

South Australia

## **Federal Courts (State Jurisdiction) Act 1999**

An Act to provide that certain decisions of the Federal Court of Australia or the Family Court of Australia have effect as decisions of the Supreme Court and to make other provision relating to certain matters relating to the jurisdiction of those courts; and for other purposes.

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**The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:**

### **Part 1—Preliminary**

#### **1—Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Federal Courts (State Jurisdiction) Act 1999*.

### 3—Interpretation

In this Act—

**applied administrative law** means a law of the State applying a Commonwealth administrative law as a law of the State;

**Commonwealth administrative law** means—

- (a) any of the following Acts of the Commonwealth:
  - (i) *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024*;
  - (ii) *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*;
  - (iii) *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
  - (iv) *Ombudsman Act 1976*;
  - (v) *Privacy Act 1988*; or

- (b) any of the regulations in force under any of those Acts;

**federal court** means the Federal Court of Australia or the Family Court of Australia;

**ineffective judgment** has the meaning given by section 4;

**judgment** means a judgment, decree or order, whether final or interlocutory, or a sentence;

**liability** includes a duty or obligation;

**proceeding** includes an initiating application;

**relevant State Act** means any of the following Acts:

- (a) *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (South Australia) Act 1994*;
- (b) *Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1962*;
- (c) *Competition Policy Reform (South Australia) Act 1996*;
- (d) *Corporations (South Australia) Act 1990*;
- (e) *Gas Pipelines Access (South Australia) Act 1997*;
- (f) *Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-vesting) Act 1987*;
- (g) *National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Act 1984*;
- (h) a prescribed Act;

**right** includes an interest or status;

**State matter** means a matter—

- (a) in which the Supreme Court has jurisdiction otherwise than by reason of a law of the Commonwealth or of another State or a Territory; or
- (b) which has been removed to the Supreme Court under section 8 of the *Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-vesting) Act 1987*; or
- (c) in respect of which a relevant State Act purports or purported to confer jurisdiction on a federal court; or
- (d) arising under or in respect of an applied administrative law.

#### 4—Meaning of ineffective judgment

- (1) A reference in this Act to an *ineffective judgment* is a reference to a judgment of a federal court in a State matter given or recorded, before the commencement of this section, in the purported exercise of jurisdiction purporting to have been conferred on the federal court by a relevant State Act.
- (2) If—
  - (a) a Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia in its appellate jurisdiction has purported to affirm, reverse or vary an ineffective judgment; or
  - (b) the Full Court of the Family Court of Australia has purported to affirm, reverse or vary an ineffective judgment,

a reference in this Act to the ineffective judgment is a reference to the ineffective judgment in the form in which, and to the extent to which, it purports or purported to have effect from time to time.

#### 5—Act to bind Crown

This Act binds the Crown in right of the State of South Australia and, to the extent to which the power of the Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.

### Part 2—Rights and liabilities

#### 6—Rights and liabilities declared in certain cases

The rights and liabilities of all persons are, by force of this Act, declared to be, and always to have been, the same as if—

- (a) each ineffective judgment of—
  - (i) the Federal Court of Australia, otherwise than as a Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia; or
  - (ii) the General Division of the Family Court of Australia,had been a valid judgment of the Supreme Court constituted of a single Judge; and
- (b) each ineffective judgment of—
  - (i) a Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia; or
  - (ii) the Full Court of the Family Court of Australia,had been a valid judgment of the Court of Appeal.

#### 7—Effect of declared rights and liabilities

- (1) A right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by section 6—
  - (a) is exercisable or enforceable; and
  - (b) is to be regarded as always having been exercisable or enforceable,as if it were a right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by a judgment of the Supreme Court.

- (2) Without limiting section 6 or subsection (1) of this section, the rights and liabilities conferred, imposed or affected by section 6 include the right of a person who was a party to the proceeding or purported proceeding in which the ineffective judgment was given or recorded to appeal against that judgment.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), each ineffective judgment of—
  - (a) the Federal Court of Australia, otherwise than as a Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia; or
  - (b) the Family Court of Australia, otherwise than as a Full Court of the Family Court of Australia,

is taken to be a judgment of the Supreme Court constituted of a single Judge.

## **8—Effect of things done or omitted to be done under or in relation to rights and liabilities**

- (1) Any act or thing done or omitted to be done before or after the commencement of this section under or in relation to a right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by section 6—
  - (a) has the same effect, and gives rise to the same consequences, for the purposes of any written or other law; and
  - (b) is to be regarded as always having had the same effect, and given rise to the same consequences, for the purposes of any written or other law,

as if it were done, or omitted to be done, to give effect to, or under the authority of, or in reliance on, a judgment of the Supreme Court.

- (2) For the purposes of an enforcement law, any act or thing done or omitted to be done before or after the commencement of this section gives rise to the same consequences, and is to be regarded as always having given rise to the same consequences, as if each ineffective judgment were a valid judgment of the Supreme Court given in or in relation to the proceeding in or in relation to which the ineffective judgment was given or recorded.
- (3) In this section—

***enforcement law*** means a provision of a law (other than a law relating to contempt of court) that sets out a consequence for a person if the person—

- (a) contravenes; or
- (b) acts in a specified way while there is in force,

a judgment, or a particular kind of judgment, given by a court.

## **9—Section 6 regarded as having ceased to have effect in certain cases**

- (1) If—
  - (a) before the commencement of this section, a court gave or recorded an ineffective judgment (the ***new judgment***) on the basis that an earlier ineffective judgment (the ***earlier judgment***) was or might be of no effect; and
  - (b) the new judgment replaced the earlier judgment,section 6 has no effect in respect of the earlier judgment.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the new judgment replaced the earlier judgment if the new judgment—
  - (a) purportedly conferred or imposed rights or liabilities similar to or different from those purportedly conferred or imposed by the earlier judgment; or
  - (b) purportedly affected rights or liabilities in a way similar to or different from the way in which they were purportedly affected by the earlier judgment.

