

Version No. 021
Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968
No. 7750 of 1968

Version incorporating amendments as at 1 December 2009

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An Act to effect Reforms in the Rule of Law commonly known as the Rule against Perpetuities and to Abolish the Rule of Law commonly known as the Rule against Accumulation, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of Victoria in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say):

1 Short title and Act and rule against perpetuities to bind Crown

- (1) This Act may be cited as the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**.
- (2) This Act and the rule against perpetuities shall bind the Crown except in respect of dispositions of property made by the Crown.

Cf. Law Reform (Property, Perpetuities and Succession) Act 1962 (W.A.) s. 2, Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1964 (U.K.) s. 15, Perpetuities Act 1964 (N.Z.) s. 3.

2 Definitions

- (1) In this Act unless inconsistent with the context or subject-matter—

Court means the Supreme Court;

disposition includes the conferring or exercise of a power of appointment or any other power or authority to dispose of an interest in or a right over property and any other disposition of an interest in or right over property; and references to the interest disposed of shall be construed accordingly;

domestic partner of a person means—

- (a) a person who is in a registered domestic relationship with the person; or
- (b) a person to whom the person is not married but with whom the person is living as a couple on a genuine domestic basis (irrespective of gender);

instrument includes a will, and also includes an instrument, testamentary or otherwise exercising a power of appointment whether general or special but does not include an Act of Parliament;

partner of a person means the person's spouse or domestic partner;

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 4, U.K. Act
s. 15, N.Z. Act
s. 2.

S. 2(1) def. of
Court
amended by
No. 110/1986
s. 140(2)
(Sch.).

S. 2(1) def. of
*domestic
partner*
inserted by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.1),
substituted by
No. 12/2008
s. 73(1)(Sch. 1
item 46.1),
amended by
No. 4/2009
s. 37(Sch. 1
item 20.1).

S. 2(1) def. of
partner
inserted by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.1).

power of appointment includes any discretionary power to transfer or grant or create a beneficial interest in property without the furnishing of valuable consideration;

property includes any interest in real or personal property and any thing in action;

spouse of a person means a person to whom the person is married;'

S. 2(1) def. of *spouse* inserted by No. 27/2001 s. 3(Sch. 1 item 8.1).

will includes a codicil.

- (2) For the purposes of this Act a disposition contained in a will shall be deemed to be made at the death of the testator.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act a person shall be treated as a member of a class if in his case all the conditions identifying a member of the class are satisfied, and shall be treated as a potential member if in his case only one or some of those conditions are satisfied but there is a possibility that the remainder will in time be satisfied.
- (4) For the purposes of the definition of *domestic partner* in subsection (1)—
 - (a) *registered domestic relationship* has the same meaning as in the **Relationships Act 2008**; and
 - (b) in determining whether persons who are not in a registered domestic relationship are domestic partners of each other, all the circumstances of their relationship are to be

S. 2(4) inserted by No. 27/2001 s. 3(Sch. 1 item 8.2), substituted by No. 12/2008 s. 73(1)(Sch. 1 item 46.2).

S. 2(4)(a) amended by No. 4/2009 s. 37(Sch. 1 item 20.2(a)).

S. 2(4)(b) amended by No. 4/2009 s. 37(Sch. 1 item 20.2(b)).

taken into account, including any one or more of the matters referred to in section 35(2) of the **Relationships Act 2008** as may be relevant in a particular case.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 3, U.K. Act
s. 15, N.Z. Act
s. 4.

3 Application

- (1) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act shall apply only in relation to instruments taking effect after the commencement of this Act, and in the case of an instrument whereby a special power of appointment is exercised shall apply only where the instrument creating the power takes effect after that commencement: Provided that section 4 shall apply in all cases for construing the foregoing reference to a special power of appointment.
- (2) This Act shall apply in relation to a disposition made otherwise than by an instrument as if the disposition had been contained in an instrument taking effect when the disposition was made.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 16, U.K. Act
s. 7, N.Z. Act
s. 5.

4 Powers of appointment

For the purpose of the rule against perpetuities a power of appointment shall be treated as a special power unless—

- (a) in the instrument creating the power it is expressed to be exercisable by one person only; and
- (b) it could at all time during its currency when that person is of full age and capacity be exercised by him so as immediately to transfer to or otherwise vest in himself the whole of the interest governed by the power without the consent of any other person or compliance with any other condition, not being a formal condition relating only to the mode of exercise of the power:

Provided that for the purpose of determining whether a disposition made under a power of appointment exercisable by will only is void for remoteness the power shall be treated as a general power where it would have fallen to be so treated if exercisable by deed.

