

Version No. 091
Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Version incorporating amendments as at 5 April 2005

TABLE OF PROVISIONS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. Short title and commencement	1
2. Repeals and savings	1
2A. Offences under this Act deemed to be indictable offences	2
PART I—DEFAMATORY WORDS AND LIBEL	3
3. Definitions	3
3A. Reports of proceedings of Australian Parliaments and Courts privileged	3
4. No action maintainable against a person for faithfully reporting	4
5. Newspaper reports of proceedings of municipal councils privileged	4
5A. Certain crime reports privileged	5
6. Offer of apology admissible evidence in mitigation of damages	6
7. Libel inserted in newspaper without malice	7
8. Action for words imputing unchastity to female	7
9. Publishing any libel with intent to extort money	7
10. Publisher of false defamatory libel	8
11. Trial for defamatory libel	8
12. Damages recovered in other actions for same libel	10
13. Costs	10
PART IA—PUBLISHERS	11
13A. Application of Part	11
13B. Definitions	11
13C. Identification of publisher	12
13D. Transitional provisions	12
PART II—SEDUCTION	13
14. Proof of loss of service in actions of seduction unnecessary	13

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
PART IIA—OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY	14
14A. Definitions	14
14B. Liability of occupiers	14
14C. Liability of Crown	16
14D. Application of Part V	16
14E. Transitional	16
PART IIB—NEGLIGENCE—INTOXICATION AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY	17
14F. Common law	17
14G. Consideration of intoxication and illegal activity	17
14H. Application	17
PART IIC—APOLOGIES	18
14I. Definitions	18
14J. Apology not admission of liability	18
14K. Reduction or waiver of fees	19
14L. Application	20
PART III—WRONGFUL ACT OR NEGLIGENCE CAUSING DEATH	21
15. <i>Repealed</i>	21
16. Liability for death caused wrongfully	21
17. Action for death caused wrongfully	21
18. Action for damages by persons interested	22
19. Assessment of damages	22
19A. Limitation on damages for loss of gratuitous care	24
19B. Calculation of damages for gratuitous care	25
19C. Application of sections 19A and 19B	26
20. Application to court as to cause of action under this Part	27
21. Particulars of demand	30
22. Payment into court	30
23. Mental or nervous shock	31
23AA. Regulations	31
23AB. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	31
23AC. Transitional for gratuitous care	31
23AD. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	32
PART IV—CONTRIBUTION	33
23A. Definitions	33
23B. Entitlement to contribution	34
24. Recovery of contribution	35
24AA. Proceedings against persons jointly liable for the same debt or damage	38

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
24AB. Successive actions against persons liable (jointly or otherwise) for the same damage	38
24AC. Application to the Crown	38
24AD. Savings	39
PART IVAA—PROPORTIONATE LIABILITY	41
24AE. Definitions	41
24AF. Application of Part	42
24AG. What claims are excluded from this Part?	42
24AH. Who is a concurrent wrongdoer?	43
24AI. Proportionate liability for apportionable claims	44
24AJ. Contribution not recoverable from defendant	44
24AK. Subsequent actions	45
24AL. Joining non-party concurrent wrongdoer in the action	45
24AM. What if a defendant is fraudulent?	46
24AN. Liability for contributory negligence not affected	46
24AO. Effect of Part IV	46
24AP. Part not to affect other liability	46
24AQ. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	47
24AR. Regulations	47
24AS. Transitional	47
PART IVA—ABOLITION OF DOCTRINE OF COMMON EMPLOYMENT	48
24A. Abolition of doctrine of common employment	48
PART V—CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE	49
25. Definitions	49
26. Liability for contributory negligence	50
27. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	51
28. Non-application of this Part	52
28AA. Transitional provision	52
PART VA—ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES	53
28A. Damages for deprivation or impairment of earning capacity	53
PART VB—PERSONAL INJURY DAMAGES	54
28B. Definitions	54
28C. Application of Part	55
28D. General regulation of court awards	57
28E. Part does not give rise to any cause of action	57
28F. Damages for past or future economic loss—maximum for loss of earnings etc.	57
28G. Fixing damages for non-economic loss	58

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
28H. Indexation of maximum amount for non-economic loss	58
28HA. Tariffs for damages for non-economic loss	59
28I. Damages for future economic loss—discount rate	60
28IA. Limitation on damages for gratuitous attendant care	60
28IB. Calculation of damages	61
28IC. Other laws not to be affected	62
28ID. Limitation on damages for loss of capacity to provide care for others	62
28IE. Calculation of damages for gratuitous care	63
28IF. Application of sections 28ID and 28IE	64
28J. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	64
28K. Regulations	65
28L. Transitional	65
28LA. Transitional for gratuitous attendant care services	66
28LAB. Transitional for tariffs for damages for non-economic loss	66
28LAC. Transitional for gratuitous care	67
PART VBA—THRESHOLDS IN RELATION TO RECOVERY OF DAMAGES FOR NON-ECONOMIC LOSS	68
Division 1—Introductory	68
28LB. Definitions	68
28LC. Application of Part	71
28LD. This Part is substantive law	72
Division 2—Restriction on Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss	72
28LE. Restriction on recovery of damages for non-economic loss	72
28LF. What is significant injury?	72
Division 3—Assessment of Impairment	74
28LG. Who can assess impairment?	74
28LH. How is the degree of impairment to be assessed?	74
28LI. Assessment of psychiatric impairment	74
28LJ. Regard not to be had to secondary psychiatric or psychological impairment	75
28LK. Assessment of hearing impairment	75
28LL. Assessment in relation to injuries arising out of the same incident	76
28LM. Prescribed methods for assessment	76
28LN. Certificate of assessment	76
28LNA. Certificate where injury not stabilised	77
Division 4—Procedure for Claim for Non-Economic Loss	77
28LO. Agreement to waive assessment of impairment	77
28LP. What if the respondent asks for more information?	79
28LQ. What if the respondent disputes responsibility?	79

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
28LR. Can a respondent bind any other respondent?	80
28LS. <i>Repealed</i>	80
28LT. Copy of certificate of assessment to be served on respondent	80
28LU. Multiple respondents	81
28LV. Limitation period suspended	82
28LW. Response to medical assessment	82
28LWA. What if the respondent asks for more information?	84
28LWB. What if the respondent disputes responsibility?	84
28LWC. Can a respondent bind any other respondent?	85
28LWD. Statement not admission of liability	85
28LWE. Referral of medical question to Medical Panel	85
28LX. Respondent to pay costs of referral	86
28LXA. Administration	86
Division 5—Procedure of Medical Panel	88
28LY. Application	88
28LZ. Procedure of Medical Panel	88
28LZA. Respondent must provide information to Medical Panel	89
28LZB. What if there is more than one referral in relation to an assessment?	90
28LZC. What can a Medical Panel ask a claimant to do?	90
28LZD. Attendance before Medical Panel to be private	91
28LZE. Medical Panel can ask a registered health practitioner to attend	91
28LZF. Protection of information given to Medical Panel	92
28LZG. Determination of Panel	92
28LZGA. Further assessment	94
28LZH. Effect of determination as to threshold level	95
28LZI. Limitations on appeal in relation to assessments and determinations	95
28LZJ. Treating medical practitioner not to be on Medical Panel	96
28LZK. Validity of acts or decisions	96
28LZL. Operation of Panel provisions of the Accident Compensation Act	96
Division 6—Proceedings on Claim	97
28LZM. Provision of assessment information to court	97
28LZN. Alternative procedure for special cases	98
Division 7—General	98
28LZO. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	98
28LZP. Regulations	99
28LZQ. Transitional	100

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
PART VC—STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS	101
28M. Definitions	101
28N. Court may make order for structured settlement	102
PART VI—DAMAGE BY AIRCRAFT	103
29. Definitions	103
30. Limitation of liability for trespass or nuisance by flying over property	103
31. Liability for damage by aircraft or articles falling therefrom	104
PART VIA—GOOD SAMARITAN PROTECTION	106
31A. Definition	106
31B. Protection of good samaritans	106
31C. Application of section 31B	107
31D. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	107
PART VIB—FOOD DONOR PROTECTION	108
31E. Interpretation	108
31F. Protection of food donors	108
31G. Application of section 31F	109
31H. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	109
PART VII—ABOLITION OF LIABILITY IN TORT FOR MAINTENANCE OR CHAMPERTY	110
32. Abolition of liability in maintenance or champerty	110
PART VIII—ANIMALS STRAYING ON TO A HIGHWAY	111
33. Liability for negligence for animals on highway	111
PART IX—VOLUNTEER PROTECTION	112
34. Definitions	112
35. Meaning of "volunteer"	112
36. Meaning of "community work"	114
37. Protection of volunteers from liability	115
38. Exceptions to section 37(1)	115
39. Provisions concerning the liability of community organisations	116
40. Certain indemnities etc. have no effect	117
41. Application of section 37	117
42. Regulations	117

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
PART X—NEGLIGENCE	118
Division 1—Preliminary	118
43. Definitions	118
44. Application of Part	118
45. Exclusions from Part	119
46. Application to contract	120
47. Effect of this Part on the common law	120
Division 2—Duty of Care	120
48. General principles	120
49. Other principles	121
50. Duty to warn of risk—reasonable care	122
Division 3—Causation	122
51. General principles	122
52. Burden of proof	123
Division 4—Awareness of Risk	123
53. Meaning of obvious risk	123
54. Voluntary assumption of risk	124
55. No liability for materialisation of inherent risk	124
56. Plaintiff to prove unawareness of risk	125
Division 5—Negligence of professionals and persons professing particular skills	126
57. Definition	126
58. Standard of care to be expected of persons holding out as possessing a particular skill	126
59. Standard of care for professionals	126
60. Duty to warn of risk	127
Division 6—Non-delegable duties and vicarious liability	127
61. Liability based on non-delegable duty	127
Division 7—Contributory Negligence	128
62. Standard of care for contributory negligence	128
63. Contributory negligence can defeat claim	128
Division 8—General	128
64. Regulations	128
65. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	128
66. Transitional	129

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
PART XI—MENTAL HARM	130
67. Definitions	130
68. Application of Part	131
69. Exclusions from Part	131
70. Application to contract	132
71. Effect of this Part on the common law	132
72. Mental harm—duty of care	133
73. Limitation on recovery of damages for pure mental harm arising from shock	133
74. Limitation on recovery of damages for consequential mental harm	134
75. Liability for economic loss for mental harm	135
76. Regulations	135
77. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	135
78. Transitional	135
PART XII—LIABILITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	136
79. Definitions	136
80. Application of Part	137
81. Exclusions from Part	137
82. Effect of this Part on the common law	138
83. Principles concerning resources, responsibilities etc. of public authorities	138
84. Wrongful exercise of or failure to exercise function	139
85. Exercise of function or decision to exercise does not create duty	140
86. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction	140
87. Transitional	140
SCHEDULE	141
ENDNOTES	142
1. General Information	142
2. Table of Amendments	143
3. Explanatory Details	147

Version No. 091
Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Version incorporating amendments as at 5 April 2005

An Act to consolidate the Law relating to Wrongs.

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 commencement

This Act may be cited as the **Wrongs Act 1958**, and shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette.

S. 1
amended by
Nos 7884
s. 4(1), 9353
s. 2(a), 9995
s. 2(1), 10078
s. 4, 10227
s. 8(a),
25/1989 s. 38.

2. Repeals and savings

- (1) The Acts mentioned in the Schedule to the extent thereby expressed to be repealed are hereby repealed accordingly.
- (2) Except as in this Act expressly or by necessary implication provided—
 - (a) all persons things and circumstances appointed or created by or under the repealed Acts or existing or continuing under any of such Acts immediately before the commencement of this Act shall under and subject to this Act continue to have the same status operation and effect as they respectively would have had if such Acts had not been so repealed;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

s. 2A

(b) in particular and without affecting the generality of the foregoing paragraph such repeal shall not disturb the continuity of status operation or effect of any order notice information liability or right made given laid accrued incurred or acquired or existing or continuing by or under any of such Acts before the commencement of this Act.

S. 2A
inserted by
No. 51/1989
s. 148.

2A. Offences under this Act deemed to be indictable offences

Offences under this Act are, unless the contrary intention appears, deemed to be indictable offences.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 3

PART I—DEFAMATORY WORDS AND LIBEL

3. Definitions

No. 3807 s. 3.

In this Part unless inconsistent with the context or subject-matter—

* * * * *

S. 3 def. of "information" repealed by No. 9576 s. 11(1).

* * * * *

S. 3 def. of "municipal council" repealed by No. 12/1989 s. 4(1)(Sch. 2 item 136.1).

"presentment" includes indictment.

S. 3 def. of "presentment" inserted by No. 9576 s. 11(1).

3A. Reports of proceedings of Australian Parliaments and Courts privileged

S. 3A inserted by No. 9292 s. 2.

- (1) The publication of a fair and accurate report of the proceedings of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, the Parliament of a State of the Commonwealth, or the legislature of a Territory of the Commonwealth, or of the proceedings in public of any Committee of any such Parliament or legislature shall be privileged unless the publication is proved to be made with malice.
- (2) The publication of a fair and accurate report of the proceedings in public of a court of the Commonwealth or of a State or a Territory of the Commonwealth (not being the State of Victoria) shall be privileged unless the publication is proved to be made with malice.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 4

S. 3A(2A)
inserted by
No. 9708 s. 2.

(2A) The publication of a fair and accurate report of the proceedings in public of any person appointed under the law of the Commonwealth or a State or Territory of the Commonwealth to hold a public inquiry shall be privileged unless the publication is proven to be made with malice.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or abridge any privilege existing by law.

No. 3807 s. 4.
S. 4
amended by
Nos 7876
s. 2(3), 9576
s. 11(1), 10257
s. 93, 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.1).

4. No action maintainable against a person for faithfully reporting

No action or presentment shall be maintainable against any person for publishing a faithful and accurate report of proceedings in any court of justice, or other legally constituted court or in any inquest under the **Coroners Act 1958** or investigation under the **Coroners Act 1985**: Provided always that it shall not be lawful to publish any matter of an obscene or blasphemous nature nor any proceedings in any court which are not concluded and which the judge magistrate coroner or other presiding officer may pronounce it improper to publish at their then stage.

Nos 3807 s. 5,
4191 s. 2.

5. Newspaper reports of proceedings of municipal councils privileged

(1) A fair and accurate report published in any public newspaper or other periodical publication of the proceedings of any meeting of a municipal council (except where neither the public nor any newspaper reporter is admitted) shall be privileged provided it is proved that such report was published bona fide and without malice.

(2) Nothing in this section shall authorize the publication of any blasphemous or indecent matter.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 5A

-
- (3) This section shall not be available as a defence in any proceedings if it is proved that the defendant has been requested to insert in the newspaper or periodical publication in which the report complained of appeared a reasonable letter or statement by way of contradiction or explanation of such report and has refused or neglected to insert the letter or statement or to give to the same at least equal prominence to that which was given to the original report.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be deemed or construed to limit or abridge any privilege now by law existing or to protect the publication of any matter not of public concern and the publication of which is not for the public benefit.

5A. Certain crime reports privileged

S. 5A
inserted by
No. 25/1989
s. 39.

- (1) This section applies to any document issued for publication by the Chief Commissioner of Police or on his or her behalf by a member of the police force of or above the rank of inspector for the purpose of protecting the public or gaining information that may be of assistance in the investigation of an alleged crime.
- (2) The publication—
- (a) in any public newspaper or other periodical publication; or
 - (b) by transmission to the general public in a radio or television program—
- of a copy, or a fair and accurate report or summary, of a document to which this section applies is privileged unless the publication is proved to be made with malice.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 6

-
- (3) If in a proceeding the plaintiff proves that the defendant was requested by the plaintiff to publish a reasonable letter or statement by way of contradiction or explanation of the copy document, report or summary published by the defendant, then sub-section (2) is not available as a defence unless the defendant proves that the defendant published the letter or statement within a reasonable time after the request and in such a manner that it was likely to come to the notice of the same general audience as the copy document, report or summary.
 - (4) This section does not limit or abridge any privilege existing by law.
 - (5) Sub-section (2) is available only as a defence with respect to a publication made on or after 26 March 1989.

No. 3807 s. 6.

6. Offer of apology admissible evidence in mitigation of damages

In any action for defamation it shall be lawful for the defendant (after notice in writing of his intention so to do duly given to the plaintiff at the time of delivering the defence in such action) to give in evidence in mitigation of damages that he made or offered an apology to the plaintiff for such defamation before the commencement of the action or as soon afterwards as he had an opportunity of doing so in case the action has been commenced before there was an opportunity of making or offering such apology.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 7

7. Libel inserted in newspaper without malice

No. 3807 s. 7.

In an action for a libel contained in any public newspaper or other periodical publication it shall be competent to the defendant to plead that such libel was inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication without actual malice and without gross negligence, and that before the commencement of the action or at the earliest opportunity afterwards he inserted in such newspaper or other periodical publication a full apology for the said libel, or, if the newspaper or periodical publication in which the said libel appeared should be ordinarily published at intervals exceeding one week, had offered to publish the said apology in any newspaper or periodical publication to be selected by the plaintiff in such action; and every such defendant shall before pleading such defence be at liberty to pay into court a sum of money by way of amends for the injury sustained by the publication of such libel, and to such defence to such action it shall be competent to the plaintiff to reply generally denying the whole of such defence.

8. Action for words imputing unchastity to female

No. 3807 s. 8.

Words spoken and published of any woman imputing to her a want of chastity shall be and shall be deemed to be slander, and an action shall be sustainable for such words in the same manner and to the same extent as for words charging an indictable offence.

9. Publishing any libel with intent to extort money

No. 3807 s. 9.

S. 9
amended by
No. 9945
s. 3(3)(Sch. 2
item 42).

Every person who publishes or threatens to publish any libel upon any other person, or directly or indirectly prints or publishes, or directly or indirectly proposes to abstain from printing or publishing, or directly or indirectly offers to prevent the printing or publishing of any

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 10

matter or thing touching any other person with intent to extort any money or security for money or any valuable thing from such or any other person, or with intent to induce any person to confer or procure for any person any appointment or office of profit or trust, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than three years:

Provided always that nothing herein contained shall in any manner alter or affect any law now or hereafter to be in force in respect of the sending or delivery of threatening letters or writings.

No. 3807 s. 10.

10. Publisher of false defamatory libel

S. 10(1)
amended by
No. 9945
s. 3(3)(Sch. 2
item 42).

(1) Every person who maliciously publishes any defamatory libel knowing the same to be false shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years and to pay such fine as the court awards.

S. 10(2)
amended by
No. 9945
s. 3(3)(Sch. 2
item 42).

(2) Every person who maliciously publishes any defamatory libel shall be liable to fine or imprisonment or both as the court may award such imprisonment not to exceed the term of one year.

No. 3807 s. 11.

11. Trial for defamatory libel

S. 11(1)
amended by
No. 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.2).

(1) On the trial of any charge for a defamatory libel, the defendant having pleaded such plea as is hereinafter mentioned, the truth of the matters charged may be inquired into, but shall not amount to a defence unless it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published; and to entitle the defendant to give evidence of the truth of such matters charged as a defence to such charge it shall be necessary for the defendant in pleading to the said charge to allege the truth of the said matters charged in the same manner as in pleading a justification to an action of defamation, and further to allege that it was for

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 11

the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published and the particular fact or facts by reason whereof it was for the public benefit that the said matters charged should be published; to which plea the prosecutor shall be at liberty to reply generally denying the whole thereof; and if after such plea the defendant is convicted on such charge it shall be competent to the court in pronouncing sentence to consider whether the guilt of the defendant is aggravated or mitigated by the said plea or by the evidence given to prove or disprove the same:

Provided always that the truth of the matters charged in the alleged libel complained of by such charge shall in no case be inquired into without such plea of justification:

Provided also that in addition to such plea it shall be competent to the defendant to plead a plea of not guilty:

Provided also that nothing in this Act contained shall take away or prejudice any defence under the plea of not guilty which it is now competent to the defendant to make under such plea to any charge for defamatory words or libel.

