Law, Government and Criminal Justice

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- A new textbook that introduces criminology students to Australian law and government
- Each chapter begins with topical and practical examples from key issues in criminal justice
- Explains difficult legal concepts in language that is genuinely accessible for first-year university students. May also be suitable for high school Legal Studies students.
- Focuses on the relationship between Parliament, politics and practice: for example, how police powers are updated in response to terrorism, cyber-crime, and domestic violence

Sample Text (Chapter 1)

It is almost guaranteed that law will impact in some way on your employment in the criminal justice system. New laws are introduced into Parliaments by the government of the day, and governments from different political parties can have very different goals and values relevant to your area of employment.

Changes to the law might mean that you have new or different powers available to use in your job. You may be required to make decisions in a different way, or your department or agency may be subject to formal review or inquiry.

As a new police officer, for example, you could find yourself working initially under a government which expands police powers and limits the rights of suspects and defendants. The next year following an election, you could find yourself working under a very different government – one which improves the rights of suspects, diverts funding for police to health and education, and launches a formal inquiry into police corruption.

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