Perpetuities

5 Power to specify perpetuity period

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 5, U.K. Act
s. 1, N.Z. Act
s. 6.

- (1) Save as in this Act otherwise provided where the instrument by which any disposition is made so provides the perpetuity period applicable to the disposition under the rule against perpetuities instead of being of any other duration shall be such number of years not exceeding eighty as is specified in the instrument as the perpetuity period applicable to the disposition.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not have effect where the disposition is made in exercise of a special power of appointment but where a period is specified under that subsection in the instrument creating such a power the period shall apply in relation to any disposition under the power as it applies in relation to the power itself.
- (3) If no period of years is specified in an instrument by which a disposition is made as the perpetuity period applicable to the disposition but a date certain is specified in the instrument as the date on which the disposition shall vest the instrument shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to specify as the perpetuity period applicable to the disposition a number of years equal to the number of years from the date of the taking effect of the instrument to the specified vesting date.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 7, U.K. Act
s. 3, N.Z. Act
s. 8.

6 "Wait and see" rule

S. 6(1)
amended by
No. 74/2000
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 97.1).

- (1) Where apart from the provisions of this section and of section 9 a disposition would be void on the ground that the interest disposed of might not become vested until too remote a time the disposition shall be treated until such time (if any) as it becomes established that the vesting must occur, if at all, after the end of the perpetuity period as if the disposition were not subject to the rule against perpetuities; and its becoming so established shall not affect the validity of anything previously done in relation to the interest disposed of by way of advancement, application of intermediate income or otherwise.
- (2) Where apart from the said provisions a disposition consisting of the conferring of a general power of appointment would be void on the ground that the power might not become exercisable until too remote a time the disposition shall be treated until such time (if any) as it becomes established that the power will not be exercisable within the perpetuity period as if the disposition were not subject to the rule against perpetuities.
- (3) Where apart from the said provisions a disposition consisting of the conferring of any power option or other right would be void on the ground that the right might be exercised at too remote a time the disposition shall be treated as regards any exercise of the right within the perpetuity period as if it were not subject to the rule against perpetuities and subject to the said provisions shall be treated as void for remoteness only if and so far as the right is not fully exercised within that period.

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- (4) Nothing in this section makes any person a life in being for the purposes of ascertaining the perpetuity period unless the life of that person is one expressed or implied as relevant for this purpose by the terms of the disposition and would have been reckoned a life in being for such purpose if this section had not been enacted:

Provided however that in the case of a disposition to a class of persons or to one or more members of a class, any person living at the date of the disposition whose life is so expressed or implied as relevant for any member of the class may be reckoned a life in being in ascertaining the perpetuity period.

7 Power to apply to Court for declaration as to validity

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 8, N.Z. Act
s. 22.

- (1) A trustee of any property, or any person interested under or on the invalidity of, a disposition of property may at any time apply to the Court for a declaration as to the validity, in respect to the rule against perpetuities, of a disposition of that property.
- (2) The Court may, on an application under subsection (1), make a declaration on the basis of facts existing and events that have occurred at the time the declaration is made, as to the validity or otherwise of the disposition in respect of which the application is made; but the Court shall not make a declaration in respect of any disposition the validity of which cannot be determined at the time at which the Court is asked to make the declaration.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 6, U.K. Act
s. 2, N.Z. Act
s. 6.

8 Presumptions and evidence as to future parenthood

- (1) Where in any proceedings there arises on the rule against perpetuities a question which turns on the capacity of a person to have a child at some future time, then—
 - (a) it shall be presumed, subject to paragraph (b), that a male can have a child at the age of twelve years or over but not under that age and that a female can have a child at the age of twelve years or over but not under that age or over the age of fifty-five years; but
 - (b) in the case of a living person evidence may be given to show that he or she will or will not be capable of having a child at the time in question.
- (2) Where any such question is decided by treating a person as incapable of having a child at a particular time and he or she does so, the Court may make such order as it thinks fit for placing the persons interested in the property comprised in the disposition so far as may be just in the position they would have held if the question had not been so decided.
- (3) Subject to subsection (2), where any such question is decided in relation to a disposition by treating a person as capable or incapable of having a child at a particular time then he or she shall be so treated for the purpose of any question which may arise on the rule against perpetuities in relation to the same disposition in any subsequent proceedings.
- (4) In the foregoing provisions of this section references to having a child are references to begetting or giving birth to a child; but those provisions (except subsection (1)(b)) shall apply in relation to the possibility that a person will at any time have a child by adoption, legitimation or

other means as they apply to his or her capacity at that time to beget or give birth to a child.