- (2) Whensoever upon the trial of any charge for the publication of a libel under the plea of not guilty evidence has been given which establishes a presumptive case of publication against the defendant by the act of any other person by his authority, it shall be competent to such defendant to prove that such publication was made without his authority consent or knowledge and that the said publication did not arise from want of due care or caution on his part.

S. 11(2)
amended by
No. 57/1989
s. 3(Sch. item
223.2).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part I—Defamatory Words and Libel

s. 12

No. 4070 s. 2.

12. Damages recovered in other actions for same libel

At the trial of an action for a libel contained in any newspaper the defendant shall be at liberty to give in evidence in mitigation of damages that the plaintiff has already recovered damages or has received or agreed to receive compensation in respect of a libel or libels to the same purport or effect as the libel for which such action has been brought.

No. 3807 s. 12.

S. 13

amended by
Nos 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.3),
35/1996
s. 453(Sch. 1
item 90.1).

13. Costs

In case of any charge by a private prosecutor for the publication of any defamatory libel if judgment is given for the defendant, he shall be entitled to recover from the prosecutor the costs sustained by the said defendant by reason of such charge; and upon a special plea of justification to such charge if the issue is found for the prosecutor, he shall be entitled to recover from the defendant the costs sustained by the prosecutor by reason of such plea, such costs so to be recovered by the defendant or prosecutor respectively to be assessed by the proper officer of the court before which the said charge is tried.

PART IA—PUBLISHERS

Pt 1A
(Heading and
ss 13A–13D)
inserted by
No. 56/1998
s. 4.

13A. Application of Part

This Part applies to a document published after the commencement of section 4 of the **Printers and Newspapers (Repeal) Act 1998**.

S. 13A
inserted by
No. 56/1998
s. 4.

13B. Definitions

(1) In this Part—

"document" means a document in paper form and includes a book, newspaper, pamphlet, leaflet, circular, advertisement, poster, magazine and other periodical publication but does not include a document consisting only of a representation of a work of art;

"publish", in relation to a document, means sell or distribute (whether to the public generally or to a restricted class or number of persons) or publicly display.

(2) A person who, on behalf of another person, sells or distributes (whether to the public generally or to a restricted class or number of persons) or publicly displays a document does not publish the document for the purposes of this Part.

S. 13B
inserted by
No. 56/1998
s. 4.

s. 13C

S. 13C
inserted by
No. 56/1998
s. 4.

13C. Identification of publisher

- (1) A person who publishes a document intended for sale or distribution (whether to the public generally or to a restricted class or number of persons) or for public display must print on the document sufficient information to enable a person to reasonably identify the person who published the document.

Penalty: 120 penalty units.

- (2) A person who publishes a document is to be taken to have satisfied the requirement in sub-section (1) if the person prints on the document in a conspicuous place and in durable, legible characters the name of that person, or if that person carries on business under a name registered under the **Business Names Act 1962**, that name, and the address of that person or the place at which that person carries on business.
- (3) It is a defence if a person charged with an offence against sub-section (1) proves that the document was not published in Victoria.
- (4) An offence against sub-section (1) is a summary offence.

S. 13D
inserted by
No. 56/1998
s. 4.

13D. Transitional provisions

Despite the repeal of the **Printers and Newspapers Act 1958**, any recognisance entered into under section 21 of that Act ceases to have effect except in relation to any conviction referred to in that section in proceedings that had been commenced but not completed before the repeal of that Act.

PART II—SEDUCTION

14. Proof of loss of service in actions of seduction unnecessary

No. 3807 s. 13.

In any action of seduction brought by a parent or person in loco parentis it shall not be necessary for the plaintiff to allege or give evidence of loss of service to the plaintiff by the woman or girl seduced or that between them there was the relation of master and servant but such loss of service and relation shall be conclusively presumed in favour of the plaintiff.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IIA—Occupiers' Liability

s. 14A

Pt 2A
(Heading and
ss 14A–14D)
inserted by
No. 9995
s. 2(2).

PART IIA—OCCUPIERS' LIABILITY

S. 14A
inserted by
No. 9995
s. 2(2).

14A. Definitions

In this Part—

- (a) a reference to the occupier of premises includes a reference to the landlord of premises let under a tenancy (including a statutory tenancy not amounting in law to a tenancy) who—
 - (i) is under an obligation to the tenant to maintain or repair the premises; or
 - (ii) is, or could have put himself in, a position to exercise a right to enter on the premises to carry out maintenance or repairs; and
- (b) a reference to premises includes a reference to any fixed or moveable structure, including any vessel, vehicle or aircraft.

S. 14B
inserted by
No. 9995
s. 2(2).

14B. Liability of occupiers

- (1) The provisions of this Part apply in place of the rules of the common law which before the commencement of the **Occupiers' Liability Act 1983** determined the standard of care that an occupier was required to show towards persons entering on his premises in respect of dangers to them.
- (2) Except as is provided by sub-section (1) the rules of common law are not affected by this Part with respect to the liability of occupiers to persons entering on their premises.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IIA—Occupiers' Liability

s. 14B

-
- (3) An occupier of premises owes a duty to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that any person on the premises will not be injured or damaged by reason of the state of the premises or of things done or omitted to be done in relation to the state of the premises.
- (4) Without restricting the generality of sub-section (3), in determining whether the duty of care under sub-section (3) has been discharged consideration shall be given to—
- (a) the gravity and likelihood of the probable injury;
 - (b) the circumstances of the entry onto the premises;
 - (c) the nature of the premises;
 - (d) the knowledge which the occupier has or ought to have of the likelihood of persons or property being on the premises;
 - (e) the age of the person entering the premises;
 - (f) the ability of the person entering the premises to appreciate the danger;
 - (fa) whether the person entering the premises is intoxicated by alcohol or drugs voluntarily consumed and the level of intoxication;
 - (fb) whether the person entering the premises is engaged in an illegal activity;
 - (g) the burden on the occupier of eliminating the danger or protecting the person entering the premises from the danger as compared to the risk of the danger to the person.

S. 14B(4)(fa)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 3.

S. 14B(4)(fb)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 3.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IIA—Occupiers' Liability

s. 14C

- (5) Nothing in this section affects any obligation to which an occupier of premises is subject by reason of any other Act or any statutory rule or any contract.

S. 14C
inserted by
No. 9995
s. 2(2).

14C. Liability of Crown

Where the Crown is an occupier or landlord of premises, the Crown shall, in its capacity as occupier or landlord of premises, owe the same duty to persons and property on the premises as it would owe if it were a subject, and shall be liable accordingly.

S. 14D
inserted by
No. 9995
s. 2(2).

14D. Application of Part V

Part V shall apply in relation to any claim brought under this Part by a person against an occupier of premises in respect of injury or damage.

S. 14E
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 4.

14E. Transitional

The amendment of section 14B by section 3 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002** applies to claims brought under this Part in which the statement of claim or complaint is issued on or after the commencement of section 3 of that Act.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IIB—Negligence—Intoxication and Illegal Activity

s. 14F

**PART IIB—NEGLIGENCE—INTOXICATION AND ILLEGAL
ACTIVITY**

Pt 2B
(Heading and
ss 14F–14H)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 5.

14F. Common law

Except as provided by section 14G, this Part is not intended to affect the rules of common law applicable to negligence.

S. 14F
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 5.

14G. Consideration of intoxication and illegal activity

- (1) This section applies to a claim for damages in respect of death or personal injury brought by a person (**the plaintiff**) against another person (**the defendant**) alleging negligence.
- (2) In determining whether the plaintiff has established a breach of the duty of care owed by the defendant, the court must consider, among other things—
 - (a) whether the plaintiff was intoxicated by alcohol or drugs voluntarily consumed and the level of intoxication;
 - (b) whether the plaintiff was engaged in an illegal activity.

S. 14G
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 5.

14H. Application

This Part applies to claims in which the statement of claim or complaint is issued on or after the commencement of section 5 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002**.

S. 14H
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 5.

Pt 2C
(Heading and
ss 14I–14L)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 6.

PART IIC—APOLOGIES

S. 14I
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 6.

14I. Definitions

In this Part—

"apology" means an expression of sorrow, regret or sympathy but does not include a clear acknowledgment of fault;

"civil proceeding" includes—

- (a) a proceeding before a tribunal; and
- (b) a proceeding under an Act regulating the practice or conduct of a profession or occupation; and
- (c) an inquiry by a board appointed or by a commission of inquiry issued under Division 5 of Part I of the **Evidence Act 1958**;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease.

S. 14J
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 6.

14J. Apology not admission of liability

- (1) In a civil proceeding where the death or injury of a person is in issue or is relevant to an issue of fact or law, an apology does not constitute—
 - (a) an admission of liability for the death or injury; or

-
- (b) an admission of unprofessional conduct, carelessness, incompetence or unsatisfactory professional performance, however expressed, for the purposes of any Act regulating the practice or conduct of a profession or occupation.
 - (2) Sub-section (1) applies whether the apology—
 - (a) is made orally or in writing; or
 - (b) is made before or after the civil proceeding was in contemplation or commenced.
 - (3) Nothing in this section affects the admissibility of a statement with respect to a fact in issue or tending to establish a fact in issue.

14K. Reduction or waiver of fees

S. 14K
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 6.

- (1) In a civil proceeding where the death or injury of a person is in issue or is relevant to an issue of fact or law and it is alleged that the death or injury occurred as a consequence of the provision of a service, a reduction or waiver of the fees payable for the service or a related service does not constitute—
 - (a) an admission of liability for the death or injury; or
 - (b) an admission of unprofessional conduct, carelessness, incompetence or unsatisfactory professional performance, however expressed, for the purposes of any Act regulating the practice or conduct of a profession or occupation.
- (2) Sub-section (1) applies whether the reduction or waiver of fees—
 - (a) is made orally or in writing; or
 - (b) is made before or after the civil proceeding was in contemplation or commenced.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958
Part IIC—Apologies

s. 14L

-
- (3) Nothing in this section affects the admissibility of a statement with respect to a fact in issue or tending to establish a fact in issue.

S. 14L
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 6.

14L. Application

This Part applies to an apology or reduction or waiver of fees made on or after the commencement of section 6 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002**.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 16

PART III—WRONGFUL ACT OR NEGLIGENCE CAUSING DEATH

* * * * *

S. 15
amended by
No. 8602 s. 12,
repealed by
No. 9856 s. 2.¹

16. Liability for death caused wrongfully

No. 3807 s. 15.
S. 16
amended by
No. 9576
s. 11(1).

Whensoever the death of a person is caused by a wrongful act neglect or default and the act neglect or default is such as would (if death had not ensued) have entitled the party injured to maintain an action and recover damages in respect thereof, then and in every such case the person who would have been liable if death had not ensued shall be liable to an action for damages notwithstanding the death of the person injured.

17. Action for death caused wrongfully²

No. 3807 s. 16.
S. 17
amended by
No. 9856
s. 3(a)(b).

(1) Every such action shall be for the benefit of the dependants of the person whose death has been so caused and shall be brought by and in the name of the executor or administrator of the person deceased; and in every such action the jury or the court if the trial is without a jury may give such damages as they or it think proportioned to the injury resulting from such death to the parties respectively for whom and for whose benefit such action is brought; and the amount so recovered after deducting the costs not recovered from the defendant shall be divided amongst the before-mentioned parties in such shares as the jury or court by their or its verdict find and direct.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 18

S. 17(2)
inserted by
No. 9856 s. 4.

- (2) In sub-section (1) the word "**dependants**" means such persons as were wholly mainly or in part dependent on the person deceased at the time of his death or who would but for the incapacity due to the injury which led to the death have been so dependent.

No. 3807 s. 17.

18. Action for damages by persons interested

Where in any of the cases provided for by this Part there is no executor or administrator of the person deceased, or where no action as in this Part mentioned has within six months after the death of the deceased person been brought by his executor or administrator, then and in every such case such action may be brought by all or any of the persons (if more than one) for whose benefit such action would have been if it had been brought by such executor or administrator; and every action so to be brought shall be for the benefit of the same person or persons and shall be subject to the same procedure as nearly as may be if it were brought by such an executor or administrator.

S. 19
substituted by
No. 7496 s. 2,
amended by
No. 6/2004 s. 3
(ILA s. 39B(1)).

19. Assessment of damages

- (1) In assessing damages in any action under this Part, whether commenced before or after the passing of the **Wrongs (Assessment of Damages) Act 1966**, there shall not be taken into account—
- (a) a sum paid or payable on the death of the deceased person under any contract of assurance or insurance (including a contract made with a friendly or other benefit society or association or trade union);
 - (b) a sum paid or payable out of any superannuation provident or like fund;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 19

(c) a sum paid or payable by way of pension benefit or allowance under any law of the Commonwealth or the State or under the law of any other State territory or country; or

(d) a sum paid or payable as a gratuity—

whether any such sum is paid or payable to the estate of the deceased person or to any person for whose benefit the action is brought.

(2) In assessing damages in an action under this Part, that is commenced on or after the commencement of the **Wrongs (Remarriage Discount) Act 2004**, no separate reduction may be made on account of—

S. 19(2)
inserted by
No. 6/2004
s. 3.

(a) the remarriage or formation of a domestic partnership; or

(b) the prospects of remarriage or formation of a domestic partnership—

of the surviving spouse or domestic partner, or a surviving former spouse or former domestic partner, of the deceased person.

(3) In sub-section (2)—

S. 19(3)
inserted by
No. 6/2004
s. 3.

"domestic partner" of a person who dies means an adult person to whom the person was not married at the time of death but with whom the person was in a relationship as a couple where one or each of them provided personal or financial commitment and support of a domestic nature for the material benefit of the other, irrespective of their genders and whether or not they were living under the same roof, but does not include a person who provided domestic support and personal care to the person—

(a) for fee or reward; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 19A

- (b) on behalf of another person or an organisation (including a government or government agency, a body corporate or a charitable or benevolent organisation);

"spouse" of a person who dies means a person who was married to the person at the time of the person's death.

S. 19(4)
inserted by
No. 6/2004
s. 3.

- (4) For the purposes of the definition of "domestic partner" in sub-section (3), in determining whether persons were domestic partners of each other, all the circumstances of their relationship are to be taken into account, including any one or more of the matters referred to in section 275(2) of the **Property Law Act 1958** as may be relevant in a particular case.

S. 19(5)
inserted by
No. 6/2004
s. 3.

- (5) Except as provided in this section, nothing in this section affects any other law relating to damages in an action under this Part.

S. 19A
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 4.

19A. Limitation on damages for loss of gratuitous care

In an action under this Part, no damages may be awarded for a loss of gratuitous care provided or to be provided by the deceased to his or her dependants unless the court is satisfied that—

- (a) the care—
- (i) was provided to the dependants; and
 - (ii) was being provided for at least 6 hours per week; and
 - (iii) had been provided for at least 6 consecutive months before the death, or the injury that caused the death, to which the damages relate; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 19B

-
- (b) there is a reasonable expectation that, but for the death, or the injury that caused the death, of the deceased, the gratuitous care would have been provided to the dependants—
- (i) for at least 6 hours per week; and
 - (ii) for a period of at least 6 consecutive months.

19B. Calculation of damages for gratuitous care

S. 19B
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 4.

- (1) If, in an action under this Part, the court is satisfied that the deceased would (if death, or the injury that caused the death, had not ensued) have provided gratuitous care to his or her dependants for not less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded for the loss of that care must not exceed—
- (a) the amount per week comprising the amount estimated by the Australian Statistician as the average weekly total earnings of all employees in Victoria for—
 - (i) in respect of the whole or any part of a quarter occurring between the date of the death in relation to which the award is made and the date of the award, being a quarter for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at the date of the award, available to the court making the award—that quarter; or
 - (ii) in respect of the whole or any part of any other quarter—the most recent quarter occurring before the date of the award for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at that date, available to the court making the award; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 19C

- (b) if the Australian Statistician fails or ceases to estimate the amount referred to in paragraph (a), the prescribed amount or the amount determined in such manner or by reference to such matters, or both, as may be prescribed.
- (2) If, in an action under this Part, the court is satisfied that the deceased would have provided gratuitous care to his or her dependants for less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded for the loss of that care must not exceed the amount calculated at an hourly rate of one-fortieth of the amount determined in accordance with sub-section (1)(a) or (b), as the case requires.

S. 19C
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 4.

19C. Application of sections 19A and 19B

- (1) Except as provided by sections 19A and 19B, nothing in those sections affects any other law relating to damages arising from loss of gratuitous care.
- (2) Sections 19A and 19B do not apply to the following actions for damages—
 - (a) subject to sub-section (3), an action for damages in respect of an injury that is a dust-related condition within the meaning of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; or
 - (b) subject to sub-section (3), an action for damages in respect of an injury resulting from smoking or other use of tobacco products, within the meaning of the **Tobacco Act 1987**, or exposure to tobacco smoke.
- (3) An action for damages referred to in sub-section (2)(a) or (2)(b) does not include an action for damages that relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 20

20. Application to court as to cause of action under this Part

S. 20
substituted by
No. 8330 s. 2.

(1) Not more than one action shall lie for and in respect of the same subject-matter of complaint, and (subject to sub-section (1A)) every such action shall be commenced within six years after the death of such deceased person or, where an application is made to a court under sub-section (2), within the period referred to in the order of the court.

S. 20(1)
amended by
No. 9884
s. 6(a)(b).

(1A) Where the death of a deceased person was caused by an injury consisting of a disease or disorder contracted by a person and the person did not know before he died—

S. 20(1A)
inserted by
No. 9884 s. 7.

(a) that he had suffered the injury; or

(b) that the injury was caused by the act or omission of some person—

an action in respect of the injury shall be commenced within six years after the date when the person claiming to have a cause of action under this Part first knows—

(c) that the death was caused by the injury; and

(d) that the injury was caused by the act or omission of some person—

or, where an application is made to a court under sub-section (2), within the period referred to in the order of the court.

(2) Where on an application to a court by a person claiming to have a cause of action under this Part, it appears to the court that—

S. 20(2)
amended by
No. 9884 s. 8.

(a) the death of the deceased person was caused by a wrongful act, neglect or default; and

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 20

(b) the deceased did not before his death bring an action in respect of the wrongful act neglect or default—

the court subject to sub-section (3) and after hearing such of the persons likely to be affected by that application as it sees fit, may, if it decides that it is just and reasonable so to do, order that the period within which an action on the cause of action may be brought be extended for such period as it determines.

S. 20(3)
substituted by
No. 9884 s. 9.

- (3) In exercising the powers conferred on it by sub-section (2) a court shall have regard to all the circumstances of the case including (without derogating from the generality of the foregoing) the following—
- (a) the length of and reasons for the delay on the part of the deceased or the claimant or each of them (as the case may be);
 - (b) the extent to which, having regard to the delay, there is or is likely to be prejudice to the defendant;
 - (c) the extent, if any, to which the defendant had taken steps to make available to the deceased or the claimant or each of them (as the case may be) means of ascertaining facts which were or might be relevant to the cause of action of the deceased or the claimant or each of them (as the case may be) against the defendant;
 - (d) the duration of any disability of the deceased arising on or after the date of the accrual of the cause of action;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 20

- (e) the extent to which the deceased or the claimant or each of them (as the case may be) acted promptly and reasonably once he knew in relation to the injury that caused the death that the act or omission to which that injury was attributable might be capable at that time of giving rise to an action for damages;
- (f) the steps, if any, taken by the deceased or the claimant or each of them (as the case may be) to obtain medical legal or other expert advice and the nature of any such advice he may have received.
- (3A) The powers conferred on a court by subsection (2) may be exercised at any time notwithstanding—
- (a) that more than six years has expired since the cause of action accrued; or
- (b) that an action in respect of such personal injuries has been commenced by the claimant.
- (4) Where under this section a question arises as to the knowledge of a deceased person the court may have regard to the conduct and statements oral or in writing of the deceased person.
- (5) A copy of an application under this section must be served on each person against whom the applicant claims to have the cause of action.
- (6) This section applies in respect of a cause of action whether or not the cause of action accrued before the commencement of the **Wrongs Act 1972**.
- (7) This section does not apply in respect of a cause of action to which Part IIA of the **Limitation of Actions Act 1958** applies.

