3.1	Adducing evidence of good character: section 110	407		
		9.3.2	Character in general or in a particular respect?	409		
		9.3.3	Judicial directions and discretion	419		
		9.3.4	Evidence about character of co-accused: section 111	422		

Contents xi



		9.3.5 Leave to cross-examine about character of accused	
		or co-accused: section 112	423
	9.4	Character evidence about complainants and victims	428
	Key p	points	430
	Key te	erms and definitions	430
	Furthe	er reading	431
	Practi	ice problems	431
10	Identifi	cation evidence	433
	10.1	Introduction	433
	10.2	Defining identification evidence 10.2.1 Types of identification evidence Visual identification and picture identification In-court identification Out-of-court identification Formal identification procedures	434 435 435 436 436
	10.3	The common law and identification parades	437
	10.4	Visual identification evidence: section 114 10.4.1 Exclusion 10.4.2 The 'reasonableness' condition	441 442 442
	10.5	Picture identification evidence: section 115 10.5.1 Pictures of people in police custody 10.5.2 Exclusion 10.5.3 Warnings Unreliability	445 447 447 448 448
	10.6	Special need for caution: section 116 10.6.1 Jury directions in Victoria	448 449
	10.7	The displacement effect 10.7.1 The role of section 137	451 453
	Key po	oints	456
	Key terms and definitions		
	Furthe	er reading	456
	Praction	ce problem	457
11	Privileg	ges	458
	11.1	Introduction	459
	11.2	Client legal privilege	461
		11.2.1 Definitions: section 117 'Lawyer'	462 463

xii Contents



	'Client'	464
	'Employee or agent'	464
	Confidentiality	464
	11.2.2 Dominant purpose test	465
	11.2.3 Legal advice privilege: section 118	470
	'Communication' and 'document'	470
	Copy documents	472
	11.2.4 Litigation privilege: sections 119–20	472
	11.2.5 Invoking client legal privilege	473
	11.2.6 General loss of privilege: section 121	474
	11.2.7 Waiver: section 12211.2.8 Other causes of loss of privilege: sections 123–6	475 479
11.3	Professional confidential privilege	480
	11.3.1 Medical communications	483
11.4	Sexual assault communications privilege	484
11.5	Journalist privilege	488
11.6	Religious confessions	489
11.7	Privilege against self-incrimination	491
	11.7.1 The common law	491
	11.7.2 The Act: sections 128–128A	492
	Objection	496
	Determination	497
	Certificate	497
	Preliminary procedures	497
11.8	Judicial reasons	498
11.9	Public interest immunity	498
	11.9.1 The common law	498
	Class claims and contents claims	499
	11.9.2 The Act: section 130	508
	11.9.3 Matters of state	509
	Security, defence or international relations of Australia	509
	Investigation and prosecution Proper functioning of government	510 510
	Interest in disclosure	510
	Factors to take into account	510
11.10	Settlement negotiations	511
	11.10.1 The common law	511
	11.10.2 The Act: section 131	517
11.11	Pre-trial, trial and non-judicial proceedings: section 131A	519
11.12	General procedural issues	521
Key poi	ints	522

Contents xiii



	Key te	rms and definitions	522
	Furthe	r reading	523
	Practic	ce problem	523
12	Discreti	ionary and mandatory exclusions	525
	12.1	Introduction	526
	12.2	General discretion to exclude evidence: section 135 12.2.1 'Unfairly prejudicial' 12.2.2 'Misleading or confusing' 12.2.3 'Undue waste of time'	526 528 528 529
	12.3	General discretion to limit the use of evidence: section 136	530
	12.4	Mandatory exclusion of evidence in criminal proceedings: section 137 12.4.1 'Probative value' 12.4.2 'Unfair prejudice' Procedural unfairness	531 532 543 548
	12.5	Discretion to exclude improperly or illegally obtained evidence 12.5.1 The common law 12.5.2 The Act Discretion to exclude improperly or illegally obtained evidence: section 138 'Improper' and 'impropriety' Cautioning of persons: section 139	548 548 556 556 557 566
	12.6	Corroboration 12.6.1 The common law 12.6.2 The Act: section 164	567 568 569
	12.7	Unreliable evidence 12.7.1 Warning in relation to unreliable evidence: section 165 12.7.2 Warnings in relation to children's evidence: section 165A 12.7.3 Delay in prosecution: section 165B	569 570 571 572
	Key po	pints	575
	Key te	rms and definitions	575
	Furthe	r reading	576
	Practic	ce problem	576
13	Facilita	tion of proof and ancillary matters	577
	13.1	Introduction	577
	13.2	Facilitation of proof 13.2.1 The common law 13.2.2 General: sections 146–52	577 578 578

xiv Contents



		13.2.3	Matters of official record: sections 153-9	580
		13.2.4	Post and communications: sections 160-3	581
	13.3	Ancillary	provisions	583
		13.3.1	Requests: sections 166-9	583
		13.3.2	Affidavits: sections 170–3	584
		13.3.3	Foreign law: sections 174-6	584
		13.3.4	Procedures for proving other matters: sections 177-81	586
	13.4	Miscellar	neous matters	587
	Key points Key terms and definitions			588
				589
	Furthe	r reading		589
	Practic	e problem		589
14	Putting	it all toge	ther: extended practice problems	590
Suggeste	ed answe	ers to practi	ce problems in Chapters 2–13	595
'ndex				609

Contents xv