9 Reduction of age and exclusion of class members to avoid remoteness

Cf. No. 6344
s. 162, W.A.
Act s. 9, U.K.
Act s. 4, N.Z.
Act s. 9.

- (1) Where a disposition is limited by reference to the attainment by any person or persons of a specified age exceeding twenty-one years and it is apparent at the time the disposition is made or becomes apparent at a subsequent time—
- (a) that the disposition would apart from this section be void for remoteness; but
 - (b) that it would not be so void if the specified age had been twenty-one years—

the disposition shall be treated for all purposes as if instead of being limited by reference to the age in fact specified it had been limited by reference to the age nearest to that age which would if specified instead, have prevented the disposition from being so void.

- (2) Where in the case of any disposition different ages exceeding twenty-one years are specified in relation to different persons—
- (a) the reference in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) to the specified age shall be construed as a reference to all the specified ages; and
 - (b) that subsection shall operate to reduce each such age so far as is necessary to save the disposition from being void for remoteness.
- (3) Where the inclusion of any persons being potential members of a class or unborn persons who at birth would become members or potential members of the class prevents the foregoing provisions of this section from operating to save a disposition from being void for remoteness those persons shall thenceforth be deemed for all the

purposes of the disposition to be excluded from the class and the said provisions shall thereupon have effect accordingly.

- (4) Where in the case of a disposition to which subsection (3) does not apply it is apparent at the time the disposition is made or becomes apparent at a subsequent time that apart from this subsection the inclusion of any persons, being potential members of a class or unborn persons who at birth could become members or potential members of the class would cause the disposition to be treated as void for remoteness those persons shall unless their exclusion would exhaust the class thenceforth be deemed for all the purposes of the disposition to be excluded from the class.
- (5) Where this action has effect in relation to a disposition to which section 6 applies the operation of this section shall not affect the validity of anything previously done in relation to the interest disposed of by way of advancement, application of intermediate income or otherwise.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 12, U.K. Act
s. 5, N.Z. Act
s. 13.

S. 10
(Heading)
inserted by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.3).

S. 10
amended by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.4).

S. 10(a)
amended by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.4).

10 Unborn partner

The surviving partner of a person who is a life in being for the purposes of the rule against perpetuities shall be deemed to be a life in being for the purpose of—

- (a) a disposition in favour of that surviving partner; and

- (b) a disposition in favour of a charity which attains or of a person who attains or of a class the members of which attain according to the terms of the disposition a vested interest on or after the death of the survivor of the said person who is a life in being and that surviving partner, or on or after the death of that surviving partner or on or after the happening of any contingency during her or his lifetime.

S. 10(b)
amended by
No. 27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.4).

11 Dependent limitations

A disposition shall not be treated as void for remoteness by reason only that the interest disposed of is ulterior to and dependent upon an interest under a disposition which is so void, and the vesting of an interest shall not be prevented from being accelerated on the failure of a prior interest by reason only that the failure arises because of remoteness.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 13, U.K. Act
s. 6, N.Z. Act
s. 14.

12 Abolition of the double possibility rule

- (1) The rule of law prohibiting the limitation, after a life interest to an unborn person, of an interest in land to the unborn child or other issue of an unborn person is hereby declared to have been abolished by section 161 of the **Property Law Act 1928**, but without prejudice to any other rule relating to perpetuities.
- (2) This section shall apply only to limitations or trusts created by an instrument within the meaning of the **Property Law Act 1958** coming into operation after the commencement of the **Property Law Act 1928**.

No. 6344
s. 161.