S. 20(3A)
inserted by
No. 9884 s. 9.

S. 20(5)
substituted by
No. 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.4).

S. 20(7)
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 10.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 21

No. 3807 s. 20.
S. 21
amended by
Nos 9153 s. 2,
35/1996
s. 453(Sch. 1
item 90.2).

21. Particulars of demand

In every such action the plaintiff on the record shall be required together with the statement of claim to deliver to the defendant or his legal practitioner full particulars—

- (a) of the person or persons for whom and on whose behalf such action is brought;
- (b) of the nature of the claim in respect of which damages are sought to be recovered;
- (c) of the date of birth of each such person and of the deceased person;
- (d) of the name and address of each person by whom the deceased person was employed at any time within the period of twelve months preceding the day on which he suffered the injury which caused his death;
- (e) of the date of commencement of each such employment and the duration thereof;
- (f) of the total net sum (after deducting instalments of tax deductible therefrom) that the deceased earned in the period of twelve months referred to in paragraph (d).

No. 4070 s. 3.

22. Payment into court

- (1) In any action as in this Part mentioned the defendant may pay money into court as a compensation in one sum to all persons entitled under this Part for the wrongful act neglect or default without specifying the shares into which the sum is to be divided by the jury or the court if the trial is without a jury.
- (2) No portion of the sum paid in shall be paid out of court except under the order of a judge but otherwise the rules of the court for the time being in force relating to payment into and out of court

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 23

and tender and matters associated therewith shall with any necessary modifications apply.

23. Mental or nervous shock

No. 4070 s. 4.

In any action for injury to the person the plaintiff shall not be debarred from recovering damages merely because the injury complained of arose wholly or in part from mental or nervous shock.

23AA. Regulations

S. 23AA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 5.

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed or necessary to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.
- (2) The regulations—
 - (a) may leave any matter to be determined by the Minister; and
 - (b) may apply, adopt or incorporate, wholly or partially or as amended by the regulations, any matter contained in any document as existing or in force—
 - (i) from time to time; or
 - (ii) at a particular time.

23AB. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

S. 23AB
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 5.

It is the intention of sections 19A and 19B to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

23AC. Transitional for gratuitous care

S. 23AC
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 5.

- (1) Sections 19A and 19B extend to an award of damages that relates to a death occurring before, on or after the commencement of section 4 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part III—Wrongful Act or Neglect Causing Death

s. 23AD

-
- (2) Despite sub-section (1), sections 19A and 19B do not apply to an award of damages in proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement of section 4 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**.

S. 23AD
inserted by
No. 6/2004
s. 4.

23AD. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of section 19(2) to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

PART IV—CONTRIBUTION

Pt 4 (Heading)
substituted by
No. 10227
s. 8(b).

S. 23A
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 4.

23A. Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this Part a person is liable in respect of any damage if the person who suffered that damage, or anyone representing the estate or dependents of that person, is entitled to recover compensation from the first-mentioned person in respect of that damage whatever the legal basis of liability, whether tort, breach of contract, breach of trust or otherwise.
- (2) References in this Part to an action brought by or on behalf of the person who suffered any damage includes references to an action brought for the benefit of the estate or dependants of that person.
- (3) In this Part—
 - "action"** includes a proceeding commenced by way of counter-claim;
 - "dependants"** means those persons for whose benefit an action could be brought under Part III;
 - "judgment first given"** means, in a case where that judgment is reversed on appeal, the judgment first given which is not so reversed and, in a case where that judgment is varied on appeal, that judgment as so varied;
 - "writ"** includes—
 - (a) summons;
 - (b) in relation to a proceeding commenced by way of counter-claim, the notice or other document by which the proceeding is first notified to the defendant; and

- (c) in relation to proceedings for contribution under section 23B, the notice or other document by which the proceedings may be originated.

S. 23B
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 4.

23B. Entitlement to contribution

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a person liable in respect of any damage suffered by another person may recover contribution from any other person liable in respect of the same damage (whether jointly with the first-mentioned person or otherwise).
- (2) A person shall be entitled to recover contribution by virtue of sub-section (1) notwithstanding that that person has ceased to be liable in respect of the damage in question since the time when the damage occurred provided that that person was so liable immediately before that person made or was ordered or agreed to make the payment in respect of which the contribution is sought.
- (3) A person shall be liable to make contribution by virtue of sub-section (1) notwithstanding that that person has ceased to be liable in respect of the damage in question since the time when the damage occurred unless that person ceased to be liable by virtue of the expiry of a period of limitation or prescription which extinguished the right on which the claim against that person in respect of the damage was based.
- (4) Subject to section 24(2B), a person who in good faith has made or agreed to make any payment in settlement or compromise of a claim made against that person in respect of any damage (including a payment into court which has been accepted) shall be entitled to recover contribution in accordance with this section without regard to whether or not the person who has made or agreed to make the payment is or ever was liable in respect of the

damage provided that that person would have been liable assuming that the factual basis of the claim against that person could be established.

- (5) Subject to section 24(2B), a judgment given in an action brought by or on behalf of the person who suffered the damage in question against any person from whom contribution is sought under this section shall be conclusive in the proceedings for contribution as to any issue determined by that judgment in favour of the person from whom the contribution is sought.
- (6) References in this section to a person's liability in respect of any damage are references to any such liability which has been or could be established in an action brought against that person in Victoria by or on behalf of the person who suffered the damage and it is immaterial whether any issue arising in any such action was or would be determined (in accordance with the rules of private international law) by reference to the law of a place outside Victoria.

24. Recovery of contribution³

No. 5382 s. 2.

* * * * *

S. 24(1)
amended by
No. 9856
s. 5(a),
repealed by
No. 10227
s. 8(c)(i).

- (2) Subject to sub-sections (2A) and (2B), in any proceedings for contribution under section 23B the amount of the contribution recoverable from any person shall be such as may be found by the jury or by the court if the trial is without a jury to be just and equitable having regard to the extent of that person's responsibility for the damage; and the jury or the court if the trial is without a jury shall have power to exempt any person from liability to make contribution, or to direct that the

S. 24(2)
amended by
No. 10227
s. 5(a).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958
Part IV—Contribution

s. 24

contribution to be recovered from any person shall amount to a complete indemnity.

S. 24(2A)
inserted by
No. 10227
s. 5(b).

- (2A) Where the amount of the damages which have or might have been awarded in respect of the damage in question in an action brought in Victoria by or on behalf of the person who suffered it against the person from whom the contribution is sought was or would have been subject to—
- (a) any limit imposed by or under any enactment or by any agreement made before the damage occurred;
 - (b) any reduction by virtue of section 26; or
 - (c) any corresponding limit or reduction under the law of a place outside Victoria—

the person from whom the contribution is sought shall not by virtue of any contribution awarded under section 23B be required to pay in respect of the damage a greater amount than the amount of those damages as so limited or reduced.

S. 24(2B)
inserted by
No. 10227
s. 5(b).

- (2B) If in any proceedings for contribution under section 23B the jury or the court, if the trial is without a jury, finds that the amount of any payment made or agreed to be made in settlement or compromise of a claim was excessive the jury or the court (as the case requires) in assessing the amount of the contribution recoverable from any person shall disregard any part of the payment which appears to it to have been excessive.

S. 24(2C)
inserted by
No. 10227
s. 5(b).

- (2C) Nothing in sub-section (2B) applies to a settlement or compromise of a claim of a minor or person of unsound mind that has been approved by the court.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958
Part IV—Contribution

s. 24

- (3) No execution for the recovery of contribution under section 23B shall issue without the leave of the court. Upon application for such leave the court may direct that payment to the original plaintiff shall be sufficient satisfaction of the order for contribution.
- (4) Notwithstanding any provision in any statute requiring a notice to be given before action or prescribing the period within which an action may be brought, where under section 23B any person becomes entitled to a right to recover contribution in respect of any damage from any other person, proceedings to recover contribution by virtue of that right may be commenced by the first-mentioned person—
- (a) at any time within the period—
- (i) within which the action against the first-mentioned person might have been commenced; or
- (ii) within the period of twelve months after the writ in the action against the first-mentioned person was served on him—
- whichever is the longer; or
- (b) where another person liable in respect of that damage, within the period within which the action against him might have been commenced or within twelve months after the writ in the action was served on him, serves a writ on the first-mentioned person seeking to recover contribution in respect of that damage from the first-mentioned person—at any time within the period of six months after that writ is so served.

S. 24(3) amended by Nos 10227 s. 8(c)(ii), 57/1989 s. 3(Sch. item 223.5(a)(b)).

S. 24(4) substituted by No. 8330 s. 3(1)(a), amended by No. 10227 s. 6(a).

S. 24(4)(a)(i) amended by No. 10227 s. 6(b).

S. 24(4)(a)(ii) amended by No. 10227 s. 6(b).

S. 24(4)(b) amended by No. 10227 s. 6(c)(d).

* * * * *

S. 24(4A) repealed.⁴

s. 24AA

S. 24(5)
repealed by
No. 10227
s. 8(c)(i),
new s. 24(5)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 6.

(5) For the removal of doubt, if an action (the **existing action**) was commenced in a court against the first-mentioned person referred to in sub-section (4) before 1 October 2003, the period referred to in sub-section (4)(a)(i) is to be taken to be the period within which the existing action might have been brought at the time the existing action was brought.

S. 24(6)
repealed.⁵

* * * * *

S. 24AA
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 7.

24AA. Proceedings against persons jointly liable for the same debt or damage

Judgment recovered against any person liable in respect of any debt or damage shall not be a bar to an action, or to the continuance of an action, against any other person who is (apart from any such bar) jointly liable with the first-mentioned person in respect of the same debt or damage.

S. 24AB
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 7.

24AB. Successive actions against persons liable (jointly or otherwise) for the same damage

If more than one action is brought in respect of any damage by or on behalf of the person by whom it was suffered against persons liable in respect of the damage (whether jointly or otherwise) the plaintiff shall not be entitled to costs in any of those actions, other than that in which judgment is first given, unless the court is of the opinion that there was reasonable ground for bringing the action.

S. 24AC
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 7.

24AC. Application to the Crown

Where the Crown is subject to any liability by virtue of the **Crown Proceedings Act 1958**, this Part shall bind the Crown in respect of the liability to which it is so subject in the same manner and to the same extent as if the Crown were a subject.

24AD. Savings

S. 24AD
inserted by
No. 10227 s. 7.

- (1) This Part as amended by the **Wrongs (Contribution) Act 1985** shall not affect any case where the debt in question became due or (as the case requires) the damage in question occurred before the commencement of that Act.
- (2) A person shall not be entitled to recover contribution or liable to make contribution in accordance with section 23B by reference to any liability based on breach of any obligation assumed by that person before the commencement of the **Wrongs (Contribution) Act 1985**.
- (3) This Part as in force immediately before the commencement of the **Wrongs (Contribution) Act 1985** shall continue to apply with respect to torts committed before the commencement of that Act.
- (4) The right to recover contribution in accordance with section 23B supersedes any right, other than an express contractual right, to recover contribution (as distinct from indemnity) otherwise than under this Part in corresponding circumstances but nothing in this Part shall affect—
 - (a) any express or implied contractual or other right to indemnity; or
 - (b) any express contractual provision regulating or excluding contribution—

which would be enforceable apart from this Part or render enforceable any agreement for indemnity or contribution which would not be enforceable apart from this Part.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958
Part IV—Contribution

s. 24AD

- (5) Nothing in this Part shall—
- (a) affect any criminal proceedings against any person in respect of any wrongful act; or
 - (b) affect the operation of sections 45 to 47 of the **Supreme Court Act 1986**.

S. 24AD(5)(b)
amended by
No. 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.6).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AE

PART IVAA—PROPORTIONATE LIABILITY

Pt IVAA
(Heading and
ss 24AE–
24AS)
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AE. Definitions

S. 24AE
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3 (as
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 36).

In this Part—

"apportionable claim" means a claim to which this Part applies;

"court" includes tribunal and, in relation to a claim for damages, means any court or tribunal by or before which the claim falls to be determined;

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

"defendant" includes any person joined as a defendant or other party in the proceeding (except as a plaintiff) whether joined under this Part, under rules of court or otherwise;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AF

S. 24AF
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3 (as
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 37).

24AF. Application of Part

- (1) This Part applies to—
 - (a) a claim for economic loss or damage to property in an action for damages (whether in tort, in contract, under statute or otherwise) arising from a failure to take reasonable care; and
 - (b) a claim for damages for a contravention of section 9 of the **Fair Trading Act 1999**.
- (2) If a proceeding involves 2 or more apportionable claims arising out of different causes of action, liability for the apportionable claims is to be determined in accordance with this Part as if the claims were a single claim.
- (3) A provision of this Part that gives protection from civil liability does not limit or otherwise affect any protection from liability given by any other provision of this Act or by another Act or law.

S. 24AG
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AG. What claims are excluded from this Part?

- (1) This Part does not apply to claims arising out of an injury.
- (2) Without limiting sub-section (1), this Part does not apply to the following—
 - (a) a claim to which Part 3, 6 or 10 of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** applies;
 - (b) a claim to which Part IV of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies;
 - (c) a claim in respect of an injury which entitles, or may entitle, a worker, or a dependant of a worker, within the meaning of the **Workers Compensation Act 1958** to compensation under that Act;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AH

-
- (d) a claim for compensation under Part V of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** or a claim for compensation under a compensation scheme established under the regulations made under that Act;
 - (e) an application for compensation under Part 3 of the **Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987**;
 - (f) a claim for compensation under Part 6 of the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;
 - (g) an application for compensation under the **Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968**;
 - (h) an application for assistance under the **Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996**;
 - (i) a complaint under the **Equal Opportunity Act 1995**;
 - (j) a claim for compensation under Part 8 of the **Juries Act 2000** or Part VII of the **Juries Act 1967**;
 - (k) a claim for compensation under Division 6 of Part II of the **Education Act 1958**.
- (3) This Part does not apply to claims in proceedings of a class that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part.

24AH. Who is a concurrent wrongdoer?

- (1) A concurrent wrongdoer, in relation to a claim, is a person who is one of 2 or more persons whose acts or omissions caused, independently of each other or jointly, the loss or damage that is the subject of the claim.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part it does not matter that a concurrent wrongdoer is insolvent, is being wound up, has ceased to exist or has died.

S. 24AH
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AI

S. 24AI
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AI. Proportionate liability for apportionable claims

- (1) In any proceeding involving an apportionable claim—
 - (a) the liability of a defendant who is a concurrent wrongdoer in relation to that claim is limited to an amount reflecting that proportion of the loss or damage claimed that the court considers just having regard to the extent of the defendant's responsibility for the loss or damage; and
 - (b) judgment must not be given against the defendant for more than that amount in relation to that claim.
- (2) If the proceeding involves both an apportionable claim and a claim that is not an apportionable claim—
 - (a) liability for the apportionable claim is to be determined in accordance with this Part; and
 - (b) liability for the other claim is to be determined in accordance with the legal rules, if any, that (apart from this Part) are relevant.
- (3) In apportioning responsibility between defendants in the proceeding the court must not have regard to the comparative responsibility of any person who is not a party to the proceeding unless the person is not a party to the proceeding because the person is dead or, if the person is a corporation, the corporation has been wound-up.

S. 24AJ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AJ. Contribution not recoverable from defendant

Despite anything to the contrary in Part IV, a defendant against whom judgment is given under this Part as a concurrent wrongdoer in relation to an apportionable claim—

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AK

-
- (a) cannot be required to contribute to the damages recovered or recoverable from another concurrent wrongdoer in the same proceeding for the apportionable claim; and
 - (b) cannot be required to indemnify any such wrongdoer.

24AK. Subsequent actions

S. 24AK
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

- (1) In relation to an apportionable claim, nothing in this Part or any other law prevents a plaintiff who has previously recovered judgment against a concurrent wrongdoer for an apportionable part of any loss or damage from bringing another action against any other concurrent wrongdoer for that loss or damage.
- (2) However, in any proceeding in respect of any such action the plaintiff cannot recover an amount of damages that, having regard to any damages previously recovered by the plaintiff in respect of the loss or damage, would result in the plaintiff receiving compensation for loss or damage that is greater than the loss or damage actually suffered by the plaintiff.

24AL. Joining non-party concurrent wrongdoer in the action

S. 24AL
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

- (1) Subject to sub-section (2), the court may give leave for any one or more persons who are concurrent wrongdoers in relation to an apportionable claim to be joined as defendants in a proceeding in relation to that claim.
- (2) The court is not to give leave for the joinder of any person who was a party to any previously concluded proceeding in relation to the apportionable claim.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AM

S. 24AM
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AM. What if a defendant is fraudulent?

Despite sections 24AI and 24AJ, a defendant in a proceeding in relation to an apportionable claim who is found liable for damages and against whom a finding of fraud is made is jointly and severally liable for the damages awarded against any other defendant in the proceeding.

S. 24AN
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3 (as
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 38).

24AN. Liability for contributory negligence not affected

Nothing in this Part affects the operation of Part V or Division 7 of Part X.

S. 24AO
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AO. Effect of Part IV

Except as provided in section 24AJ, nothing in this Part affects the operation of Part IV.

S. 24AP
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AP. Part not to affect other liability

Nothing in this Part—

- (a) prevents a person from being held vicariously liable for a proportion of any apportionable claim for which another person is liable; or
- (b) prevents a person from being held jointly and severally liable for the damages awarded against another person as agent of the person; or
- (c) prevents a partner from being held jointly and severally liable with another partner for that proportion of an apportionable claim for which the other partner is liable; or
- (d) prevents a court from awarding exemplary or punitive damages against a defendant in a proceeding; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVAA—Proportionate Liability

s. 24AQ

- (e) affects the operation of any other Act to the extent that it imposes several liability on any person in respect of what would otherwise be an apportionable claim.

24AQ. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of sections 24AI and 24AL to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 24AQ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AR. Regulations

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed or necessary to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.
- (2) The regulations—
- (a) may leave any matter to be determined by the Minister; and
 - (b) may apply, adopt or incorporate, wholly or partially or as amended by the regulations, any matter contained in any document as existing or in force—
 - (i) from time to time; or
 - (ii) at a particular time.

S. 24AR
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

24AS. Transitional

This Part applies to proceedings that are commenced in a court on or after the commencement of section 3 of the **Wrongs and Limitation of Actions Acts (Insurance Reform) Act 2003**.

S. 24AS
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 3.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IVA—Abolition of Doctrine of Common Employment

s. 24A

Pt 4A
(Heading)
inserted by
No. 10227
s. 8(e).

**PART IVA—ABOLITION OF DOCTRINE OF COMMON
EMPLOYMENT**

S. 24A
inserted by
No. 8915 s. 4.

24A. Abolition of doctrine of common employment

S. 24A(1)
amended by
No. 6/2004
s. 5(a)(b).

(1) Where any injury or damage is suffered by an employee by reason of the negligence of a fellow employee the employer of those employees shall be liable for damages in respect of that injury or damage in the same manner and in the same cases as if those employees had not been engaged in a common employment.

S. 24A(2)
amended by
No. 6/2004
s. 5(a).

(2) This section applies to every case in which the relation of employer and employee exists whether the contract of employment is made before or after the commencement of this Act.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part V—Contributory Negligence

s. 25

PART V—CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE

25. Definitions

No. 5594 s. 2.

