



Domicile Act 1982

Act No. 1 of 1982 as amended

This compilation was prepared on 10 July 2008
taking into account amendments up to Act No. 73 of 2008

The text of any of those amendments not in force
on that date is appended in the Notes section

The operation of amendments that have been incorporated may be
affected by application provisions that are set out in the Notes section

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Contents

1	Short title [<i>see</i> Note 1].....	1
2	Commencement [<i>see</i> Note 1].....	1
3	Object and application.....	1
4	Interpretation	2
5	Operation of Act.....	2
6	Abolition of rule of dependent domicile of married woman.....	3
7	Abolition of rule of revival of domicile of origin	3
8	Capacity to have independent domicile	3
9	Domicile of certain children	3
10	Intention for domicile of choice	4
11	Domicile in a union	4
12	Evidence of acquisition of domicile of choice.....	4
13	Regulations.....	5

Notes

7

An Act relating to domicile

1 Short title [see Note 1]

This Act may be cited as the *Domicile Act 1982*.

2 Commencement [see Note 1]

This Act shall come into operation on a date to be fixed by Proclamation.

3 Object and application

- (1) The object of this Act is to abolish the rule of law whereby a married woman has at all times the domicile of her husband, and to make certain other reforms to the law relating to domicile, for the purposes of:
 - (a) the laws of the Commonwealth; and
 - (b) the laws of (including the common law in force in) each of the Territories to which this Act applies;and this Act has effect, and shall be construed, accordingly.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of this Act in relation to the laws of the Commonwealth, this Act has effect to the exclusion of the laws of any State, any Territory or any other country relating to any matters dealt with by this Act.
- (3) For the purposes of the application of this Act in relation to the laws of a Territory to which this Act applies, this Act has effect to the exclusion of the laws of any State, any other Territory or any other country relating to any matters dealt with by this Act.
- (4) For the purposes of the application of this Act in relation to a law of the Commonwealth that extends to an external Territory, this Act shall be deemed to extend to that Territory.
- (5) Where a provision of a law of the Commonwealth refers to domicile in, or to domicile outside, Australia, the provision shall, for the purposes of the application of this Act, be taken to refer to domicile in, or to domicile outside, as the case may be, the area that constitutes Australia, within the meaning of that provision, considered as a single country.

- (6) The Territories to which this Act applies are the Australian Capital Territory, the Jervis Bay Territory and the external Territories (if any) that are declared by the regulations to be Territories to which this Act extends.

4 Interpretation

- (1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears:

adopted means:

- (a) adopted under the law of a State, the Northern Territory or a Territory to which this Act applies relating to the adoption of children; or
- (b) adopted under the law of any other country relating to the adoption of children, if the validity of the adoption is recognized under the law of a State, the Northern Territory or a Territory to which this Act applies.

child means a person who:

- (a) has not attained the age of 18 years; and
- (b) is not, and has not at any time been, married.

country includes any state, province or other territory that is one of 2 or more territories that together form a country.

union means any country that is a union or federation or other aggregation of 2 or more countries, and includes Australia.

- (2) A reference in this Act to the parents of a child shall be read as including a reference to parents who are not married to each other.

5 Operation of Act

- (1) The domicile of a person at a time before the commencement of this Act shall be determined as if this Act and the *Domicile (Consequential Amendments) Act 1982* had not been enacted.
- (2) The domicile of a person at a time after the commencement of this Act shall be determined as if this Act had always been in force.
- (3) Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of any court in any proceedings commenced before the commencement of this Act.

6 Abolition of rule of dependent domicile of married woman

The rule of law whereby a married woman has at all times the domicile of her husband is abolished.

7 Abolition of rule of revival of domicile of origin

The rule of law whereby the domicile of origin revives upon the abandonment of a domicile of choice without the acquisition of a new domicile of choice is abolished and the domicile a person has at any time continues until he or she acquires a different domicile.

8 Capacity to have independent domicile

- (1) A person is capable of having an independent domicile if:
 - (a) he or she has attained the age of 18 years; or
 - (b) he or she is, or has at any time been, married;and not otherwise.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who, under the rules of the common law relating to domicile, is incapable of acquiring a domicile by reason of mental incapacity.

9 Domicile of certain children

- (1) Where, at any time:
 - (a) a child has his or her principal home with one of his or her parents; and
 - (b) his or her parents are living separately and apart or the child does not have another living parent;the domicile of the child at that time is the domicile that the parent with whom the child has his or her principal home has as at that time and thereafter the child has the domicile that that parent has from time to time or, if that parent dies, the domicile that that parent has at the time of death.
- (2) Where a child is adopted, his or her domicile:
 - (a) if, upon his or her adoption, he or she has 2 adoptive parents—is, at the time of the adoption and thereafter, the domicile he or she would have if he or she were a child born in wedlock to those parents; and

- (b) if, upon his or her adoption, he or she has one adoptive parent only—is, at the time of the adoption, the domicile of that parent and thereafter is the domicile that that parent has from time to time or, if that parent dies, the domicile that that parent has at the time of death.
- (3) A child ceases to have, by virtue of subsection (1), the domicile or last domicile of one of his or her parents if:
 - (a) he or she commences to have his or her principal home with his or her other parent; or
 - (b) his or her parents resume or commence living together.
- (4) Where a child has a domicile by virtue of subsection (1) or (2) immediately before he or she ceases to be a child, he or she retains that domicile until he or she acquires a domicile of choice.
- (5) Where the adoption of a child is rescinded, the domicile of the child shall thereafter be determined in accordance with any provisions with respect to that domicile that are included in the order rescinding the adoption and, so far as no provision is applicable, as if the adoption had not taken place.

10 Intention for domicile of choice

The intention that a person must have in order to acquire a domicile of choice in a country is the intention to make his or her home indefinitely in that country.

11 Domicile in a union

A person who is, in accordance with the rules of the common law relating to domicile as modified by this Act, domiciled in a union, but is not, apart from this section, domiciled in any particular one of the countries that together form the union, is domiciled in that one of those countries with which he or she has for the time being the closest connection.

12 Evidence of acquisition of domicile of choice

The acquisition of a domicile of choice in place of a domicile of origin may be established by evidence that would be sufficient to establish the domicile of choice if the previous domicile had also been a domicile of choice.

13 Regulations

The Governor-General may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed, or necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

Table of Acts**Notes to the *Domicile Act 1982*****Note 1**

The *Domicile Act 1982* as shown in this compilation comprises Act No. 1, 1982 amended as indicated in the Tables below.

Table of Acts

Act	Number and year	Date of Assent	Date of commencement	Application, saving or transitional provisions
<i>Domicile Act 1982</i>	1, 1982	4 Mar 1982	1 July 1982 (see <i>Gazette</i> 1982, No. G26, p. 2)	
<i>Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 1) 1983</i>	39, 1983	20 June 1983	S. 3: 1 July 1982 (a)	S. 7(1)
<i>Statute Law Revision Act 2008</i>	73, 2008	3 July 2008	Schedule 4 (items 259–274): 4 July 2008	—

Act Notes

- (a) The *Domicile Act 1982* was amended by section 3 only of the *Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 1) 1983*, subsection 2(8) of which provides as follows:
- “(8) The amendment of the *Domicile Act 1982* made by this Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1 July 1982.”

Table of Amendments

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ad. = added or inserted am. = amended rep. = repealed rs. = repealed and substituted

Provision affected	How affected
S. 5.....	am. No. 39, 1983
Ss. 7–11.....	am. No. 73, 2008