13 Restrictions on the perpetuity rule

- (1) For removing doubts, it is hereby declared that the rule of law relating to perpetuities does not apply and shall be deemed never to have applied—
 - (a) to any power to distrain on or to take possession of land or the income thereof given by way of indemnity against a rent, whether charged upon or payable in respect of any part of that land or not; or
 - (b) to any rentcharge created only as an indemnity against another rentcharge, although the indemnity rentcharge may arise or become payable only on breach of a condition or stipulation; or
 - (c) to any power, whether exercisable on breach of a condition or stipulation or not, to retain or withhold payment of any instalment of a rentcharge as an indemnity against another rentcharge; or
 - (d) to any grant, exception or reservation of and right of entry on, or user of, the surface of land or of any easements, rights or privileges over or under land for the purpose of—
 - (i) winning, working, inspecting, measuring, converting, manufacturing, carrying away and disposing of mines and minerals;
 - (ii) inspecting, grubbing up, felling and carrying away timber and other trees, and the tops and lops thereof;
 - (iii) executing repairs, alterations or additions to any adjoining land, or the buildings and erections thereon;

(iv) constructing, laying down, altering, repairing, renewing, cleansing and maintaining sewers, watercourses, cesspools, gutters, drains, water-pipes, gas-pipes, electric wires or cables or other like works.

(2) This section shall apply to instruments within the meaning of the **Property Law Act 1958** coming into operation before or after the commencement of that Act.

14 Administrative powers of trustees

Cf. No. 6401
s. 73, U.K. Act
s. 8, N.Z. Act
s. 16.

(1) The rule against perpetuities shall not operate and shall be deemed never to have operated to invalidate a power conferred on trustees or other persons to sell lease exchange or otherwise dispose of any property for full consideration or to do any other act in the administration (as opposed to the distribution) of any property, and shall not prevent and shall be deemed never to have prevented the payment to trustees or other persons of reasonable remuneration for their services.

(2) This section—

(a) shall not render any trustee liable for any acts done prior to the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** for which such trustee would not have been liable if this section and any corresponding previous enactment had not been enacted or for any acts done after the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** but before the commencement of this Act for which such trustee would not have been liable if this section had not been enacted;

- (b) shall not enable any person to recover any money distributed or paid under any trust before the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** if he could not have recovered such money if this section and any corresponding previous enactment had not been enacted or any money distributed or paid under any trust after the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** but before the commencement of this Act if he could not have recovered such money if this section had not been enacted.

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 14, U.K. Act
s. 9, 10, N.Z.
Act s. 17.

15 Options

- (1) The rule against perpetuities shall not apply to a disposition consisting of the conferring of an option to acquire for valuable consideration an interest reversionary (whether directly or indirectly) on the term of a lease if—
- (a) the option is exercisable only by the lessee or his successors in title; and
 - (b) it ceases to be exercisable at or before the expiration of one year following the determination of the lease.

This subsection shall apply in relation to an agreement for a lease as it applies in relation to a lease, and "lessee" shall be construed accordingly.

- (2) An option to acquire an interest in land (not being an option to which subsection (1) refers) or a right of pre-emption in respect of land, which according to its terms is or may be exercisable at a date more than twenty-one years from the date of its grant shall after the expiration of twenty-one years from the date of its grant be void and not exercisable by any person and no remedy shall lie in contract or otherwise for giving effect to it or making restitution for its lack of effect, but—

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- (a) this subsection shall not apply to an option or right of pre-emption conferred by will; and
 - (b) nothing in this subsection shall affect an option for renewal or right of pre-emption contained in a lease or an agreement for a lease.

16 Determinable interests

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 15, U.K. Act
s. 12, N.Z. Act
s. 18.

- (1) The rule against perpetuities shall apply—
 - (a) to a possibility of reverter in land on the determination of a determinable fee simple; in which case if the fee simple does not determine within the perpetuity period it shall thereafter continue as a fee simple absolute;
 - (b) to a possibility of a resulting trust on the determination of any other determinable interest in property; in which case if the first interest created by the trust does not determine within the perpetuity period the interest it creates shall thereafter continue as an absolute interest;
 - (c) to a right of entry for condition broken the exercise of which may determine a fee simple subject to a condition subsequent and to an equivalent right in the case of property other than land; in which case if the right of entry or other right is not exercised within the perpetuity period the fee simple shall thereafter continue as an absolute interest and any such other interest in property shall thereafter continue free from the condition.
 - (2) This section shall apply whether the determinable or conditional disposition is charitable or not except that the rule against perpetuities shall not apply to a gift over from one charity to another.
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- (3) Where a disposition is subject to any provision that causes an interest to which paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (1) applies to be determinable, or to any condition subsequent giving rise on breach thereof to a right of re-entry or an equivalent right in the case of property other than land, or to any exception or reservation the disposition shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as including a separate disposition of any rights arising by virtue of the provision condition subsequent exception or reservation.