In this Part unless inconsistent with the context or subject-matter—

"court" means, in relation to any claim, the court or arbitrator by or before whom the claim falls to be determined;

"damage" includes loss of life and personal injury;

"dependant" means any person for whose benefit an action could be brought under Part III of this Act;

* * * * * S. 25 def. of "employer" and "worker" repealed by No. 10191 s. 276.

* * * * * S. 25 def. of "fault" repealed by No. 75/2000 s. 4.

"wrong" means an act or omission that—

- (a) gives rise to a liability in tort in respect of which a defence of contributory negligence is available at common law; or
- (b) amounts to a breach of a contractual duty of care that is concurrent and co-extensive with a duty of care in tort.

S. 25 def. of "wrong" inserted by No. 75/2000 s. 4.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part V—Contributory Negligence

s. 26

No. 5594 s. 3.

S. 26(1)
substituted by
No. 75/2000
s. 5.

26. Liability for contributory negligence⁶

(1) If a person (**the claimant**) suffers damage as the result partly of the claimant's failure to take reasonable care (**contributory negligence**) and partly of the wrong of any other person or persons—

S. 26(1)(a)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 7(1).

(a) except as provided in section 63, a claim in respect of the damage is not defeated by reason of the contributory negligence of the claimant; and

(b) the damages recoverable in respect of the wrong must be reduced to such extent as the court thinks just and equitable having regard to the claimant's share in the responsibility for the damage.

S. 26(1A)
inserted by
No. 75/2000
s. 5.

(1A) Sub-section (1) does not operate to defeat any defence arising under a contract.

S. 26(1B)
inserted by
No. 75/2000
s. 5.

(1B) If any contract or enactment providing for the limitation of liability is applicable to the claim, the amount of damages awarded to the claimant by virtue of sub-section (1) is not to exceed the maximum limit so applicable.

S. 26(1C)
inserted by
No. 75/2000
s. 5.

(1C) If a claim is brought in a court of limited jurisdiction, the court may award damages up to the limit of its jurisdiction even though the amount of damages has first been reduced under sub-section (1) or (1B).

S. 26(2)
amended by
No. 75/2000
s. 6(1)(a)–(c).

(2) Where damages are recoverable by any person by virtue of sub-section (1) subject to such reduction as is therein mentioned, the court shall find and record the total damages which, apart from any limitation referred to in sub-sections (1B) and (1C), would have been awarded, if the claimant had not been guilty of contributory negligence.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part V—Contributory Negligence

s. 27

* * * * *

S. 26(3)
repealed by
No. 10227
s. 8(d)(i).

(4) Where any person dies as a result partly of his or her failure to take reasonable care (**contributory negligence**) and partly of the wrong of any other person or persons an action brought by the dependants of the first-mentioned person under Part III of this Act shall not be defeated nor shall any damages recoverable by those dependants under that action be reduced by reason of that first-mentioned person's contributory negligence.

S. 26(4)
substituted by
No. 9856 s. 6,
amended by
No. 75/2000
s. 6(2)(a)(b).

(5) Where, in any case to which sub-section (1) of this section applies, one of the persons responsible for the damage avoids liability to any other such person or his personal representative by pleading any enactment limiting the time within which proceedings may be taken, he shall not be entitled to recover any damages from that other person or representative by virtue of the said sub-section.

S. 26(5)
amended by
Nos 10227
s. 8(d)(ii),
75/2000
s. 6(3).

(6) Where any case to which sub-section (1) of this section applies is tried with a jury, the jury shall determine the total damages which would have been recoverable if the claimant had not been guilty of contributory negligence and the extent to which those damages are to be reduced.

S. 26(6)
amended by
No. 75/2000
s. 6(4).

Note: Division 7 of Part X also contains provisions relating to contributory negligence.

Note to s. 26
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 7(2).

27. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of section 26, as amended by the **Wrongs (Amendment) Act 2000**, to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 27
repealed by
No. 9683 s. 8,
new s. 27
inserted by
No. 75/2000
s. 7.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part V—Contributory Negligence

s. 28

No. 5594 s. 5.

28. Non-application of this Part

S. 28(1)
amended by
No. 57/1989
s. 3(Sch.
item 223.7).

- (1) This Part shall not apply to any claim to which section 45 of the **Supreme Court Act 1986** applies and that Act shall have effect with respect to any such claim as if this Act had not passed.
- (2) This Part shall not apply to any case where the acts or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred before the passing of the **Wrongs (Contributory Negligence) Act 1951**.

S. 28AA
inserted by
No. 75/2000
s. 8.

28AA. Transitional provision

- (1) Subject to sub-section (2), the amendments to this Part made by sections 4, 5 and 6 of the **Wrongs (Amendment) Act 2000** must be taken to apply to wrongs that occurred before the commencement of that Act as if those amendments had been in force when the wrong occurred.
- (2) This Part, as in force before the commencement of the **Wrongs (Amendment) Act 2000**, continues to apply to a wrong about which—
 - (a) a court has, before that commencement, given judgment or made a decision (including a judgment or decision about liability only), whether or not an appeal has been made against that judgment or decision before that commencement or is made on or after that commencement; or
 - (b) the persons responsible for the damage have, before that commencement, entered into an agreement to settle claims arising from the wrong (including an agreement about liability only).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VA—Assessment of Damages

s. 28A

PART VA—ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES

Pt 5A
(Heading and
s. 28A)
inserted by
No. 9353
s. 2(b).

28A. Damages for deprivation or impairment of earning capacity

S. 28A
inserted by
No. 9353
s. 2(b).

Where in relation to a claim for damages for deprivation or impairment of earning capacity or for other personal injury it becomes material to assess such damages having regard to loss of earnings or of future probable earnings, there shall be taken into account in reduction of the sum assessed such amount as is reasonably considered to be the amount that would have been payable as income tax by reason of the receipt of such earnings by the person who has suffered loss of them had he received them.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28B

Pt 5B
(Heading and
ss 28B–28L)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

PART VB—PERSONAL INJURY DAMAGES

S. 28B
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

28B. Definitions

In this Part—

S. 28B def. of
"attendant
care services"
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 5.

"attendant care services" means any of the following—

- (a) services of a domestic nature;
- (b) services relating to nursing;
- (c) services that aim to alleviate the consequences of an injury;

"claimant" means a person who makes or is entitled to make a claim for personal injury damages;

"court" includes tribunal, and, in relation to a claim for damages, means any court or tribunal by or before which the claim falls to be determined;

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

S. 28B def. of
"dependants"
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 8.

"dependants" in relation to a claimant, means any persons who are wholly, mainly or in part dependent on the claimant at the time of the injury;

"fault" includes act or omission;

S. 28B def. of
"gratuitous
attendant care
services"
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 5.

"gratuitous attendant care services" means attendant care services—

- (a) that have or are to be provided by another person to a claimant; and

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28C

- (b) for which the claimant has not paid or is not liable to pay;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease;

"non-economic loss" means any one or more of the following—

- (a) pain and suffering;
- (b) loss of amenities of life;
- (c) loss of enjoyment of life;

"personal injury damages" means damages that relate to the death of or injury to a person caused by the fault of another person.

28C. Application of Part

- (1) This Part applies to an award of personal injury damages, except an award that is excluded by subsection (2).
- (2) The following awards of damages are excluded from the operation of this Part—
 - (a) an award where the fault concerned is an intentional act that is done with intent to cause death or injury or that is sexual assault or other sexual misconduct;
 - (b) an award to which Part 3, 6 or 10 of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** applies;
 - (c) an award to which Part 4 of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies;

S. 28C
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28C

-
- (d) an award to which the **Workers Compensation Act 1958** applies;
 - (e) an award of compensation under Part V of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** or an award of compensation under a compensation scheme established under the regulations made under that Act;
 - (f) an award of compensation under Part 3 of the **Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987**;
 - (g) an award of compensation under Part 6 of the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;
 - (h) an award of compensation under the **Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968**;
 - (i) an award of assistance under the **Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996**;
 - (j) an award of compensation under the **Equal Opportunity Act 1995**;
 - (k) an award of compensation under Part 8 of the **Juries Act 2000** or Part VII of the **Juries Act 1967**;
 - (l) an award of compensation under Division 6 of Part II of the **Education Act 1958**;
 - (m) a sum payable under a superannuation scheme or any life or other insurance policy;
 - (n) an award of damages of a class that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part.
- (3) This Part extends to an award of personal injury damages even if the damages are recovered in an action for breach of contract or in any other action.
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28D

28D. General regulation of court awards

A court cannot award damages to a claimant contrary to this Part.

S. 28D
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

28E. Part does not give rise to any cause of action

This Part does not create or confer any cause of civil action for the recovery of damages in respect of a death or injury caused by the fault of a person.

S. 28E
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

**28F. Damages for past or future economic loss—
maximum for loss of earnings etc.**

S. 28F
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

- (1) This section applies to an award of damages—
 - (a) for past economic loss due to loss of earnings or the deprivation or impairment of earning capacity; or
 - (b) for future economic loss due to the deprivation or impairment of earning capacity; or
 - (c) for the loss of expectation of financial support.
- (2) In the case of any award to which this section applies, the court is to disregard the amount (if any) by which the claimant's gross weekly earnings would (but for the death or injury) have exceeded an amount that is 3 times the amount of average weekly earnings at the date of the award.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the amount of average weekly earnings at the date of the award is—
 - (a) the amount per week comprising the amount estimated by the Australian Statistician as the average weekly total earnings of all employees in Victoria for the most recent quarter occurring before the date of the award for which such an amount has been

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28G

estimated by the Australian Statistician and that is, at that date, available to the court making the award; or

- (b) if the Australian Statistician fails or ceases to estimate the amount referred to in paragraph (a), the prescribed amount or the amount determined in such manner or by reference to such matters, or both, as may be prescribed.

S. 28G
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

28G. Fixing damages for non-economic loss

The maximum amount of damages that may be awarded to a claimant for non-economic loss is \$371 380.

S. 28H
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

28H. Indexation of maximum amount for non-economic loss

- (1) The amount that is to apply for the purposes of section 28G is to be varied, in respect of the financial year beginning on 1 July 2003 and each subsequent financial year, in accordance with the formula—

$$D \times \frac{E}{F}$$

where—

D is the amount referred to in section 28G.

E is the all groups consumer price index for Melbourne as at 15 June in the preceding financial year last published by the Australian Statistician in respect of the December quarter of that financial year.

F is the all groups consumer price index for Melbourne as at 15 June in the year preceding the preceding financial year published by the Australian Statistician in respect of the December quarter preceding that 15 June.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28HA

-
- (2) If it is necessary for the purposes of this section to calculate an amount that consists of or includes a fraction of a whole number, the amount is deemed to have been calculated in accordance with this section if the calculation is made—
 - (a) if the amount is less than \$1000, to the nearest whole \$1; or
 - (b) if the amount is \$1000 or more, to the nearest whole \$10.
 - (3) If an amount is varied in accordance with this section, section 28G and this section have effect as if a reference to the amount were a reference to the amount as so varied.
 - (4) If the variation of an amount to which this section applies by operation of this section has the effect of reducing the amount—
 - (a) the variation is deemed not to have taken effect, except for the purposes of the application of this sub-section; and
 - (b) when the amount is varied and increased by operation of this section in respect of the next or a subsequent financial year that variation has effect as an increase only to the extent (if any) to which the amount of the increase exceeds the amount of the reduction in respect of a preceding financial year, or that part of such a reduction that has not been set off against a previous increase.

28HA. Tariffs for damages for non-economic loss

- (1) In determining damages for non-economic loss, a court may refer to earlier decisions of that or other courts for the purpose of establishing the appropriate award in the proceedings.

S. 28HA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 9.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28I

- (2) For that purpose, the parties to the proceedings or their counsel may bring the court's attention to awards for damages for non-economic loss in those earlier proceedings.
- (3) This section does not alter the rules for the determination of other damages.

S. 28I
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

28I. Damages for future economic loss—discount rate

- (1) If an award of damages is to include any component, assessed as a lump sum, for economic loss that is referable to the future, the present value of that future economic loss is to be determined by adopting the prescribed discount rate.
- (2) The prescribed discount rate is—
 - (a) a discount rate of the percentage prescribed by the regulations; or
 - (b) if no percentage is so prescribed—a discount rate of 5%.
- (3) Except as provided by this section, nothing in this section affects any other law relating to the discounting of sums awarded as damages.

S. 28IA
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 6.

28IA. Limitation on damages for gratuitous attendant care

- (1) No damages may be awarded to a claimant for gratuitous attendant care services unless the court is satisfied that—
 - (a) there is (or was) a reasonable need for the services to be provided; and
 - (b) the need has arisen (or arose) solely because of the injury to which the damages relate; and
 - (c) the services would not be (or would not have been) provided to the claimant but for the injury.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28IB

-
- (2) Further, no damages may be awarded to a claimant for gratuitous attendant care services if the services are provided, or are to be provided—
- (a) for less than 6 hours per week; and
 - (b) for less than 6 months.

28IB. Calculation of damages

S. 28IB
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 6.

- (1) If gratuitous attendant care services are provided or are to be provided for not less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded for the services must not exceed—
- (a) the amount per week comprising the amount estimated by the Australian Statistician as the average weekly total earnings of all employees in Victoria for—
 - (i) in respect of the whole or any part of a quarter occurring between the date of the injury in relation to which the award is made and the date of the award, being a quarter for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at the date of the award, available to the court making the award—that quarter; or
 - (ii) in respect of the whole or any part of any other quarter—the most recent quarter occurring before the date of the award for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at that date, available to the court making the award; or
 - (b) if the Australian Statistician fails or ceases to estimate the amount referred to in paragraph (a), the prescribed amount or the amount determined in such manner or by reference to such matters, or both, as may be prescribed.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 281C

- (2) If gratuitous attendant care services are provided or are to be provided for less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded for the services must not exceed the amount calculated at an hourly rate of one-fortieth of the amount determined in accordance with subsection (1)(a) or (b), as the case requires.

S. 281C
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 6.

281C. Other laws not to be affected

Except as provided by sections 281A and 281B, nothing in those sections affects any other law relating to the value of attendant care services.

S. 281D
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 10.

281D. Limitation on damages for loss of capacity to provide care for others

No damages may be awarded to a claimant for any loss of the claimant's capacity to provide gratuitous care for others unless the court is satisfied that—

- (a) the care—
- (i) was provided to the claimant's dependants; and
 - (ii) was being provided for at least 6 hours per week; and
 - (iii) had been provided for at least 6 consecutive months before the injury to which the damages relate; or
- (b) there is a reasonable expectation that, but for the injury to which the damages relate, the gratuitous care would have been provided to the claimant's dependants—
- (i) for at least 6 hours per week; and
 - (ii) for a period of at least 6 consecutive months.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 281E

281E. Calculation of damages for gratuitous care

S. 281E
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 10.

- (1) If the court is satisfied that a claimant would have provided gratuitous care to his or her dependants for not less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded to the claimant for any loss of the claimant's capacity to provide that care must not exceed—
 - (a) the amount per week comprising the amount estimated by the Australian Statistician as the average weekly total earnings of all employees in Victoria for—
 - (i) in respect of the whole or any part of a quarter occurring between the date of the injury in relation to which the award is made and the date of the award, being a quarter for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at the date of the award, available to the court making the award—that quarter; or
 - (ii) in respect of the whole or any part of any other quarter—the most recent quarter occurring before the date of the award for which such an amount has been estimated by the Australian Statistician and is, at that date, available to the court making the award; or
 - (b) if the Australian Statistician fails or ceases to estimate the amount referred to in paragraph (a), the prescribed amount or the amount determined in such manner or by reference to such matters, or both, as may be prescribed.
- (2) If the court is satisfied that a claimant would have provided gratuitous care to his or her dependants for less than 40 hours per week, the amount of damages that may be awarded to a claimant for

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 281F

the loss of the claimant's capacity to provide that care must not exceed the amount calculated at an hourly rate of one-fortieth of the amount determined in accordance with sub-section (1)(a) or (b), as the case requires.

S. 281F
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 10.

281F. Application of sections 281D and 281E

- (1) Except as provided by sections 281D and 281E, nothing in those sections affects any other law relating to damages arising from a loss of capacity to provide gratuitous care.
- (2) Sections 281D and 281E do not apply to the following actions for damages—
 - (a) subject to sub-section (3), an action for damages in respect of an injury that is a dust-related condition within the meaning of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; or
 - (b) subject to sub-section (3), an action for damages in respect of an injury resulting from smoking or other use of tobacco products, within the meaning of the **Tobacco Act 1987**, or exposure to tobacco smoke.
- (3) An action for damages referred to in sub-section (2)(a) or (2)(b) does not include an action for damages that relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.

S. 28J
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7,
amended by
No. 60/2003
s. 7 (ILA
s. 39B(1)).

28J. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

- (1) It is the intention of section 28D to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.
- (2) It is the intention of section 28D (as affected by the amendments made to this Part by the **Wrongs and Limitation of Actions Acts (Insurance Reform) Act 2003**) to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 28J(2)
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 7.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28K

-
- (3) It is the intention of section 28D (as affected by the amendments made to this Part by section 10 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**) to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 28J(3)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 11.

28K. Regulations

S. 28K
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.
- (2) The regulations—
- (a) may leave any matter to be determined by the Minister; and
 - (b) may apply, adopt or incorporate, wholly or partially or as amended by the regulations, any matter contained in any document as existing or in force—
 - (i) from time to time; or
 - (ii) at a particular time.

28L. Transitional

S. 28L
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 7.

- (1) This Part (except sections 28IA, 28IB, 28IC and 28J(2)) extends to an award of personal injury damages that relates to an injury received, or to a death resulting from an injury received, whether before, on or after the commencement day.
- (2) Despite sub-section (1)—
- (a) sections 28F, 28G and 28H do not apply to an award of damages in proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement day;

S. 28L(1)
amended by
No. 60/2003
s. 9.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28LA

(b) section 28I does not apply to an award of damages made before the commencement day.

(3) In this section "**commencement day**" means the day on which section 7 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002** comes into operation.

S. 28LA
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 9.

28LA. Transitional for gratuitous attendant care services

- (1) Sections 28IA, 28IB, 28IC and 28J(2) apply to an award of damages for gratuitous attendant care services that relates to an injury received on or after 21 May 2003.
- (2) On and from 1 October 2003, sections 28IA, 28IB, 28IC and 28J(2) apply to an award of damages for gratuitous attendant care services that relates to an injury received before 21 May 2003.
- (3) Despite sub-section (2), sections 28IA, 28IB, 28IC and 28J(2) do not apply to an award of damages for gratuitous attendant care services that relates to an injury received before 21 May 2003 if the award is made in a proceeding commenced in a court before 1 October 2003.

S. 28LAB
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 12.

28LAB. Transitional for tariffs for damages for non-economic loss

Despite section 28L(1), section 28HA does not apply to an award of damages in proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement of section 9 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VB—Personal Injury Damages

s. 28LAC

28LAC. Transitional for gratuitous care

Despite section 28L(1), sections 28ID and 28IE do not apply to an award of damages in proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement of section 10 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**.