### **10—Powers of Supreme Court in relation to declared rights and liabilities**

- (1) The Supreme Court may vary, revoke, set aside, revive or suspend a right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by section 6 as if it were a right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by the Supreme Court in or in relation to proceedings of the kind in or in relation to which the ineffective judgment was given or recorded.
- (2) In addition to its powers under subsection (1), the Supreme Court also has power to give a judgment achieving any other result that could have been achieved if—
  - (a) the ineffective judgment had been a valid judgment of the Supreme Court given in or in relation to proceedings of the kind in or in relation to which the ineffective judgment was given or recorded; and
  - (b) the Supreme Court had been considering whether—
    - (i) to vary, revoke, set aside, revive or suspend that judgment; or
    - (ii) to extend the time for the doing of any thing; or
    - (iii) to grant a stay of proceedings.

### **11—Certain proceedings may be treated as proceedings in Supreme Court**

- (1) In this section—

**limitation law** means—

  - (a) the *Limitation of Actions Act 1936*;
  - (b) any other law that provides for the limitation of liability or the barring of a right of action in respect of a claim by reference to the time when a proceeding on, or the arbitration of, the claim is commenced;

**relevant order** means—

  - (a) an order of a federal court, whether made before or after the commencement of this section, dismissing, striking out or staying a proceeding relating to a State matter for want of jurisdiction; or
  - (b) a declaration by a federal court, whether made before or after the commencement of this section, that it has no jurisdiction to hear and determine a proceeding relating to a State matter; or
  - (c) any other decision or determination by a federal court, whether made before or after the commencement of this section, that it has no jurisdiction to hear and determine a proceeding relating to a State matter.
- (2) A person who was a party to a proceeding in which a relevant order is made may apply to the Supreme Court for an order that the proceeding be treated as a proceeding in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court may make such an order.

- (3) If the Supreme Court makes an order under subsection (2), the proceeding, despite the relevant order—
- (a) becomes, and must be recorded by the Supreme Court as, a proceeding in the Supreme Court; and
  - (b) for the purposes of any limitation law and for all other purposes, is taken to have been brought in the Supreme Court on the day on which the proceeding was first recorded as a proceeding in the federal court.
- (4) The Supreme Court may make such ancillary orders in relation to an order under subsection (2) as it considers necessary for the purposes of the proceeding being treated as, becoming and being recorded as, a proceeding in the Supreme Court.

## **12—Proceedings for contempt**

If, before or after the commencement of this section, a person has—

- (a) interfered with a right conferred or affected by section 6; or
- (b) failed to satisfy or comply with a liability imposed or affected by section 6,

the interference or failure is, and is taken always to have been, a matter that can be dealt with in the same manner as if the interference or failure had been in relation to a right conferred or affected, or a liability imposed or affected, by an order of the Supreme Court.

## **13—Evidentiary**

A federal court record, or a copy of a federal court record, of an ineffective judgment may be adduced in evidence to show the existence, nature and extent of each right or liability conferred, imposed or affected by section 6.

## **14—Act not to apply to certain judgments**

Nothing in this Act applies to—

- (a) a judgment given or recorded by the Federal Court of Australia that has been declared to be invalid, or has been quashed or overruled, by a Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia before the commencement of this section (otherwise than on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction); or
- (b) a judgment given or recorded by the Family Court of Australia that has been declared to be invalid, or has been quashed or overruled, by the Full Court of the Family Court of Australia before the commencement of this section (otherwise than on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction).

## **Part 3—General**

### **15—Regulations**

The Governor may make such regulations as are contemplated by, or necessary or expedient for the purposes of, this Act.

## Legislative history

### Notes

- Please note—References in the legislation to other legislation or instruments or to titles of bodies or offices are not automatically updated as part of the program for the revision and publication of legislation and therefore may be obsolete.
- Earlier versions of this Act (historical versions) are listed at the end of the legislative history.
- For further information relating to the Act and subordinate legislation made under the Act see the Index of South Australian Statutes or [www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au).

### Legislation amended by principal Act

The *Federal Courts (State Jurisdiction) Act 1999* amended the following:

*Competition Policy Reform (South Australia) Act 1996*

### Principal Act and amendments

New entries appear in bold.

Year	No	Title	Assent	Commencement
1999	48	<i>Federal Courts (State Jurisdiction) Act 1999</i>	12.8.1999	19.8.1999 ( <i>Gazette 19.8.1999 p882</i> )
2019	45	<i>Supreme Court (Court of Appeal) Amendment Act 2019</i>	19.12.2019	Sch 1 (cl 47)—1.1.2021 ( <i>Gazette 10.12.2020 p5638</i> )
<b>2025</b>	<b>54</b>	<b><i>Statutes Amendment (Administrative Review Tribunal) Act 2025</i></b>	<b>20.11.2025</b>	<b>Pt 7 (s 12)—20.11.2025: s 2</b>

### Provisions amended

New entries appear in bold.

Entries that relate to provisions that have been deleted appear in italics.

Provision	How varied	Commencement
Long title	amended under <i>Legislation Revision and Publication Act 2002</i>	
Pt 1		
s 3		
<b>Commonwealth administrative law</b>	<b>amended by 54/2025 s 12</b>	<b>20.11.2025</b>
s 2	<i>omitted under Legislation Revision and Publication Act 2002</i>	
Pt 2		
s 6	amended by 45/2019 Sch 1 cl 47	1.1.2021