No. 6401 s. 73.
Cf. W.A. Act
s. 19, N.Z. Act
s. 19.

17 Superannuation funds

- (1) The rule of law known as the rule against perpetuities shall not apply and shall be deemed never to have applied so as to render void—
- (a) a trust or fund established for the purpose of making provision by way of assistance, benefits, superannuation, allowances, gratuities or pensions for the directors, officers, servants or employees of any employer or the partners children grandchildren parents dependants or legal personal representatives of any such directors officers servants or employees or for any persons duly selected or nominated for that purpose by any such directors officers servants or employees pursuant to the provisions of such trust or fund; or
- (b) a trust or fund established for the purpose of making provision by way of superannuation for persons (not being employees) engaged in any lawful profession trade occupation or calling or the partners children grandchildren parents dependants or legal personal representatives of any of those persons or for any persons duly selected or nominated for

S. 17(1)(a)
amended by
Nos 74/2000
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 97.2),
27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.5).

S. 17(1)(b)
amended by
Nos 74/2000
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 97.2),
27/2001
s. 3(Sch. 1
item 8.5).

that purpose pursuant to the provisions of the trust or fund.

(2) This section—

- (a) shall not render any trustee liable for any acts done prior to the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** for which such trustee would not have been liable if this section and any corresponding previous enactment had not been enacted or for any acts done after the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** but before the commencement of this Act for which such trustee would not have been liable if this section had not been enacted;
- (b) shall not enable any person to recover any money distributed or paid under any trust before the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** if he could not have recovered such money if this section and any corresponding previous enactment had not been enacted or any money distributed or paid under any trust after the commencement of the **Trustee Act 1953** but before the commencement of this Act if he could not have recovered such money if this section had not been enacted.

18 Non-charitable purpose trusts

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of the rule of law rendering non-charitable purpose trusts and trusts for the benefit of corporations which are not charities void for remoteness in cases where the trust property may be applied for the purposes of the trusts after the end of the perpetuity period.

Cf. U.K. Act
s. 15, N.Z. Act
s. 20.

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- (2) If any such trust is not otherwise void the provisions of sections 5 and 6 shall apply to it and the property subject to the trust may be applied for the purposes of the trust during the perpetuity period but not thereafter.

Accumulations

Cf. W.A. Act
s. 17, U.K. Act
ss 13, 14, N.Z.
Act s. 21.

19 Accumulation of income

- (1) Where property is settled or disposed of in such manner that the income thereof may be or is directed to be accumulated wholly or in part the power or direction to accumulate that income shall be valid if the disposition of the accumulated income is or may be valid but not otherwise.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall affect the power of any person or persons to terminate an accumulation that is for his or her benefit and any jurisdiction or power of the Court to maintain or advance out of accumulations or any power of a trustee under the **Trustee Act 1958** or under any other Act or law or under any instrument creating a trust or making a disposition.

Consequential

S. 20
repealed by
No. 28/2007
s. 3(Sch.
item 51).

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ENDNOTES

1. General Information

The **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968** was assented to on 10 December 1968 and came into operation on 10 December 1968.

2. Table of Amendments

This Version incorporates amendments made to the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968** by Acts and subordinate instruments.

Supreme Court Act 1986, No. 110/1986

Assent Date: 16.12.86
Commencement Date: 1.1.87: s. 2
Current State: All of Act in operation

Statute Law Revision Act 2000, No. 74/2000

Assent Date: 21.11.00
Commencement Date: S. 3(Sch. 1 item 97) on 22.11.00: s. 2(1)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**

Statute Law Amendment (Relationships) Act 2001, No. 27/2001

Assent Date: 12.6.01
Commencement Date: S. 3(Sch. 1 item 8) on 28.6.01: Government Gazette 28.6.01 p. 1428
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**

Statute Law Revision Act 2007, No. 28/2007

Assent Date: 26.6.07
Commencement Date: S. 3(Sch. item 51) on 27.6.07: s. 2(1)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**

Relationships Act 2008, No. 12/2008

Assent Date: 15.4.08
Commencement Date: S. 73(1)(Sch. 1 item 46) on 1.12.08: s. 2(2)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**

Relationships Amendment (Caring Relationships) Act 2009, No. 4/2009

Assent Date: 10.2.09
Commencement Date: S. 37(Sch. 1 item 20) on 1.12.09: s. 2(2)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968**

3. Explanatory Details

No entries at date of publication.