S. 28LAC
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 12.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LB

Pt 5BA
(Heading and
ss 28LB–
28LZQ)
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

**PART VBA—THRESHOLDS IN RELATION TO RECOVERY
OF DAMAGES FOR NON-ECONOMIC LOSS**

Division 1—Introductory

S. 28LB
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LB. Definitions

In this Part—

"A.M.A. Guides" means the American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (Fourth Edition) (other than Chapter 15) as modified by or under this Part;

"approved medical practitioner" means—

- (a) if a training course has been approved under section 91(1)(b) of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985**, a medical practitioner who has successfully completed the course; or
- (b) if a training course has not been so approved, a medical practitioner;

"certificate of assessment" means a certificate provided under section 28LN or 28LNA;

S. 28LB def. of
"certificate of
assessment"
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 13(1).

"claimant" means a person who makes or is entitled to make a claim for damages that relate to the injury to a person caused by the fault of another person;

"Convenor" means the Convenor or Deputy Convenor appointed under section 63 of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985**;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LB

"court" includes tribunal and, in relation to a claim for damages, means any court or tribunal by or before which the claim falls to be determined;

"fault" includes act or omission;

"impairment" means permanent impairment;

S. 28LB def. of "impairment" inserted by No. 102/2003 s. 13(2).

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease;

"Medical Panel" means a Medical Panel under the **Accident Compensation Act 1985**;

"medical practitioner" means a registered medical practitioner (within the meaning of the **Medical Practice Act 1994**) and, in relation to anything done for the purposes of this Act in a place outside Victoria, includes a medical practitioner who is lawfully qualified under a law in force in that place to do that thing;

"medical question" in relation to a claim for damages, means a question as to whether the degree of impairment resulting from injury to the claimant alleged in the claim satisfies the threshold level;

S. 28LB def. of "medical question" substituted by No. 102/2003 s. 13(3).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LB

"non-economic loss" means any one or more of the following—

- (a) pain and suffering;
- (b) loss of amenities of life;
- (c) loss of enjoyment of life;

"registered health practitioner" means—

- (a) a medical practitioner; or
- (b) a registered dentist within the meaning of the **Dental Practice Act 1999**; or
- (c) a registered chiropractor within the meaning of the **Chiropractors Registration Act 1996**; or
- (d) a registered optometrist within the meaning of the **Optometrists Registration Act 1996**; or
- (e) a registered osteopath within the meaning of the **Osteopaths Registration Act 1996**; or
- (f) a registered physiotherapist within the meaning of the **Physiotherapists Registration Act 1998**; or
- (g) a registered podiatrist within the meaning of the **Podiatrists Registration Act 1997**; or
- (h) a registered psychologist within the meaning of the **Psychologists Registration Act 2000**; or
- (i) a registered Chinese medicine practitioner within the meaning of the **Chinese Medicine Registration Act 2000**;

"respondent", in relation to a claim, means the person against whom the claim is made;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LC

"threshold level" means—

- (a) in the case of injury (other than psychiatric injury), impairment of more than 5 per cent;
- (b) in the case of psychiatric injury, impairment of more than 10 per cent.

28LC. Application of Part

S. 28LC
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) This Part applies to claims for the recovery of damages for non-economic loss, except claims that are excluded by sub-section (2) or (3).
- (2) This Part does not apply to the following claims for the recovery of damages for non-economic loss—
 - (a) a claim where the fault concerned is, or relates to, an intentional act that is done with intent to cause death or injury or that is sexual assault or other sexual misconduct;
 - (b) a claim to which Part 3, 6 or 10 of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** applies;
 - (c) a claim to which Part IV of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies;
 - (d) a claim in respect of an injury or death which entitles, or may entitle, a worker, or a dependant of a worker, within the meaning of the **Workers Compensation Act 1958** to compensation under that Act.
- (3) This Part does not apply to claims in proceedings of a class that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part.
- (4) This Part extends to a claim for damages for non-economic loss even if the claim is founded on breach of contract or any other cause of action.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LD

S. 28LD
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LD. This Part is substantive law

For the avoidance of doubt it is declared that all the provisions of this Part contain matters that are substantive law and are not procedural in nature.

**Division 2—Restriction on Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss**

S. 28LE
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LE. Restriction on recovery of damages for non-economic loss

A person is not entitled to recover damages for non-economic loss in any proceeding in a court in respect of an injury to a person caused by the fault of another person unless the person injured has suffered significant injury.

S. 28LF
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LF. What is significant injury?

- (1) For the purposes of this Part injury to a person (other than a psychiatric injury) is significant injury if—
 - (a) the degree of impairment of the whole person resulting from the injury has been assessed by an approved medical practitioner in accordance with this Part as satisfying the threshold level, unless a Medical Panel has made a determination as to the threshold level under Division 5; or
 - (aa) a certificate of assessment has been issued under section 28LNA in respect of the injury, unless a Medical Panel has made a determination as to the threshold level under Division 5; or
 - (b) a Medical Panel has determined under Division 5 that the degree of impairment of the whole person resulting from the injury satisfies the threshold level; or
 - (c) the injury is loss of a foetus; or

S. 28LF(1)(aa)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 14(1).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LF

-
- (ca) the injury is psychological or psychiatric injury arising from the loss of a child due to an injury to the mother or the foetus or the child before, during or immediately after the birth; or
- (d) the injury is loss of a breast.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part psychiatric injury to a person is significant injury if—
- (a) the degree of impairment resulting from the injury has been assessed by an approved medical practitioner in accordance with this Part as satisfying the threshold level, unless a Medical Panel has made a determination as to the threshold level under Division 5; or
- (aa) a certificate of assessment has been issued under section 28LNA in respect of the injury, unless a Medical Panel has made a determination as to the threshold level under Division 5; or
- (b) a Medical Panel has determined under Division 5 that the degree of impairment resulting from the injury satisfies the threshold level.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part injury to a person is deemed to be significant injury if—
- (a) an agreement is given under Division 4 to waive the requirement for assessment in respect of the injury; or
- (aa) the injury is deemed under section 28LZG(10) or 28LZGA(4) to be significant injury; or
- (b) the court makes a determination in respect of that person under section 28LZN.
- S. 28LF(1)(ca)**
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 14(2).
- S. 28LF(2)(aa)**
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 14(3).
- S. 28LF(3)(aa)**
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 14(4).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LG

Division 3—Assessment of Impairment

S. 28LG
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LG. Who can assess impairment?

The assessment of degree of impairment must be made by an approved medical practitioner.

S. 28LH
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 15(1)(2)
(ILA s. 39B(1)).

28LH. How is the degree of impairment to be assessed?

- (1) Subject to this Division, an approved medical practitioner must make an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part—
 - (a) in accordance with—
 - (i) the A.M.A. Guides; or
 - (ii) the methods prescribed for the purposes of this Part; and
 - (b) in accordance with operational guidelines (if any) as to the use of those Guides or methods issued by the Minister.
- (2) Nothing in sub-section (1) prevents an assessment being made in respect of a degree of impairment of a person even if not all of the injuries to the person have stabilised.

S. 28LH(2)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 15(2).

S. 28LI
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LI. Assessment of psychiatric impairment

For the purposes of assessing the degree of psychiatric impairment, the A.M.A. Guides apply, subject to the regulations, as if for Chapter 14 there were substituted the *Clinical Guidelines to the Rating of Psychiatric Impairment* prepared by the Medical Panel (Psychiatry) Melbourne, Victoria in October 1997 and published in the Government Gazette on 28 August 1998.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LJ

28LJ. Regard not to be had to secondary psychiatric or psychological impairment

S. 28LJ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

In assessing a degree of impairment of a person under this Part, regard must not be had to any psychiatric or psychological injury, impairment or symptoms arising as a consequence of, or secondary to, a physical injury.

28LK. Assessment of hearing impairment

S. 28LK
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) For the purposes of assessing the degree of impairment of the whole person resulting from binaural hearing impairment, the percentage of the diminution of hearing determined in accordance with sub-section (2) is to be converted as follows—
 - (a) if the binaural loss of hearing is 5 per cent NAL or less, the degree of impairment is to be assessed as zero;
 - (b) if the binaural loss of hearing is a percentage that is more than 5 per cent NAL, the degree of impairment is to be assessed at that percentage.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the percentage of diminution of hearing—
 - (a) must be determined—
 - (i) by a person or class of persons approved; and
 - (ii) in the manner approved—
under section 91(4) of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985**; and
 - (b) must be determined in accordance with the Improved Procedure for Determination of Percentage Loss of Hearing (1988 Edition or a later prescribed edition) published by the National Acoustic Laboratory.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LL

S. 28LL
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LL. Assessment in relation to injuries arising out of the same incident

- (1) If a person has more than one impairment resulting from injuries which arose out of the same incident, all of those impairments must be included in the one assessment.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, impairments, other than psychiatric impairments, resulting from injuries which arose out of the same incident are to be assessed together using the combination tables in the A.M.A. Guides or the methods prescribed for the purposes of this Part.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part, impairments from unrelated injuries or causes are to be disregarded in making an assessment.

S. 28LM
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LM. Prescribed methods for assessment

If methods are prescribed for the purposes of this Part and apply to an assessment of impairment, the assessment must be made in accordance with those methods rather than in accordance with the A.M.A. Guides.

S. 28LN
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LN. Certificate of assessment

S. 28LN(1)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 16(1).

- (1) Subject to section 28LNA and this section, an approved medical practitioner who makes an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part must provide to the person seeking the assessment a certificate of assessment.
- (2) The certificate of assessment must state whether the degree of impairment resulting from the injury satisfies the threshold level but must not state the specific degree of impairment.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LNA

- (3) If not all the injuries to a person have stabilised, a certificate of assessment can only be provided under this section in respect of the person if the injuries that have stabilised are sufficient to determine a degree of impairment that satisfies the threshold level.

S. 28LN(3)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 16(2).

28LNA. Certificate where injury not stabilised

S. 28LNA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 17.

- (1) This section applies if, after making an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part, an approved medical practitioner is unable to determine the degree of impairment because the injury has not stabilised.
- (2) If, at the end of 6 months after that first assessment, an approved medical practitioner is unable to determine the degree of impairment but is satisfied that the degree of impairment resulting from the injury will satisfy the threshold level once the injury has stabilised, that approved medical practitioner may issue a certificate of assessment under this section.
- (3) The certificate of assessment must state that the approved medical practitioner is unable to determine the degree of impairment but is satisfied that the degree of impairment resulting from the injury will satisfy the threshold level once the injury has stabilised.

Division 4—Procedure for Claim for Non-Economic Loss

28LO. Agreement to waive assessment of impairment

S. 28LO
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) A claimant may, in writing, ask the respondent to waive the requirement for an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part.
- (1A) A request under sub-section (1) must be in the prescribed form (if any) and include the prescribed information (if any).

S. 28LO(1A)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 18(1).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LO

S. 28LO(2)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 18(2).

(2) A respondent to whom a request under subsection (1) is made must respond in writing to the request within 60 days after receiving it.

(3) The response must—

(a) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and state that the respondent agrees to waive the requirement for the assessment of degree of impairment under this Part because the injury is significant injury; or

(b) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and request that the claimant obtain an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part; or

S. 28LO(3)(c)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 18(3).

(c) if the respondent is unable to decide, on the information contained in the request, whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim, advise the claimant of the further information the respondent reasonably needs to decide whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim; or

(d) state that the respondent believes that the respondent is not a proper respondent to the claim, give the reasons for the belief and give any information that may help the claimant to identify the proper respondent.

S. 28LO(4)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 18(2).

(4) If the respondent fails to respond within the 60 days, the requirement for the assessment of degree of impairment cannot be waived by the respondent.

S. 28LO(5)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 18(4).

(5) Information prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1A) may include information relating to—

(a) the identity of the claimant;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LP

- (b) the nature of the claim;
- (c) the injury;
- (d) the incident out of which the alleged injury arose;
- (e) any medical practitioner who has treated the injury.

28LP. What if the respondent asks for more information?

S. 28LP
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) If under section 28LO(3)(c) a respondent advises a claimant that specified further information is needed, the claimant must give the respondent the information the respondent reasonably needs to decide whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim.
- (2) The respondent must respond in the manner set out in section 28LO(3)(a), (b) or (d) within 60 days after receiving the information.
- (3) If the respondent fails to respond within the 60 days, the requirement for the assessment of degree of impairment cannot be waived by the respondent.

S. 28LP(2)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 19.

S. 28LP(3)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 19.

28LQ. What if the respondent disputes responsibility?

S. 28LQ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) If a respondent responds in accordance with section 28LO(3)(d), the claimant must give written notice to the respondent, within 14 days after receiving the response, that either—
 - (a) on the information available to the claimant, the claimant accepts that the respondent is not a proper respondent to the claim; or
 - (b) the claimant considers that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and requires the respondent to respond to the notice.
- (2) The respondent must respond in writing to a notice under sub-section (1)(b) within 14 days after receiving the notice.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LR

- (3) The response under this section must—
- (a) state that the respondent agrees to waive the requirement for the assessment of degree of impairment under this Part because the injury is significant injury; or
 - (b) request that the claimant obtain an assessment of degree of impairment under this Part.
- (4) If the respondent fails to respond within the 14 days, the requirement for the assessment of degree of impairment cannot be waived by the respondent.

S. 28LR
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LR. Can a respondent bind any other respondent?

An agreement under this Division by a respondent to a claim that the assessment is not required because the injury is significant injury does not bind any other respondent.

S. 28LS
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
repealed by
No. 102/2003
s. 20.

* * * * *

S. 28LT
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 21 (ILA
s. 39B(1)).

28LT. Copy of certificate of assessment to be served on respondent

- (1) A claimant must serve on the respondent a copy of a certificate of assessment (if any) obtained under this Part on which the claimant intends to rely.
- (2) The copy of the certificate of assessment must be accompanied by the prescribed information (if any) in the prescribed form (if any) unless the information has already been provided to the respondent under section 28LO.

S. 28LT(2)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 21.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LU

- (3) The information prescribed for the purposes of sub-section (2) may include information relating to—
- (a) the identity of the claimant;
 - (b) the nature of the claim;
 - (c) the injury;
 - (d) the incident out of which the alleged injury arose;
 - (e) any medical practitioner who has treated the injury.

S. 28LT(3)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 21.

28LU. Multiple respondents

- (1) If there are 2 or more respondents to a claim, one of the respondents (the **respondents' claim manager**) may act for one or more of the other respondents, with the agreement of those other respondents, for the purposes of the claim.
- (2) The respondents' claim manager—
- (a) may exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred by this Part in relation to the claim and the claimant for all respondents for whom the respondents' claim manager acts; and
 - (b) must act as far as practicable with the agreement of the other respondents for whom the respondents' claim manager acts.
- (3) Action taken or an agreement made by the respondents' claim manager in relation to the claim is binding on each respondent for whom the respondents' claim manager acts so far as it affects the claimant.
- (4) If the respondents' claim manager acts beyond the scope of the respondents' claim manager's authority under the agreement referred to in sub-section (1), the respondents' claim manager is

S. 28LU
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LV

liable to each other respondent who is a party to the agreement for any loss suffered by the other respondent.

S. 28LV
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LV. Limitation period suspended

Service of a copy of a certificate of assessment on a respondent suspends the relevant period of limitation under the **Limitation of Actions Act 1958** or this Act in respect of the claim until the expiry of 3 months after whichever of the following first occurs—

S. 28LV(a)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 22(a).

(a) the respondent accepts in writing under section 28LW, 28LWA or 28LWB the assessment in the certificate of assessment;

S. 28LV(b)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 22(b).

(b) the respondent is deemed under section 28LW, 28LWA, 28LWB, 28LZA or 28LZGA to have accepted the assessment;

S. 28LV(c)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 22(c).

(c) if the respondent refers a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel for determination under this Part, the expiry of any period for bringing an application for any relief or remedy in relation to the determination of the Medical Panel, unless such an application is brought within that period;

S. 28LV(d)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 22(c).

(d) if the respondent brings an application for any relief or remedy in relation to the determination of a Medical Panel, the final determination of that application.

S. 28LW
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

28LW. Response to medical assessment

(1) The respondent on whom a copy of a certificate of assessment is served must respond in writing to the claimant within 60 days after receiving the certificate and the required information under section 28LT.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LW

-
- (2) The response to the claimant must—
- (a) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and state that the respondent accepts the assessment for the purposes of this Part; or
 - (b) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and advise the claimant that the respondent intends to refer or has referred a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel for determination under this Part; or
 - (c) if the respondent is unable to decide, on the information provided with the certificate of assessment, whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim, advise the claimant of the further information the respondent reasonably needs to decide whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim; or
 - (d) state that the respondent believes that the respondent is not a proper respondent to the claim, give the reasons for the belief and give any information that may help the claimant to identify the proper respondent.
- (3) The respondent must state that the respondent is a proper respondent to a claim if the respondent has already stated under section 28LO or 28LP that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim.
- (4) If the respondent fails to respond in writing under this section within the 60 days, the respondent is deemed to have accepted the assessment.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LWA

S. 28LWA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

28LWA. What if the respondent asks for more information?

- (1) If, under section 28LW(2)(c), a respondent advises a claimant that specified further information is needed, the claimant must give the respondent the information the respondent reasonably needs to decide whether the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim.
- (2) The respondent must respond in the manner set out in section 28LW(2)(a), (b) or (d) within 60 days after receiving the information.
- (3) If the respondent fails to respond in writing under this section within the 60 days, the respondent is deemed to have accepted the assessment.

S. 28LWB
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

28LWB. What if the respondent disputes responsibility?

- (1) If a respondent responds in accordance with section 28LW(2)(d), the claimant must give written notice to the respondent, within 14 days after receiving the response, that either—
 - (a) on the information available to the claimant, the claimant accepts that the respondent is not a proper respondent to the claim; or
 - (b) the claimant considers that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and requires the respondent to respond to the notice.
 - (2) The respondent must respond in writing to a notice under sub-section (1)(b) within 14 days after receiving the notice.
 - (3) The response under this section must—
 - (a) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and state that the respondent accepts the assessment for the purposes of this Part; or
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LWC

- (b) state that the respondent is a proper respondent to the claim and advise the claimant that the respondent has referred or intends to refer a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel for determination under this Part.
- (4) If the respondent fails to respond within the 14 days, the respondent is deemed to have accepted the assessment.

28LWC. Can a respondent bind any other respondent?

S. 28LWC
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

An acceptance under this Division by a respondent to a claim of an assessment does not bind any other respondent.

28LWD. Statement not admission of liability

S. 28LWD
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

A statement under this Division that a respondent is a proper respondent to a claim is not an admission of liability in respect of the claim.

28LWE. Referral of medical question to Medical Panel

S. 28LWE
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 23.

- (1) The respondent on whom a copy of the certificate of assessment is served may refer a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel for determination under this Part—
- (a) within 60 days after receiving the certificate and the required information under section 28LT; or
- (b) within 60 days after receiving the information provided under section 28LWA; or
- (c) within 14 days after receiving the notice under section 28LWB.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LX

- (2) The respondent may not refer a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel if the respondent has accepted the assessment or is deemed to have accepted the assessment under this Division.
- (3) If the respondent advises the claimant under section 28LW, 28LWA or 28LWB that the respondent intends to refer a medical question in relation to the assessment to a Medical Panel and does not refer the question within the required time under this section, the respondent is deemed to have accepted the assessment under this Division at the expiration of that required time.

S. 28LX
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
amended by
No. 102/2003
ss 24, 25.

28LX. Respondent to pay costs of referral

The respondent is liable for the fees and costs payable in accordance with section 28LXA for a referral of a medical question to a Medical Panel for determination under this Part including the costs of—

- (a) any attendance before the Medical Panel under section 28LZE of a registered health practitioner; and
- (b) copying documents to be provided under section 28LZC or 28LZE; and
- (c) reasonable transport arrangements for persons attending the Medical Panel.

