

# CRIMINAL LAW

## ELEMENTS

### FOURTH EDITION



# Criminal Law Elements

Fourth Edition

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LexisNexis Butterworths

Australia

2011

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TAIWAN	LexisNexis, TAIWAN
UNITED KINGDOM	LexisNexis UK, LONDON, EDINBURGH
USA	LexisNexis Group, New York, NEW YORK LexisNexis, Miamisburg, OHIO

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

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Author:	Crofts, Penny.
Title:	Criminal law elements
Edition:	4th ed.
ISBN:	9780409325881 (pbk.)
Notes:	Includes index.
Subjects:	Criminal law – Australia.
Dewey Number:	345.94

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*Essential Criminal Laws* 1st ed 1997; 2nd ed 2001; 3rd ed 2005.

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Inquiries should be addressed to the publishers.

Typeset in Goudy and AvantGarde.

Printed in Australia by Ligare Pty Ltd (NSW)

Visit LexisNexis Butterworths at [www.lexisnexis.com.au](http://www.lexisnexis.com.au)

# FOREWORD

*Criminal Law Elements* provides up-to-date information about basic elements of criminal law in an accessible format. An important feature of the book is the provision of examples which will assist students to develop the essential skill of legal problem solving.

Penny Crofts has been teaching Criminal Law for many years and her experience has been crucial in shaping this book. Penny has insight into what students need to know and the issues which initially puzzle them in this subject. *Criminal Law Elements* will prove to be a very useful teaching and learning resource for academics and students.

Bronwyn Olliffe  
Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning)  
Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney

October 2010

# PREFACE

This is the fourth edition of this book. The first edition was published in 1997, entitled *Essential Criminal Laws*. It was written to provide accessible and up-to-date information about Criminal Law in the common law States, detailing and explaining the basic elements of Criminal Law that students need to know and understand. The book provides a basic structure of the law that students can then supplement with further study.

In this edition, I have included examples of solutions to problem questions, as this is a basic skill required in law degrees. The summaries of legal elements are easy to find visually as they are now laid out in table form. Tips are provided in areas where students have demonstrated confusion in the past. I am pleased that the book continues to be used by teachers of law and by their students.

Staff at LexisNexis Butterworths have been of great assistance in developing the latest edition and its new features. I also thank my partner and family for helping me complete the book and letting me use their names in the problem questions.

The law stated in this book takes account of materials available to me on 30 November 2010.

Penny Crofts  
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November 2010

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