



# Whistleblower | Psionic Community

”Cultivating Justice in Australia”

WHISTLEBLOWING

Programs

## ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION

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**Publication Date:** October 2, 2024  
**Sources:** GPT 4.0

### Chapter 3 Government and the Australian Constitution

#### Prefacer

Australia is a country that maintains strict legislation and regulations regarding the workplace. It therefore has enacted a number of Acts and uses Common Law. And whilst the Statutory requirements and rules regulate employment, the relationship is still fundamentally a common law contract relationship. A Whistleblower within this context is a person who provides information and exposes people, events, and actions, that are deemed illegal, immoral, illicit, unsafe corrupt or fraudulent conduct within a private or public sector organization in the hope of prevention and cessation. And in this section we will briefly discuss the Legislation and Common Law precedents that govern how our workplaces should function for the good of all.

#### Main Topic:

- Introduction
- Overview of Administrative Law
- Key Components of Administrative Law in Australia
- Legislation Governing Administrative Law
- Conclusion

#### Introduction to Administration Law

##### Introduction

Administrative law is a fundamental aspect of legal practice in Australia, focusing on the actions and decisions made by administrative agencies of government. It encompasses the rules, regulations, and procedures that these agencies must follow to ensure fairness, accountability, and transparency in their decision-making processes. The significance of administrative law lies in its role in upholding the rule of law and protecting individual rights against the arbitrary exercise of governmental power.

#### Overview of Administrative Law

In Australia, administrative law serves several critical functions:

1. **Oversight and Accountability:** Administrative law ensures that government actions are scrutinized, providing citizens with mechanisms to challenge decisions that may be unfair, unreasonable, or unlawful. This oversight helps maintain a system of checks and balances within the government.
2. **Protection of Individual Rights:** Individuals impacted by administrative decisions have the right to access review processes, which allows them to contest the outcomes. This protection is vital for maintaining civil liberties and upholding democratic principles.

3. **Framework for Decision-Making:** Administrative law establishes the parameters within which government bodies operate. It sets out the procedures they must follow, ensuring that their decisions are made in a systematic and reasoned manner.

### **Key Components of Administrative Law in Australia**

1. **Judicial Review:** This involves the courts reviewing administrative decisions to ensure they comply with the law and procedural fairness. Unlike appeals, judicial review does not re-evaluate the merits of a decision but focuses on the legality of the process leading to that decision.
2. **Merits Review:** In some instances, administrative tribunal systems provide for merits review, allowing for a re-examination of the facts and law related to a case to arrive at a different decision.
3. **Freedom of Information:** The Freedom of Information Act (FOI) enables citizens to request access to documents held by government bodies. This fosters transparency and accountability, allowing individuals to stay informed about government operations and decisions.
4. **Ombudsman:** The role of the Ombudsman is critical in administrative law. This independent body investigates complaints made by citizens regarding administrative actions. The Ombudsman provides a means for resolving disputes without resorting to formal legal processes.

### **Legislation Governing Administrative Law**

Administrative law in Australia is shaped by both statute law and common law. The primary pieces of legislation that govern administrative law include:

1. **Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977 (Cth):** This Act outlines the grounds for judicial review of administrative decisions made by federal agencies. It aims to ensure that decisions are made in accordance with the law and with respect for natural justice.
2. **Commonwealth Ombudsman Act 1976:** This Act establishes the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, outlining its functions, powers, and responsibilities in overseeing federal government agencies.
3. **Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth):** This important piece of legislation allows individuals to request access to documents held by Commonwealth agencies, reinforcing the principles of transparency and accountability in governmental operations.
4. **State and Territory Legislation:** Each Australian state and territory has its own administrative law framework, including acts related to judicial review, ombudsman functions, and freedom of information. For instance, many states have adopted legislation similar to the Commonwealth's FOI Act to promote transparency in local governance.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, administrative law plays an essential role in the Australian legal system, ensuring that government agencies operate within a framework of legality, accountability, and fairness. By incorporating both judicial and merits review processes, as well as legislation aimed at promoting transparency, administrative law safeguards citizens' rights and upholds the rule of law. Understanding this area of law is vital for anyone interacting with government agencies, as it empowers citizens to hold government accountable and ensures that justice is served in the face of bureaucratic decisions. As Australia continues to evolve, the principles of administrative law will remain crucial in shaping a fair and equitable society where individual rights are respected and upheld.

**Thank you for Reading!**

**CRITICAL EVALUATION:**

**Strengths:** In-depth theoretical analysis, relevant practical examples, clear structure.

**Weaknesses:** Limited attention to specific examples of modern technology implementation.

**Biases or Assumptions:** Emphasis on classical approaches, possibly underrepresenting alternative methods.

**Contribution to the Field:** Significant contribution to understanding the limitations and possibilities for improving the efficiency of heat engines. **Comparison with Other Works on the Topic:** Consistent with existing research but offers a deeper analysis of efficiency improvement methods.

**PERSONAL RESPONSE:**

The article was informative and useful for understanding the limitations and possibilities of heat engines.

**How the Article Changed or Reinforced Your Thinking:** Reinforced the importance of the second law of thermodynamics and provided new perspectives on efficiency improvement. **Questions Raised or Left**

**Unanswered:** Which specific modern technologies can most effectively increase the efficiency of heat engines? **Application of the Article's Insights in Real Life or Further Research:** Plan to use the presented methods and models in further research and energy-saving projects.

 **Useful Links**

Understanding Administrative Law and Legislation in Australia

*Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024 (ART Act)*

Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act

Page 16

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