S. 28LXA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 26.

28LXA. Administration

- (1) The Minister, on the recommendation of the Convenor, may, by notice published in the Government Gazette, fix scales of fees and costs for referrals of medical questions under this Part.
- (2) All fees and costs payable by the respondent in respect of a referral to a Medical Panel under section 28LX must be paid to the Convenor.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LXA

-
- (3) The Convenor may recover any fees or costs payable under section 28LX in any court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due to the Crown.
 - (4) The Convenor may establish a bank account or bank accounts for the purposes of this Part.
 - (5) The Convenor must pay any amount paid to the Convenor under this section into the bank account or accounts established under sub-section (4).
 - (6) The Convenor may pay out of a bank account established under sub-section (4) any amount necessary—
 - (a) to reimburse the Victorian WorkCover Authority for the remuneration (including allowances) of members of Medical Panels to the extent that is applicable to their functions under this Part;
 - (b) to pay the Victorian WorkCover Authority or any other person for the provision of administrative services under this Part;
 - (c) to pay any other costs (including administrative costs) relating to a referral of a medical question for determination under this Part.
 - (7) The Convenor may engage any person to assist the Convenor in carrying out any function under this Part.
 - (8) The Convenor may enter into arrangements with the Victorian WorkCover Authority or with any other person or body for the provision of administrative services to the Convenor for the purposes of this Part.
 - (9) The Minister must cause a notice under sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament within 5 sitting days of that House after it is published in the Government Gazette.
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LY

- (10) Sections 23, 24 and 25 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994** apply to a notice under sub-section (1) as if it were a statutory rule within the meaning of that Act.
- (11) A notice under sub-section (1) may be disallowed in whole or in part by resolution of either House of Parliament in accordance with the requirements of section 23 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**.

Division 5—Procedure of Medical Panel

S. 28LY
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LY. Application

This Division sets out the powers and procedures of a Medical Panel in relation to a medical question referred to it under Division 4.

S. 28LZ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZ. Procedure of Medical Panel

- (1) A Medical Panel is not bound by rules or practices as to evidence, but may inform itself on any matter relating to a reference in any manner it thinks fit.
- (2) A Medical Panel must act informally, without regard to technicalities or legal forms and as speedily as a proper consideration of the reference allows.
- (3) The Minister, after consultation with the Minister administering Part III of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985**, may for the purposes of—
 - (a) ensuring procedural fairness in the procedures of Medical Panels under this Part; and

S. 28LZ(3)
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 27.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LZA

(b) facilitating the proper administration of the Medical Panels under this Part—

issue guidelines as to the procedures of Medical Panels under this Part.

(4) The Convenor may give directions as to the procedures of Medical Panels under this Part but must not give directions inconsistent with any guidelines issued by the Minister under this Part.

S. 28LZ(4)
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 27.

(5) A Medical Panel must comply with—

S. 28LZ(5)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 27.

(a) any relevant guidelines as to the procedures of Medical Panels issued under sub-section (3); and

(b) any directions given by the Convenor under sub-section (4).

28LZA. Respondent must provide information to Medical Panel

S. 28LZA
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

(1) A respondent referring a medical question to a Medical Panel must submit to the Medical Panel—

(a) a notice in writing and in the prescribed form (if any) setting out—

S. 28LZA(1)(a)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(1).

(i) the medical question; and

(ii) any other prescribed information; and

(b) a copy of any relevant certificate of assessment served on the respondent by the claimant under section 28LT.

(2) The Convenor may, in writing, request the respondent to provide to the Medical Panel any specified document or documents of a specified class in the respondent's possession.

S. 28LZA(2)
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(2).

(2A) More than one request may be made under sub-section (2).

S. 28LZA(2A)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(2).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LZB

S. 28LZA(2B)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(2).

(2B) The respondent must comply with any request under sub-section (2).

S. 28LZA(3)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(3).

(3) The Medical Panel may refuse to proceed to consider a medical question if it is not provided with the documents required under sub-section (1) or requested under sub-section (2).

S. 28LZA(4)
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 28(4).

(4) A respondent is deemed to have accepted the assessment in the certificate of assessment if the respondent—

(a) fails to provide the Medical Panel with the information and documents required under sub-section (1) within 30 days after being requested in writing to do so by the Convenor; or

(b) fails to provide any documents requested under sub-section (2) within 30 days after that request.

(5) The Convenor must notify the claimant in writing within 7 days of a deemed acceptance under sub-section (4).

S. 28LZB
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZB. What if there is more than one referral in relation to an assessment?

The Convenor may direct that referrals by 2 or more respondents to the Medical Panel that concern the same assessment be consolidated.

S. 28LZC
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 29 (ILA
s. 39B(1)).

28LZC. What can a Medical Panel ask a claimant to do?

(1) A Medical Panel may ask a claimant—

(a) to meet with the Panel and answer questions;

(b) to supply to the Panel copies of all documents in the possession of the claimant that relate to the medical question;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZD

(c) to submit to a medical examination by the Panel or by a member of the Panel.

- (2) A request under this section must be made within 30 days after the medical question is referred to the Medical Panel.

S. 28LZC(2) inserted by No. 102/2003 s. 29.

28LZD. Attendance before Medical Panel to be private

S. 28LZD inserted by No. 60/2003 s. 4.

- (1) Any attendance of a claimant before a Medical Panel must be in private, unless the Medical Panel considers that it is necessary for another person to be present.
- (2) If the claimant is a person under disability, the Medical Panel must permit a representative of the claimant to be present.
- (3) In this section "**person under disability**" means a person who is—
- (a) a minor; or
 - (b) incapable by reason of injury, disease, senility, illness or physical or mental infirmity of managing his or her affairs in relation to the matter before the Medical Panel.

28LZE. Medical Panel can ask a registered health practitioner to attend

S. 28LZE inserted by No. 60/2003 s. 4, amended by No. 102/2003 s. 30 (ILA s. 39B(1)).

- (1) If a Medical Panel so requests and the claimant consents, a registered health practitioner who has examined the claimant must—
- (a) meet with the Panel and answer questions; and
 - (b) supply relevant documents to the Panel.
- (2) A request under this section must be made within 30 days after the last of the following to occur—
- (a) the date on which the medical question is referred to the Medical Panel;

S. 28LZE(2) inserted by No. 102/2003 s. 30.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LZF

- (b) the date on which the claimant meets with the Medical Panel under section 28LZC;
- (c) the date on which the claimant is given a medical examination by the Medical Panel or a member of the Panel under section 28LZC;
- (d) the last date on which the Medical Panel receives any documents requested under section 28LZC(1)(b).

S. 28LZF
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZF. Protection of information given to Medical Panel

Information given to a Medical Panel cannot be used in any civil or criminal proceeding in any court, other than a proceeding—

- (a) relating to the claim for which the determination is sought; or

S. 28LZF(a)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 24.

- (b) for an offence against the **Crimes Act 1958** which arises in connection with the claim.

S. 28LZG
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4,
substituted by
No. 102/2003
s. 31.

28LZG. Determination of Panel

- (1) A Medical Panel must not determine the degree of impairment of a person unless it has made an assessment of the degree of impairment in accordance with Division 3.
- (2) After making the assessment, the Medical Panel must give the claimant and the respondent—
 - (a) its determination of the medical question in accordance with sub-section (4); or
 - (b) its certificate, in accordance with sub-section (5), that it is unable to determine the medical question but that it is satisfied that the degree of impairment will satisfy the threshold level when the injury has stabilised; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZG

-
- (c) its certificate that it is unable to determine the medical question and a statement of the time fixed for further assessment of the person under sub-section (6).
- (3) The Medical Panel must give the determination or certificate—
- (a) within 30 days after the last of the following to occur—
- (i) the last date on which the claimant complies with a request under section 28LZC;
- (ii) the last date on which a registered health practitioner complies with a request under section 28LZE or if a request is made to more than one registered health practitioner, the last date on which the last of the registered health practitioners to comply, complies with the request; or
- (b) within such longer period as is agreed by the claimant and the respondent.
- (4) If, after making the assessment, the Medical Panel determines the degree of impairment, the determination of the medical question must state whether the degree of impairment resulting from the injury satisfies the threshold level but must not state the specific degree of impairment.
- (5) If, after making an assessment, the Medical Panel is unable to determine the medical question because an injury has not stabilised, but the Medical Panel is satisfied that the degree of impairment resulting from injury will satisfy the threshold level once the injury has stabilised, the Medical Panel may certify in writing to that effect.
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZGA

- (6) If, after making an assessment, the Medical Panel is unable to determine the medical question because an injury has not stabilised and sub-section (5) does not apply, the Medical Panel must in writing—
 - (a) certify that it is unable to determine the medical question; and
 - (b) fix a time (not being later than 12 months after the first assessment) for a further assessment of the degree of impairment of the person to be made under this section.
- (7) The time fixed under sub-section (6) must be the earliest time by which the Medical Panel considers that the injury will have stabilised.
- (8) More than one further assessment may be made under this section but each further assessment must be made within the period of 12 months following the first assessment.
- (9) A determination of the Medical Panel under sub-section (4) must be given in writing and be certified by the Medical Panel.
- (10) If the Medical Panel gives a certificate under sub-section (5) in relation to an injury, the injury is deemed to be significant injury.

S. 28LZGA
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 31.

28LZGA. Further assessment

- (1) If a Medical Panel fixes a time for further assessment under section 28LZG, the respondent may by notice in writing to the Medical Panel and the claimant waive the requirement for a further assessment.
- (2) The notice must be given within 14 days after the respondent receives the statement of the Medical Panel.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZH

- (3) If the respondent waives the requirement for a further assessment under section 28LZG, the respondent is deemed to have accepted, for the purposes of this Part, the assessment in the certificate of assessment served under section 28LT.
- (4) If a Medical Panel fixes a time for further assessment under section 28LZG, and at the end of 12 months after the first assessment, the Medical Panel certifies in writing that it is still unable to determine the medical question because an injury has not stabilised, the injury to the person is deemed to be significant injury.

28LZH. Effect of determination as to threshold level

S. 28LZH
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) A determination by the Medical Panel under this Division that the degree of impairment resulting from an injury satisfies the threshold level must be accepted by a court in any proceeding on the claim as a determination of significant injury for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) A determination by the Medical Panel under this Division that the degree of impairment resulting from an injury does not satisfy the threshold level must be accepted by a court in any proceeding on the claim as a determination that the injury is not significant injury for the purposes of this Part.

28LZI. Limitations on appeal in relation to assessments and determinations

S. 28LZI
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) No appeal on the merits may be made to a court from an assessment or determination of a Medical Panel under this Division.
- (2) Nothing in sub-section (1) affects any right of a court to grant any other relief or remedy in relation to an assessment or determination of a Medical Panel under this Division.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZJ

S. 28LZJ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZJ. Treating medical practitioner not to be on Medical Panel

If a medical practitioner has treated or examined or has been engaged to treat or examine the claimant (otherwise than in his or her capacity as a member of a Medical Panel), he or she must not be a member of a Medical Panel considering a medical question relating to the claimant.

S. 28LZK
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZK. Validity of acts or decisions

An act or decision of a Medical Panel under this Division is not invalid by reason only of any defect or irregularity in or in connection with the appointment of a member.

S. 28LZL
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZL. Operation of Panel provisions of the Accident Compensation Act

S. 28LZL(1)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 32.

- (1) Sections 65(1) to (6B), 65(8), 65(9), 66, 67 and 68 of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** do not apply to or in relation to—
 - (a) the procedure of a Medical Panel under this Part; or
 - (b) a matter referred to a Medical Panel under this Part.
- (2) Except as provided in sub-section (1), and subject to any inconsistency of context or subject-matter, Division 3 of Part III of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies to a Medical Panel appointed for the purposes of this Part.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LZM

Division 6—Proceedings on Claim

28LZM. Provision of assessment information to court

S. 28LZM
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

- (1) This section applies to a claimant who brings a proceeding in a court in respect of a claim for damages for non-economic loss to which this Part applies in respect of injury to a person caused by the fault of another person.
- (2) The claimant must file in the court before the determination of the claim—
 - (a) if the claimant intends to rely on a certificate of assessment under this Part, a copy of that certificate; or
 - (b) if the claimant intends to rely on the written agreement of any respondent under Division 4 to waive the requirement for assessment in respect of the injury, a copy of that agreement.
- (3) If a Medical Panel has made a determination as to the threshold level under Division 5, the claimant must also file in the court a copy of the certificate of determination of the Medical Panel.
- (4) If the respondent is deemed to have accepted an assessment under this Part, the claimant must also file in the court a statement to that effect.
- (5) If the injury is deemed under section 28LZG(10) to be significant injury, the claimant must also file in the court a statement to that effect, together with the certificate of the Medical Panel under section 28LZG(5).
- (6) If the injury is deemed under section 28LZGA(4) to be significant injury, the claimant must also file in the court a statement to that effect, together with the certificate of the Medical Panel under that sub-section.

S. 28LZM(3)
amended by
No. 102/2003
s. 24.

S. 28LZM(5)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 33.

S. 28LZM(6)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 33.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZN

S. 28LZN
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZN. Alternative procedure for special cases

- (1) A claimant may apply to a court for a determination of significant injury for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) The court may make a determination of significant injury in respect of a claimant if the court is satisfied that—
 - (a) the claim should be dealt with urgently because of the imminent death of the claimant; and
 - (b) the injury, if assessed under Division 3, would be significant injury.
- (3) The court may make a determination of significant injury in respect of a claimant if the court is satisfied that—
 - (a) the claim relates to a cause of action that survives for the benefit of the estate of a deceased person under section 29(1) of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; and
 - (b) the deceased person died from a cause other than the injury to which the claim relates; and
 - (c) the injury to which the claim relates, if it had been assessed under Division 3, would be significant injury.

Division 7—General

S. 28LZO
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZO. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of sections 28LE, 28LZH, 28LZI and 28LZL to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-Economic Loss

s. 28LZP

28LZP. Regulations

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed or necessary to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.
- (2) The regulations—
 - (a) may leave any matter to be determined by the Minister; and
 - (ab) may prescribe forms for use under this Part; and
 - (b) may apply, adopt or incorporate, wholly or partially or as amended by the regulations, any matter contained in any document as existing or in force at the time the regulations are made.
- (3) Without limiting sub-sections (1) and (2), the regulations may modify the A.M.A. Guides.
- (4) Without limiting sub-sections (1) and (2), the regulations may fix the methods to be used for the purpose of assessing the degree of impairment in respect of injury to a person.
- (5) Regulations made under sub-section (4)—
 - (a) must specify the methods to be used and any modifications of those methods that are to apply; and
 - (b) can only apply for the purpose of assessing the degree of impairment of a person who receives an injury on or after the date that the regulations are made or on or after a later date specified in the regulations.

S. 28LZP
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

S. 28LZP
(2)(ab)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 34.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VBA—Thresholds in Relation to Recovery of Damages for Non-
Economic Loss

s. 28LZQ

S. 28LZQ
inserted by
No. 60/2003
s. 4.

28LZQ. Transitional

- (1) This Part applies to an award of damages for non-economic loss that relates to an injury received on or after 21 May 2003.
- (2) On and from 1 October 2003, this Part applies to an award of damages for non-economic loss that relates to an injury received before 21 May 2003.
- (3) Sub-section (2) does not apply to an award of damages in a proceeding commenced in a court before 1 October 2003.
- (4) Despite the amendment of section 28LF by section 14(2) of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003**, section 28LF continues to apply to any proceedings in which damages were awarded before the date on which that Act received the Royal Assent as if section 28LF had not been amended by section 14(2) of that Act.

S. 28LZQ(4)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 35.

PART VC—STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS

Part VC
(Heading and
ss 28M–28N)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 8.

28M. Definitions

S. 28M
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 8.

In this Part—

"claim" does not include a claim under the
Accident Compensation Act 1985;

"court", in relation to a claim, means—

- (a) if a proceeding based on the claim has been commenced in the Supreme Court or the County Court—the court hearing the proceeding; or
- (b) if no proceeding based on the claim has been commenced—the Supreme Court or the County Court;

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

"fault" includes an act or omission;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease;

"structured settlement" means an agreement that provides for the payment of all or part of an award of damages in the form of periodic payments funded by an annuity or other agreed means.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VC—Structured Settlements

s. 28N

S. 28N
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 8.

28N. Court may make order for structured settlement

- (1) If the parties to a claim for damages that relate to injury to a person caused by the fault of another person agree to settle the claim by making a structured settlement, one or more parties may apply to the court for an order approving of, or in the terms of, the structured settlement.
 - (2) The court may make the order even though the payment of damages is not in the form of a lump sum award of damages.
-

PART VI—DAMAGE BY AIRCRAFT

29. Definitions

No. 5704 s. 2.

In this Part unless inconsistent with the context or subject-matter—

"Air Navigation Regulations" means the Air Navigation Regulations made and as in force from time to time under the Commonwealth Act and includes such of the provisions of those Regulations as apply to and in relation to air navigation within Victoria by virtue of the **Air Navigation Act 1958**;

"article" includes mail and postal articles and animals;

"loss or damage" includes, in relation to persons, loss of life and personal injury;

"the Commonwealth Act" means the Air Navigation Act 1920–1950 of the Commonwealth of Australia and if that Act is amended includes that Act as amended from time to time.

30. Limitation of liability for trespass or nuisance by flying over property

No. 5704 s. 3.

No action shall lie in respect of trespass or nuisance by reason only of the flight of an aircraft over any property at a height above the ground which having regard to the wind the weather and all the circumstances is reasonable, or the ordinary incidents of such flight, so long as the provisions of the Air Navigation Regulations are duly complied with.

31. Liability for damage by aircraft or articles falling therefrom

- (1) Where material loss or damage is caused to any person or property on land or water by or by a person in or by an article or person falling from an aircraft while in flight taking off or landing then, unless the loss or damage was caused or contributed to by the negligence of the person by whom it was suffered, damages in respect of the loss or damage shall be recoverable from the owner of the aircraft without proof of negligence or intention or other cause of action as if the loss or damage had been caused by the wilful act neglect or default of the owner:

Provided that where material loss or damage is caused as aforesaid in circumstances in which—

- (a) damages in respect of the said loss or damage are recoverable from the owner by virtue only of the foregoing provisions of this sub-section; and
- (b) a legal liability is created in some person other than the owner to pay damages in respect of the said loss or damage—

the owner shall be entitled to be indemnified by that other person against any claim in respect of the said loss or damage.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VI—Damage by Aircraft

s. 31

-
- (2) Where the aircraft concerned has been bona fide demised chartered let or hired out for a period exceeding fourteen days to any other person by the owner thereof and no pilot commander navigator or operative member of the crew of the aircraft is in the employment of the owner the last preceding sub-section shall have effect as if for references therein to the owner there were substituted references to the person to whom the aircraft has been so demised chartered let or hired out.
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VIA—Good Samaritan Protection

s. 31A

Pt 6A
(Heading and
ss 31A–31D)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 9.

PART VIA—GOOD SAMARITAN PROTECTION

S. 31A
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 9.

31A. Definition

In this Part, "**injury**" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease.

S. 31B
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 9.

31B. Protection of good samaritans

- (1) A good samaritan is an individual who provides assistance, advice or care to another person in relation to an emergency or accident in circumstances in which—
 - (a) he or she expects no money or other financial reward for providing the assistance, advice or care; and
 - (b) as a result of the emergency or accident the person to whom, or in relation to whom, the assistance, advice or care is provided is at risk of death or injury, is injured, is apparently at risk of death or injury, or is apparently injured.
- (2) A good samaritan is not liable in any civil proceeding for anything done, or not done, by him or her in good faith—
 - (a) in providing assistance, advice or care at the scene of the emergency or accident; or

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VIA—Good Samaritan Protection

s. 31C

-
- (b) in providing advice by telephone or by another means of communication to a person at the scene of the emergency or accident.
- (3) Sub-section (2) applies even if the emergency or accident was caused by an act or omission of the good samaritan.
- (4) Sub-section (2) does not apply to any act or omission of a good samaritan that occurs before the assistance, advice or care is provided by the good samaritan.

31C. Application of section 31B

Section 31B applies in relation to assistance, advice or care provided on or after the commencement of section 9 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002**.

S. 31C
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 9.

31D. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of section 31B to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 31D
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 9.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VIB—Food Donor Protection

s. 31E

Pt 6B
(Heading and
ss 31E–31H)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 10.

PART VIB—FOOD DONOR PROTECTION

S. 31E
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 10.

31E. Interpretation

- (1) In this Part, "**injury**" means personal or bodily injury and includes—
 - (a) pre-natal injury; and
 - (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
 - (c) disease; and
 - (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease.
- (2) Words and expressions used in this Part have the same meanings as they have in the **Food Act 1984**.

