Identifying case abbreviations

Case citations use **abbreviations** for the name of the law report series that the case is published in.

*Breen v Williams* (1996) 186 CLR 71

CLR represents Commonwealth Law Reports.

A case can have multiple citations which are referred to as parallel or alternative citations.

*Breen v Williams* has been published in more than one law report series and has parallel citations.

To interpret law report abbreviations, use a **legal abbreviations guide**.
Legal Abbreviations Guides

Some law databases provide abbreviation guides directly linked from their platforms.

As well as individual database guides, there are a number of useful online guides or indexes available.

You can locate legal abbreviation guides via the library's Law Guide.
CaseBase Abbreviations contains the meaning of abbreviations used for law publications, including law reports and periodicals (journals).

From any page within Lexis Advance, click on the Help link at the top of the screen. A pop-up box will appear. From the INDEX, select CaseBase Abbreviations.
Using CaseBase Abbreviations

Click on the letter in the A-Z list to locate your abbreviation

Scroll down until you find your abbreviation. For example:

- Q
- QAR
- Queensland Administrative Reports

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CaseBase Abbreviations
This article lists the abbreviations used in CaseBase documents. Select a letter below to jump to the list of abbreviations starting with that letter.

Note: If you know the publication name and want to know the abbreviation, please see CaseBase Abbreviations (by Publication).
FirstPoint Table of Abbreviations (Westlaw AU)

FirstPoint Abbreviations contains the meanings of abbreviations used for law publications, including law reports and periodicals (journals).

Available via the Law Guide

Scroll through the list to locate your abbreviation

For example:
- A Crim R
- Australian Criminal Reports
Cardiff Index allows you to search for the meaning of abbreviations for English language legal publications, from the British Isles, the Commonwealth and the United States, including those covering international and comparative law.

For example:
- Harv L Rev
- Harvard Law Review

Click on the Title link in the result, for further information about the Harvard Law Review.
La Trobe University Legal Abbreviations and Monash University Legal Abbreviations contain some of the most frequently encountered abbreviations.

Select a letter from the A-Z list to locate your abbreviation.

You can locate these legal abbreviation guides via the library’s Law Guide.