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The Constitutional Systems of the Australian States and Territories

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The Constitutional Systems of the Australian States and Territories

Dealing specifically with the constitutional systems of the States and territories, this book is the only Australian legal reference work of its kind. It fills a significant gap in Australian constitutional scholarship.

The Constitutional Systems of the Australian States and Territories explores and compares the nature and functioning of the constitutional systems of the six States and ten Commonwealth territories within Australia's federal system. The principal focus of the book is to determine the scope of their legislative, executive and judicial powers and the extent to which these powers are restricted. For instance, it examines the limited capacity to entrench legislation, to enact laws beyond their borders and to affect the judicial system. It does this within the historical context of the States' evolution from colonies to States of a federation, and considers their future constitutional development, including transformation to a republic. These issues are also covered in relation to the three self-governing territories of the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Norfolk Island. Their constitutional status is fully explored, including the extent to which the Commonwealth retains authority over them pursuant to its territories power.

Written for all students of constitutional law, this book is an invaluable resource for legal practitioners and legal advisors, as well as judges and political scientists.

Gerard Carney is a Professor of Law at Bond University, Queensland, and a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Western Australia.

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