S. 31F
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 10.

31F. Protection of food donors

- (1) A person who donates food (**the food donor**) in the circumstances listed in sub-section (2) is not liable in any civil proceeding for any death or injury that results from the consumption of the food.
- (2) The circumstances are—
 - (a) that the food donor donated the food—
 - (i) in good faith for a charitable or benevolent purpose; and
 - (ii) with the intention that the consumer of the food would not have to pay for the food; and
 - (b) that the food was safe to consume at the time it left the possession or control of the food donor; and

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VIB—Food Donor Protection

s. 31G

-
- (c) if the food was of a nature that required it to be handled in a particular way to ensure that it remained safe to consume after it left the possession or control of the food donor, that the food donor informed the person to whom the food donor gave the food of those handling requirements; and
- (d) if the food only remained safe to consume for a particular period of time after it left the possession or control of the food donor, that the food donor informed the person to whom the food donor gave the food of that time limit.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, food is safe to consume if it is not unsafe food.

31G. Application of section 31F

Section 31F applies in relation to food donated on or after the commencement of section 10 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002**.

S. 31G
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 10.

31H. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of section 31F to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 31H
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 10.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VII—Abolition of Liability in Tort for Maintenance or Champerty

s. 32

Pt 7
(Heading and
s. 32)
inserted by
No. 7884
s. 4(2).

**PART VII—ABOLITION OF LIABILITY IN TORT FOR
MAINTENANCE OR CHAMPERTY**

S. 32
inserted by
No. 7884
s. 4(2).

32. Abolition of liability in maintenance or champerty

- (1) No person shall be liable in tort for any conduct on account of its being maintenance or champerty as known to the common law except in the case of a cause of action accruing before the commencement of the **Abolition of Obsolete Offences Act 1969**.
- (2) The abolition of criminal and civil liability for maintenance and champerty shall not affect any rule of law as to the cases in which a contract is to be treated as contrary to public policy or as being otherwise illegal and any contract which would have been illegal and void before the commencement of the **Abolition of Obsolete Offences Act 1969** on the ground that its making or performance involved or was in aid of maintenance or champerty shall continue to be illegal and void after the said commencement.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part VIII—Animals Straying on to a Highway

s. 33

PART VIII—ANIMALS STRAYING ON TO A HIGHWAY

Pt 8
(Heading and
s. 33)
inserted by
No. 10078 s. 5.

33. Liability for negligence for animals on highway

S. 33
inserted by
No. 10078 s. 5.

- (1) So much of the common law relating to liability for negligence as excludes or restricts the duty which a person might owe to others to take reasonable care to see that damage is not caused by animals straying on to a highway is hereby abolished.
 - (2) The common law as amended by sub-section (1) applies in respect of damage caused on or after the commencement of the **Wrongs (Animals Straying on Highways) Act 1984**.
-

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IX—Volunteer Protection

s. 34

Part IX
(Heading and
ss 34–42)
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

PART IX—VOLUNTEER PROTECTION

S. 34
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

34. Definitions

In this Part—

S. 34 def. of
"community
organisation"
amended by
No. 108/2004
s. 117(1)
(Sch. 3
item 237.1).

"community organisation" means—

- (a) an incorporated association under the **Associations Incorporation Act 1981**;
- (b) a municipal council or other incorporated local government body;
- (c) any other body corporate;
- (d) any public entity or public service body within the meaning of the **Public Administration Act 2004** or other person or body acting on behalf of the State—

that organises the doing of community work by volunteers;

"community work" has the meaning set out in section 36;

"organise" includes to direct and to supervise;

"volunteer" has the meaning set out in section 35.

S. 35
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

35. Meaning of "volunteer"

- (1) A volunteer is an individual who provides a service in relation to community work on a voluntary basis.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IX—Volunteer Protection

s. 35

-
- (2) A person is still a volunteer even if, in providing a service, he or she receives—
- (a) remuneration that he or she would receive whether or not he or she provided that service; or
 - (b) out-of-pocket expenses incurred in relation to providing that service; or
 - (c) remuneration that is not more than the amount (if any) specified in the regulations for the purposes of this section.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part, the following people are not volunteers—
- (a) a volunteer officer or member within the meaning of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** while exercising any power conferred, or performing any duty imposed, on him or her by or under that Act or the **Dangerous Goods Act 1985**;
 - (b) an officer or member of an industry brigade within the meaning of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** while exercising any power conferred, or performing any duty imposed, on him or her by or under that Act or the **Dangerous Goods Act 1985**;
 - (c) a volunteer auxiliary worker within the meaning of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** engaged in an authorized activity under that Act;
 - (d) a person complying with a direction given to him or her under the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958**;
 - (e) a volunteer emergency worker within the meaning of the **Emergency Management Act 1986** engaged in an emergency activity within the meaning of that Act;
-

- (f) a volunteer emergency worker within the meaning of the **Emergency Management Act 1986** exercising any power conferred, or performing any duty imposed, by or under the **Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987**;
- (g) any person who would otherwise be a volunteer under this Part while he or she is engaged in any activity in respect of which an Act absolves him or her from civil liability for anything done, or not done, while he or she is so engaged;
- (h) a person who does community work under an order imposed by a court.

36. Meaning of "community work"

- (1) Community work is any work that is done, or to be done—
 - (a) for a religious, educational, charitable or benevolent purpose;
 - (b) for the purpose of promoting or encouraging literature, science or the arts;
 - (c) for the purpose of sport, recreation, tourism or amusement;
 - (d) for the purpose of conserving or protecting the environment;
 - (e) for the purpose of establishing, carrying on or improving a community, social or cultural centre;
 - (f) for a political purpose;
 - (g) for the purpose of promoting the common interests of the community generally or of a particular section of the community;

S. 36
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

(h) for any other purpose specified in the regulations for the purposes of this section.

(2) For the purposes of this Part, community work does not include any work of a kind that is specified in the regulations as work that is not community work for the purposes of this Part.

37. Protection of volunteers from liability

S. 37
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

(1) A volunteer is not liable in any civil proceeding for anything done, or not done, in good faith by him or her in providing a service in relation to community work organised by a community organisation.

(2) Any liability resulting from an act or omission that would but for sub-section (1) attach to the volunteer attaches instead to the community organisation.

38. Exceptions to section 37(1)

S. 38
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

(1) Section 37(1) does not apply to a volunteer—

(a) who knew, or who ought reasonably to have known, that at the relevant time he or she was acting—

(i) outside the scope of the community work organised by the community organisation; or

(ii) contrary to any instructions given by the community organisation in relation to the providing of the service; or

(b) whose ability to provide the service in a proper manner was, at the relevant time, significantly impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IX—Volunteer Protection

s. 39

-
- (2) Section 37(1) also does not apply to a volunteer—
- (a) in respect of any claim to recover damages in respect of defamation; or
 - (b) in respect of any proceedings that are brought under the **Transport Accident Act 1986**.
- (3) A reference to drugs in sub-section (1)(b) does not include a reference to drugs that were taken for a therapeutic purpose or that were not taken voluntarily.
- (4) A reference to alcohol in sub-section (1)(b) does not include a reference to alcohol that was not consumed voluntarily.

S. 39
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

39. Provisions concerning the liability of community organisations

- (1) Section 37(2) does not override any protection from liability that would have applied to a community organisation if the thing done, or not done, by the volunteer had been done, or not done, by the community organisation.
- (2) If more than one community organisation is involved in organising particular community work, section 37(2) applies to the community organisation or organisations that principally organised that work.
- (3) In the case of a community organisation that is a public entity or public service body within the meaning of the **Public Administration Act 2004** or another person or body acting on behalf of the State, any liability incurred by the community organisation under section 37(2) is incurred by the State.

S. 39(3)
amended by
No. 108/2004
s. 117(1)
(Sch. 3
item 237.2).

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part IX—Volunteer Protection

s. 40

40. Certain indemnities etc. have no effect

An agreement, undertaking or arrangement has no effect to the extent that it provides for a volunteer to give a community organisation an indemnity against, or to make a contribution to a community organisation in relation to, a liability—

- (a) that the volunteer would incur but for the operation of section 37(1); and
- (b) that the community organisation incurs under section 37(2).

S. 40
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

41. Application of section 37

Section 37 applies in relation to a service provided on or after the commencement of section 11 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002**.

S. 41
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

42. Regulations

- (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.
- (2) The regulations—
 - (a) may be of general or limited application; and
 - (b) may differ according to differences in time, place or circumstance; and
 - (c) may apply, adopt or incorporate any matter contained in any document as in force at a particular time either wholly, or partially, or as amended by the regulations.

S. 42
inserted by
No. 49/2002
s. 11.

Pt 10
(Heading and
ss 43–66)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

PART X—NEGLIGENCE

Division 1—Preliminary

S. 43
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

43. Definitions

In this Part—

"court" includes tribunal, and, in relation to a claim for damages, means any court or tribunal by or before which the claim falls to be determined;

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

"harm" means harm of any kind and includes—

- (a) injury or death; and
- (b) damage to property; and
- (c) economic loss;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease;

"negligence" means failure to exercise reasonable care.

S. 44
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

44. Application of Part

This Part applies to any claim for damages resulting from negligence, regardless of whether the claim is brought in tort, in contract, under statute or otherwise.

45. Exclusions from Part

S. 45
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) This Part does not apply to the following claims for damages—
- (a) a claim to which Part 3, 6 or 10 of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** applies;
 - (b) a claim to which Part IV of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies;
 - (c) a claim in respect of an injury which entitles, or may entitle, a worker, or a dependant of a worker, within the meaning of the **Workers Compensation Act 1958** to compensation under that Act;
 - (d) a claim in respect of an injury which entitles, or may entitle, a person or a dependant of a person to compensation under any of the following—
 - (i) Part V of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** or the regulations made under that Act;
 - (ii) Part 3 of the **Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987**;
 - (iii) Part 6 of the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;
 - (iv) the **Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968**;
 - (v) Part 8 of the **Juries Act 2000** or Part VII of the **Juries Act 1967**;
 - (vi) Division 6 of Part II of the **Education Act 1958**;
 - (e) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury that is a dust-related condition within the meaning of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; or

- (f) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury resulting from smoking or other use of tobacco products, within the meaning of the **Tobacco Act 1987**, or exposure to tobacco smoke.
- (2) A claim for damages referred to in sub-section (1)(e) or (1)(f) does not include a claim for damages that relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.
- (3) This Part does not apply to claims in proceedings of a class that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part.

S. 46
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

46. Application to contract

- (1) This Part does not prevent the parties to a contract from making express provision for their rights, obligations and liabilities under the contract (the **express provision**) in relation to any matter to which this Part applies and does not limit or otherwise affect the operation of the express provision.
- (2) Sub-section (1) extends to any provision of this Part even if the provision applies to liability in contract.

S. 47
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

47. Effect of this Part on the common law

Except as provided by this Part, this Part is not intended to affect the common law.

Division 2—Duty of Care

S. 48
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

48. General principles

- (1) A person is not negligent in failing to take precautions against a risk of harm unless—
- (a) the risk was foreseeable (that is, it is a risk of which the person knew or ought to have known); and

-
- (b) the risk was not insignificant; and
 - (c) in the circumstances, a reasonable person in the person's position would have taken those precautions.
- (2) In determining whether a reasonable person would have taken precautions against a risk of harm, the court is to consider the following (amongst other relevant things)—
- (a) the probability that the harm would occur if care were not taken;
 - (b) the likely seriousness of the harm;
 - (c) the burden of taking precautions to avoid the risk of harm;
 - (d) the social utility of the activity that creates the risk of harm.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-section (1)(b)—
- (a) **insignificant risks** include, but are not limited to, risks that are far-fetched or fanciful; and
 - (b) risks that are **not insignificant** are all risks other than insignificant risks and include, but are not limited to, significant risks.

49. Other principles

In a proceeding relating to liability for negligence—

- (a) the burden of taking precautions to avoid a risk of harm includes the burden of taking precautions to avoid similar risks of harm for which the person may be responsible; and
- (b) the fact that a risk of harm could have been avoided by doing something in a different way does not of itself give rise to or affect

S. 49
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

liability for the way in which the thing was done; and

- (c) the subsequent taking of action that would (had the action been taken earlier) have avoided a risk of harm does not of itself give rise to or affect liability in respect of the risk and does not of itself constitute an admission of liability in connection with the risk.

S. 50
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

50. Duty to warn of risk—reasonable care

A person (the **defendant**) who owes a duty of care to another person (the **plaintiff**) to give a warning or other information to the plaintiff in respect of a risk or other matter, satisfies that duty of care if the defendant takes reasonable care in giving that warning or other information.

Division 3—Causation

S. 51
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

51. General principles

- (1) A determination that negligence caused particular harm comprises the following elements—
- (a) that the negligence was a necessary condition of the occurrence of the harm (**factual causation**); and
- (b) that it is appropriate for the scope of the negligent person's liability to extend to the harm so caused (**scope of liability**).
- (2) In determining in an appropriate case, in accordance with established principles, whether negligence that cannot be established as a necessary condition of the occurrence of harm should be taken to establish factual causation, the court is to consider (amongst other relevant things) whether or not and why responsibility for the harm should be imposed on the negligent party.

-
- (3) If it is relevant to the determination of factual causation to determine what the person who suffered harm (the **injured person**) would have done if the negligent person had not been negligent, the matter is to be determined subjectively in the light of all relevant circumstances.
 - (4) For the purpose of determining the scope of liability, the court is to consider (amongst other relevant things) whether or not and why responsibility for the harm should be imposed on the negligent party.

52. Burden of proof

In determining liability for negligence, the plaintiff always bears the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities, any fact relevant to the issue of causation.

S. 52
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

Division 4—Awareness of Risk

53. Meaning of obvious risk

- (1) For the purposes of section 54, an **obvious risk** to a person who suffers harm is a risk that, in the circumstances, would have been obvious to a reasonable person in the position of that person.
- (2) Obvious risks include risks that are patent or a matter of common knowledge.
- (3) A risk of something occurring can be an obvious risk even though it has a low probability of occurring.
- (4) A risk can be an obvious risk even if the risk (or a condition or circumstance that gives rise to the risk) is not prominent, conspicuous or physically observable.

S. 53
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (5) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a risk from a thing, including a living thing, is not an obvious risk if the risk is created because of a failure on the part of a person to properly operate, maintain, replace, prepare or care for the thing, unless the failure itself is an obvious risk.

S. 54
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

54. Voluntary assumption of risk

- (1) If, in a proceeding on a claim for damages for negligence, a defence of voluntary assumption of risk (*volenti non fit injuria*) is raised and the risk of harm is an obvious risk, the person who suffered harm is presumed to have been aware of the risk, unless the person proves on the balance of probabilities that the person was not aware of the risk.
- (2) Sub-section (1) does not apply to—
- (a) a proceeding on a claim for damages relating to the provision of or the failure to provide a professional service or health service; or
 - (b) a proceeding on a claim for damages in respect of risks associated with work done by one person for another.
- (3) Without limiting section 47, the common law continues to apply, unaffected by sub-section (1), to a proceeding referred to in sub-section (2).

S. 55
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

55. No liability for materialisation of inherent risk

- (1) A person is not liable in negligence for harm suffered by another person as a result of the materialisation of an inherent risk.
- (2) An **inherent risk** is a risk of something occurring that cannot be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care.
- (3) This section does not operate to exclude liability in connection with a duty to warn of a risk.

56. Plaintiff to prove unawareness of risk

S. 56
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) In any proceeding where, for the purpose of establishing that a person (the **defendant**) has breached a duty of care owed to a person who suffered harm (the **plaintiff**), the plaintiff alleges that the defendant has—
 - (a) failed to give a warning about a risk of harm to the plaintiff; or
 - (b) failed to give other information to the plaintiff—the plaintiff bears the burden of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that the plaintiff was not aware of the risk or information.
- (2) Sub-section (1) does not apply to a proceeding on a claim for damages in respect of risks associated with work done by one person for another.
- (3) Despite sub-section (2), sub-section (1) applies to a proceeding referred to in sub-section (2) if the proceeding relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.
- (4) Without limiting section 47, the common law continues to apply, unaffected by sub-section (1), to a proceeding referred to in sub-section (2) to which sub-section (1) does not apply.
- (5) Nothing in this section is intended to alter any duty of care to give a warning of a risk of harm or other information.

**Division 5—Negligence of professionals and persons
professing particular skills**

S. 57
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

57. Definition

In this Division "**professional**" means an individual practising a profession.

S. 58
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

58. Standard of care to be expected of persons holding out as possessing a particular skill

In a case involving an allegation of negligence against a person (the **defendant**) who holds himself or herself out as possessing a particular skill, the standard to be applied by a court in determining whether the defendant acted with due care is, subject to this Division, to be determined by reference to—

- (a) what could reasonably be expected of a person possessing that skill; and
- (b) the relevant circumstances as at the date of the alleged negligence and not a later date.

S. 59
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

59. Standard of care for professionals

- (1) A professional is not negligent in providing a professional service if it is established that the professional acted in a manner that (at the time the service was provided) was widely accepted in Australia by a significant number of respected practitioners in the field (**peer professional opinion**) as competent professional practice in the circumstances.
 - (2) However, peer professional opinion cannot be relied on for the purposes of this section if the court determines that the opinion is unreasonable.
 - (3) The fact that there are differing peer professional opinions widely accepted in Australia by a significant number of respected practitioners in the field concerning a matter does not prevent any
-

one or more (or all) of those opinions being relied on for the purposes of this section.

- (4) Peer professional opinion does not have to be universally accepted to be considered widely accepted.
- (5) If, under this section, a court determines peer professional opinion to be unreasonable, it must specify in writing the reasons for that determination.
- (6) Sub-section (5) does not apply if a jury determines the matter.

60. Duty to warn of risk

Section 59 does not apply to a liability arising in connection with the giving of (or the failure to give) a warning or other information in respect of a risk or other matter to a person if the giving of the warning or information is associated with the provision by a professional of a professional service.

S. 60
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

Division 6—Non-delegable duties and vicarious liability

61. Liability based on non-delegable duty

- (1) The extent of liability in tort of a person (the **defendant**) for breach of a non-delegable duty to ensure that reasonable care is taken by a person in the carrying out of any work or task delegated or otherwise entrusted to the person by the defendant is to be determined as if the defendant were vicariously liable for the negligence of the person in connection with the performance of the work or task.
- (2) This section applies to a claim for damages in tort whether or not it is a claim for damages resulting from negligence, despite anything to the contrary in section 44.

S. 61
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

Division 7—Contributory Negligence

S. 62
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

62. Standard of care for contributory negligence

- (1) The principles that are applicable in determining whether a person has been negligent also apply in determining whether the person who suffered harm has been contributorily negligent in failing to take precautions against the risk of that harm.
- (2) For that purpose—
 - (a) the standard of care required of the person who suffered harm is that of a reasonable person in the position of that person; and
 - (b) the matter is to be determined on the basis of what that person knew or ought to have known at the time.

S. 63
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

63. Contributory negligence can defeat claim

In determining the extent of a reduction in damages by reason of contributory negligence, a court may determine a reduction of 100% if the court thinks it just and equitable to do so, with the result that the claim for damages is defeated.

Division 8—General

S. 64
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

64. Regulations

The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed or necessary to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.

S. 65
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

65. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of sections 48(2), 51(2), 51(3), 51(4), 58, 59(5) and 62 to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958
Part X—Negligence

s. 66

66. Transitional

- (1) This Part extends to negligence arising before, on or after the commencement day.
- (2) Section 61 extends to liability in tort arising before, on or after the commencement day.
- (3) Despite sub-sections (1) and (2), this Part does not apply to proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement day.
- (4) In this section "**commencement day**" means the day on which section 3 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003** comes into operation.

S. 66
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

Pt 11
(Heading and
ss 67–78)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

S. 67
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

PART XI—MENTAL HARM

67. Definitions

In this Part—

"consequential mental harm" means mental harm that is a consequence of an injury of any other kind;

"court" includes tribunal, and, in relation to a claim for damages, means any court or tribunal by or before which the claim falls to be determined;

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

"injury" means personal or bodily injury and includes—

- (a) pre-natal injury; and
- (b) psychological or psychiatric injury; and
- (c) disease; and
- (d) aggravation, acceleration or recurrence of an injury or disease;

"mental harm" means psychological or psychiatric injury;

"negligence" means failure to exercise reasonable care;

"pure mental harm" means mental harm other than consequential mental harm.

68. Application of Part

This Part applies to any claim for damages resulting from negligence, regardless of whether the claim is brought in tort, in contract, under statute or otherwise.

S. 68
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

69. Exclusions from Part

- (1) This Part does not apply to the following claims for damages—
- (a) a claim to which Part 3, 6 or 10 of the **Transport Accident Act 1986** applies;
 - (b) a claim to which Part IV of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** applies;
 - (c) a claim in respect of an injury which entitles, or may entitle, a worker, or a dependant of a worker, within the meaning of the **Workers Compensation Act 1958** to compensation under that Act;
 - (d) a claim in respect of an injury which entitles, or may entitle, a person or a dependant of a person to compensation under any of the following—
 - (i) Part V of the **Country Fire Authority Act 1958** or the regulations made under that Act;
 - (ii) Part 3 of the **Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1987**;
 - (iii) Part 6 of the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;
 - (iv) the **Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968**;
 - (v) Part 8 of the **Juries Act 2000** or Part VII of the **Juries Act 1967**;

S. 69
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

-
- (vi) Division 6 of Part II of the **Education Act 1958**;
- (e) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury that is a dust-related condition within the meaning of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; or
- (f) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury resulting from smoking or other use of tobacco products, within the meaning of the **Tobacco Act 1987**, or exposure to tobacco smoke.
- (2) A claim for damages referred to in sub-section (1)(e) or (1)(f) does not include a claim for damages that relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.
- (3) This Part does not apply to claims in proceedings of a class that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part.

S. 70
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

70. Application to contract

- (1) This Part does not prevent the parties to a contract from making express provision for their rights, obligations and liabilities under the contract (the **express provision**) in relation to any matter to which this Part applies and does not limit or otherwise affect the operation of the express provision.
- (2) Sub-section (1) extends to any provision of this Part even if the provision applies to liability in contract.

S. 71
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

71. Effect of this Part on the common law

Except as provided by this Part, this Part is not intended to affect the common law.

72. Mental harm—duty of care

S. 72
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) A person (the **defendant**) does not owe a duty to another person (the **plaintiff**) to take care not to cause the plaintiff pure mental harm unless the defendant foresaw or ought to have foreseen that a person of normal fortitude might, in the circumstances of the case, suffer a recognised psychiatric illness if reasonable care were not taken.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of this section, the circumstances of the case include the following—
 - (a) whether or not the mental harm was suffered as the result of a sudden shock;
 - (b) whether the plaintiff witnessed, at the scene, a person being killed, injured or put in danger;
 - (c) the nature of the relationship between the plaintiff and any person killed, injured or put in danger;
 - (d) whether or not there was a pre-existing relationship between the plaintiff and the defendant.
- (3) This section does not affect the duty of care of a person (the **defendant**) to another (the **plaintiff**) if the defendant knows, or ought to know, that the plaintiff is a person of less than normal fortitude.

73. Limitation on recovery of damages for pure mental harm arising from shock

S. 73
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) This section applies to the liability of a person (the **defendant**) for pure mental harm to a person (the **plaintiff**) arising wholly or partly from mental or nervous shock in connection with another person (the **victim**) being killed, injured or put in danger by the act or omission of the defendant.

-
- (2) The plaintiff is not entitled to recover damages for pure mental harm unless—
 - (a) the plaintiff witnessed, at the scene, the victim being killed, injured or put in danger; or
 - (b) the plaintiff is or was in a close relationship with the victim.
 - (3) No damages are to be awarded to the plaintiff for pure mental harm if the recovery of damages from the defendant by or through the victim in respect of the act or omission would be prevented by any provision of this Act or any other written or unwritten law.

S. 74
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

74. Limitation on recovery of damages for consequential mental harm

- (1) A person (the **plaintiff**) is not entitled to recover damages from another person (the **defendant**) for consequential mental harm unless—
 - (a) the defendant foresaw or ought to have foreseen that a person of normal fortitude might, in the circumstances of the case, suffer a recognised psychiatric illness if reasonable care were not taken; or
 - (b) the defendant knew, or ought to have known, that the plaintiff is a person of less than normal fortitude and foresaw or ought to have foreseen that the plaintiff might, in the circumstances of the case, suffer a recognised psychiatric illness if reasonable care were not taken.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of this section, the circumstances of the case include the injury to the plaintiff out of which the mental harm arose.

75. Liability for economic loss for mental harm

A court cannot make an award of damages for economic loss for mental harm resulting from negligence unless the harm consists of a recognised psychiatric illness.

S. 75
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

76. Regulations

The Governor in Council may make regulations generally prescribing any matter or thing required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed or necessary to be prescribed to give effect to this Part.

S. 76
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

77. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of sections 73, 74 and 75 to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 77
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

78. Transitional

- (1) This Part extends to negligence arising before, on or after the commencement day.
- (2) Despite sub-section (1), this Part does not apply to proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement day.
- (3) In this section "**commencement day**" means the day on which section 3 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003** comes into operation.

S. 78
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part XII—Liability of Public Authorities

s. 79

Pt 12
(Heading and
ss 79–87)
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

PART XII—LIABILITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

S. 79
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

79. Definitions

In this Part—

"damages" includes any form of monetary compensation;

"exercise" in relation to a function includes perform a duty;

"function" includes a power, authority or duty;

"negligence" means failure to exercise reasonable care;

"public authority" means—

S. 79 def. of
"public
authority"
amended by
No. 108/2004
s. 117(1)
(Sch. 3
item 237.3).

- (a) the Crown;
- (b) a public service body within the meaning of the **Public Administration Act 2004**;
- (c) a body, whether corporate or unincorporate, that is established by or under an Act for a public purpose;
- (d) a Council within the meaning of the **Local Government Act 1989**;
- (e) a body established or appointed for a public purpose by the Governor in Council or by a Minister, otherwise than under an Act;
- (f) a person holding an office or position established by or under an Act;

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part XII—Liability of Public Authorities

s. 80

- (g) a person holding an office or position to which he or she was appointed by the Governor in Council or a Minister otherwise than under an Act;
- (h) any other person or body prescribed (or of a class prescribed) as an authority to which this Part applies (in respect of all or specified functions);
- (i) any person or body in respect of the exercise of a public or other function of a class prescribed for the purpose of this Part.

80. Application of Part

S. 80
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) This Part (except section 84) applies to any claim for damages resulting from negligence, regardless of whether the claim is brought in tort, in contract, under statute or otherwise.
- (2) Sub-section (1) and section 84 do not apply if the relevant enactment contains express provision to the contrary.

81. Exclusions from Part

S. 81
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) This Part does not apply to the following claims for damages—
 - (a) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury that is a dust-related condition within the meaning of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958**; or
 - (b) subject to sub-section (2), a claim for damages in respect of an injury resulting from smoking or other use of tobacco products, within the meaning of the **Tobacco Act 1987**, or exposure to tobacco smoke.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part XII—Liability of Public Authorities

s. 82

- (2) A claim for damages referred to in sub-section (1)(a) or (1)(b) does not include a claim for damages that relates to the provision of or the failure to provide a health service.
- (3) This Part does not apply to a public authority or class of public authority—
 - (a) that is excluded by the regulations from the operation of this Part in respect of all of its functions; or
 - (b) in respect of specified functions or functions of a specified class, if the regulations exclude those functions or that class of functions from the operation of this Part in respect of that public authority or class of public authority.

S. 82
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

82. Effect of this Part on the common law

Except as provided by sections 83, 84 and 85, this Part is not intended to affect the common law.

S. 83
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

83. Principles concerning resources, responsibilities etc. of public authorities

In determining whether a public authority has a duty of care or has breached a duty of care, a court is to consider the following principles (amongst other relevant things)—

- (a) the functions required to be exercised by the authority are limited by the financial and other resources that are reasonably available to the authority for the purpose of exercising those functions;
- (b) the functions required to be exercised by the authority are to be determined by reference to the broad range of its activities (and not merely by reference to the matter to which the proceeding relates);

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part XII—Liability of Public Authorities

s. 84

(c) the authority may rely on evidence of its compliance with the general procedures and applicable standards for the exercise of its functions as evidence of the proper exercise of its functions in the matter to which the proceeding relates.

84. Wrongful exercise of or failure to exercise function

S. 84
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

- (1) This section applies to a proceeding for damages for an alleged breach of statutory duty by a public authority in connection with the exercise of or a failure to exercise a function of the authority.
- (2) For the purpose of the proceeding, an act or omission of the public authority relating to a function conferred on the public authority specifically in its capacity as a public authority does not constitute a breach of statutory duty unless the act or omission was in the circumstances so unreasonable that no public authority having the functions of the authority in question could properly consider the act or omission to be a reasonable exercise of its functions.
- (3) For the purpose of the proceeding the public authority is not liable for damages caused by the wrongful exercise of or failure to exercise a function of the authority unless the provisions and policy of the enactment in which the duty to exercise the function is created are compatible with the existence of that liability.
- (4) Despite sub-section (1), sub-section (2) does not apply to a statutory duty that is imposed as an absolute duty on the public authority to do or not to do a particular thing.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Part XII—Liability of Public Authorities

s. 85

S. 85
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

85. Exercise of function or decision to exercise does not create duty

In a proceeding, the fact that a public authority exercises or decides to exercise a function does not of itself indicate that the authority is under a duty to exercise the function or that the function should be exercised in particular circumstances or in a particular way.

S. 86
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

86. Supreme Court—limitation of jurisdiction

It is the intention of section 83 to alter or vary section 85 of the **Constitution Act 1975**.

S. 87
inserted by
No. 102/2003
s. 3.

87. Transitional

- (1) This Part extends to negligence arising before, on or after the commencement day.
- (2) Section 84 extends to an act or omission occurring before, on or after the commencement day.
- (3) Despite sub-sections (1) and (2), this Part does not apply to proceedings commenced in a court before the commencement day.
- (4) In this section "**commencement day**" means the day on which section 3 of the **Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003** comes into operation.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Sch.

SCHEDULE

<i>Number of Act</i>	<i>Title of Act</i>	<i>Extent of Repeal</i>	Section 2.
3807	Wrongs Act 1928	The whole.	
4070	Wrongs Act 1932	The whole.	
4191	Statute Law Revision Act 1933	Item in Schedule referring to Wrongs Act 1928.	
4380	Wrongs Act 1936	The whole.	
5382	Wrong (Tort-feasors) Act 1949	The whole.	
5594	Wrongs (Contributory Negligence) Act 1951	The whole.	
5704	Wrongs (Damage by Aircraft) Act 1953	The whole.	
5757	Statutes Amendment Act 1953	Section 11.	
5914	Limitation of Actions Act 1955	Section 33(2).	

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Endnotes

ENDNOTES

1. General Information

The **Wrongs Act 1958** was assented to on 30 September 1958 and came into operation on 1 April 1959: Government Gazette 18 March 1959 page 893.

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Endnotes

2. Table of Amendments

This Version incorporates amendments made to the **Wrongs Act 1958** by Acts and subordinate instruments.

Wrongs (Assessment of Damages) Act 1966, No. 7496/1966

Assent Date: 20.12.66
Commencement Date: 20.2.67: Government Gazette 8.2.67 p. 288
Current State: All of Act in operation

Justices (Amendment) Act 1969, No. 7876/1969

Assent Date: 25.11.69
Commencement Date: S. 2(Sch.) on 1.4.70: Government Gazette 25.2.70 p. 463
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Abolition of Obsolete Offences Act 1969, No. 7884/1969

Assent Date: 2.12.69
Commencement Date: 2.12.69
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs Act 1972, No. 8330/1972

Assent Date: 5.12.72
Commencement Date: 1.1.73: s. 1(3)
Current State: All of Act in operation

Status of Children Act 1974, No. 8602/1974

Assent Date: 26.11.74
Commencement Date: 1.3.75: Government Gazette 5.2.75 p. 228
Current State: All of Act in operation

Employers and Employés (Repeal) Act 1976, No. 8915/1976

Assent Date: 7.12.76
Commencement Date: 7.12.76: s. 1(2)
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Action for Damages) Act 1978, No. 9153/1978

Assent Date: 30.5.78
Commencement Date: 1.9.78: Government Gazette 12.7.78 p. 2279
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Defamation) Act 1979, No. 9292/1979

Assent Date: 23.10.79
Commencement Date: 23.10.79: s. 1(3)
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Assessment of Damages) Act 1979, No. 9353/1979

Assent Date: 20.12.79
Commencement Date: 20.12.79
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Endnotes

Crimes (Classification of Offences) Act 1981, No. 9576/1981

Assent Date: 26.5.81
Commencement Date: 1.9.81: Government Gazette 26.8.81 p. 2799
Current State: All of Act in operation

Workers Compensation (Actions) Act 1981, No. 9683/1981

Assent Date: 5.1.82
Commencement Date: 5.1.82
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Defamation) Act 1981, No. 9708/1981

Assent Date: 5.1.82
Commencement Date: 5.1.82
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Dependants) Act 1982, No. 9856/1982

Assent Date: 5.1.83
Commencement Date: 21.12.82: s. 1(3) (same day as **Administration and Probate (Survival of Actions) Act 1982**)
Current State: All of Act in operation

Limitation of Actions (Personal Injury Claims) Act 1983, No. 9884/1983

Assent Date: 10.5.83
Commencement Date: 11.5.83: Government Gazette 11.5.83 p. 1145
Current State: All of Act in operation

Penalties and Sentences (Amendment) Act 1983, No. 9945/1983

Assent Date: 20.9.83
Commencement Date: S. 3(3)(Sch. 2 item 42) on 20.12.83: Government Gazette 14.12.83 p. 4035
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Occupiers' Liability Act 1983, No. 9995/1983

Assent Date: 13.12.83
Commencement Date: 1.7.84: Government Gazette 27.6.84 p. 2120
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs (Animals Straying on Highways) Act 1984, No. 10078/1984

Assent Date: 15.5.84
Commencement Date: 1.8.84: Government Gazette 11.7.84 p. 2381
Current State: All of Act in operation

Accident Compensation Act 1985, No. 10191/1985

Assent Date: 30.7.85
Commencement Date: S. 276(Sch. 2) on 31.8.85 (at 4 p.m.): Government Gazette 30.8.85 p. 3401
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Wrongs (Contribution) Act 1985, No. 10227/1985

Assent Date: 10.12.85
Commencement Date: 12.2.86: Government Gazette 12.2.86 p. 382
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Endnotes

Coroners Act 1985, No. 10257/1985

Assent Date: 10.12.85
Commencement Date: S. 93 on 1.6.86: Government Gazette 30.4.86 p. 1115
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Local Government (Consequential Provisions) Act 1989, No. 12/1989

Assent Date: 9.5.89
Commencement Date: S. 4(Sch. 2 item 136.1) on 1.11.89: Government Gazette 1.11.89 p. 2798
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Crimes Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1989, No. 25/1989

Assent Date: 6.6.89
Commencement Date: Pt 7 (ss 38, 39) on 25.6.89: Special Gazette 20.6.89 p. 1
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Magistrates' Court Act 1989, No. 51/1989

Assent Date: 14.6.89
Commencement Date: S. 148 on 1.9.90: Government Gazette 25.7.90 p. 2216
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Magistrates' Court (Consequential Amendments) Act 1989, No. 57/1989

Assent Date: 14.6.89
Commencement Date: S. 3(Sch. items 223.1–223.7) on 1.9.90: Government Gazette 25.7.90 p. 2217
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Legal Practice Act 1996, No. 35/1996

Assent Date: 6.11.96
Commencement Date: S. 453(Sch. 1 item 90) on 1.1.97: s. 2(4)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Printers and Newspapers (Repeal) Act 1998, No. 56/1998

Assent Date: 13.10.98
Commencement Date: S. 4 on 19.11.98: Government Gazette 19.11.98 p. 2792
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Wrongs (Amendment) Act 2000, No. 75/2000

Assent Date: 21.11.00
Commencement Date: 21.11.00: s. 2
Current State: All of Act in operation

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

Endnotes

Wrongs and Other Acts (Public Liability Insurance Reform) Act 2002, No. 49/2002

Assent Date: 22.10.02
Commencement Date: Ss 3–7, 9, 10 on 23.10.02: s. 2(1); s. 8 on 14.2.03: Government Gazette 13.2.03 p. 244; s. 11 on 15.3.03: Government Gazette 13.3.03 p. 419
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Wrongs and Limitation of Actions Acts (Insurance Reform) Act 2003, No. 60/2003 (as amended by No. 102/2003)

Assent Date: 16.6.03
Commencement Date: Ss 4–10 on 21.5.03: s. 2(1); s. 3 on 1.1.04: Government Gazette 18.12.03 p. 3208
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Wrongs and Other Acts (Law of Negligence) Act 2003, No. 102/2003

Assent Date: 2.12.03
Commencement Date: S. 14(2) on 21.5.03: s. 2(3); s. 6 on 1.10.03: s. 2(2); ss 3–5, 7–13, 14(1)(3)(4), 15–35 on 3.12.03: s. 2(1)
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

Wrongs (Remarriage Discount) Act 2004, No. 6/2004

Assent Date: 27.4.04
Commencement Date: 28.4.04: s. 2
Current State: All of Act in operation

Public Administration Act 2004, No. 108/2004

Assent Date: 21.12.04
Commencement Date: S. 117(1)(Sch. 3 item 237) on 5.4.05: Government Gazette 31.3.05 p. 602
Current State: This information relates only to the provision/s amending the **Wrongs Act 1958**

3. Explanatory Details

¹ S. 15: Sections 7 and 8 of the **Wrongs (Dependants) Act 1982**, No. 9856/1982 reads as follows:

7. Transitional provisions

- (1) The Principal Act as amended by this Act shall apply only to causes of actions which accrue after the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The Principal Act as in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall continue to apply to actions which accrued on or before the commencement of this Act.

8. Transitional provisions

Where a cause of action survives for the benefit of the estate of a deceased person by reason of the operation of section 29 of the **Administration and Probate Act 1958** and where proceedings in respect of that cause of action have been instituted at the date of the coming into operation of this Act whereby damages are being claimed for the loss of future probable earnings of the deceased person after the date of his death and where by reason of the coming into operation of the **Administration and Probate (Survival of Actions) Act 1982** the right to recover those damages is removed, a person—

- (a) who would have been entitled to share in those damages had that action been successful; and
- (b) who would, if the deceased person had died after the coming into operation of this Act, be entitled to bring an action under Part III of the **Wrongs Act 1958** but who would not have been entitled to bring such an action before the coming into operation of this Act—

Wrongs Act 1958
Act No. 6420/1958

shall be entitled to bring an action under that Part (notwithstanding section 20(1) of the **Wrongs Act 1958**) as if the deceased person had died on the day upon which this Act comes into operation.

² S. 17: See note 1.

³ S. 24: See note 1.

⁴ Ss 24(4A):

S. 24(4A) inserted by No. 8330 s. 3(1)(a), repealed by No. 10227 s. 8(c)(i).

⁵ Ss 24(6):

S. 24(6) substituted by No. 8330 s. 3(1)(b), amended by No. 9856 s. 5(b), repealed by No. 10227 s. 8(c)(i).

⁶ S. 26: See note 1.