



Criminal Code Amendment (Bribery of Foreign Public Officials) Act 1999

No. 43, 1999

An Act to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, and for other purposes

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No. 43, 1999

An Act to amend the *Criminal Code Act 1995*, and for other purposes

[Assented to 17 June 1999]

The Parliament of Australia enacts:

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Criminal Code Amendment (Bribery of Foreign Public Officials) Act 1999*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act commences on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.
- (2) If this Act does not commence under subsection (1) within the period of 6 months beginning on the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, it commences on the first day after the end of that period.

3 Schedule(s)

Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendment of the Criminal Code Act 1995

1 After section 3

Insert:

3A External Territories

The *Criminal Code* extends to every external Territory.

3B Offshore installations

An installation (within the meaning of the *Customs Act 1901*) that is deemed by section 5C of the *Customs Act 1901* to be part of Australia is also taken to be part of Australia for the purposes of the *Criminal Code*.

2 The Schedule (after Chapter 2 of the *Criminal Code*)

Insert:

Chapter 4—The integrity and security of the international community and foreign governments

Division 70—Bribery of foreign public officials

70.1 Definitions

In this Division:

benefit includes any advantage and is not limited to property.

business advantage means an advantage in the conduct of business.

control, in relation to a company, body or association, includes control as a result of, or by means of, trusts, agreements,

arrangements, understandings and practices, whether or not having legal or equitable force and whether or not based on legal or equitable rights.

duty, in relation to a foreign public official, means any authority, duty, function or power that:

- (a) is conferred on the official; or
- (b) that the official holds himself or herself out as having.

foreign country includes:

- (a) a colony or overseas territory; and
- (b) a territory outside Australia, where a foreign country is to any extent responsible for the international relations of the territory; and
- (c) a territory outside Australia that is to some extent self-governing, but that is not recognised as an independent sovereign state by Australia.

foreign government body means:

- (a) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or
- (b) an authority of the government of a foreign country; or
- (c) an authority of the government of part of a foreign country; or
- (d) a foreign local government body or foreign regional government body; or
- (e) a foreign public enterprise.

foreign public enterprise means a company or any other body or association where:

- (a) in the case of a company—one of the following applies:
 - (i) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country holds more than 50% of the issued share capital of the company;
 - (ii) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country holds more than 50% of the voting power in the company;
 - (iii) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country is in a position to appoint more than 50% of the company's board of directors;
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- (iv) the directors (however described) of the company are accustomed or under an obligation (whether formal or informal) to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country;
 - (v) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country is in a position to exercise control over the company; and
- (b) in the case of any other body or association—either of the following applies:
- (i) the members of the executive committee (however described) of the body or association are accustomed or under an obligation (whether formal or informal) to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country;
 - (ii) the government of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country is in a position to exercise control over the body or association; and
- (c) the company, body or association:
- (i) enjoys special legal rights or a special legal status under a law of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or
 - (ii) enjoys special benefits or privileges under a law of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country;
- because of the relationship of the company, body or association with the government of the foreign country or of the part of the foreign country, as the case may be.

foreign public official means:

- (a) an employee or official of a foreign government body; or
- (b) an individual who performs work for a foreign government body under a contract; or
- (c) an individual who holds or performs the duties of an appointment, office or position under a law of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or
- (d) an individual who holds or performs the duties of an appointment, office or position created by custom or

convention of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or

- (e) an individual who is otherwise in the service of a foreign government body (including service as a member of a military force or police force); or
- (f) a member of the executive, judiciary or magistracy of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or
- (g) an employee of a public international organisation; or
- (h) an individual who performs work for a public international organisation under a contract; or
- (i) an individual who holds or performs the duties of an office or position in a public international organisation; or
- (j) an individual who is otherwise in the service of a public international organisation; or
- (k) a member or officer of the legislature of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country; or
- (l) an individual who:
 - (i) is an authorised intermediary of a foreign public official covered by any of the above paragraphs; or
 - (ii) holds himself or herself out to be the authorised intermediary of a foreign public official covered by any of the above paragraphs.

public international organisation means:

- (a) an organisation:
 - (i) of which 2 or more countries, or the governments of 2 or more countries, are members; or
 - (ii) that is constituted by persons representing 2 or more countries, or representing the governments of 2 or more countries; or
- (b) an organisation established by, or a group of organisations constituted by:
 - (i) organisations of which 2 or more countries, or the governments of 2 or more countries, are members; or
 - (ii) organisations that are constituted by the representatives of 2 or more countries, or the governments of 2 or more countries; or

- (c) an organisation that is:
 - (i) an organ of, or office within, an organisation described in paragraph (a) or (b); or
 - (ii) a commission, council or other body established by an organisation so described or such an organ; or
 - (iii) a committee, or subcommittee of a committee, of an organisation described in paragraph (a) or (b), or of such an organ, council or body.

share includes stock.

70.2 Bribing a foreign public official

- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if:
 - (a) the person:
 - (i) provides a benefit to another person; or
 - (ii) causes a benefit to be provided to another person; or
 - (iii) offers to provide, or promises to provide, a benefit to another person; or
 - (iv) causes an offer of the provision of a benefit, or a promise of the provision of a benefit, to be made to another person; and
 - (b) the benefit is not legitimately due to the other person; and
 - (c) the first-mentioned person does so with the intention of influencing a foreign public official (who may be the other person) in the exercise of the official's duties as a foreign public official in order to:
 - (i) obtain or retain business; or
 - (ii) obtain or retain a business advantage that is not legitimately due to the recipient, or intended recipient, of the business advantage (who may be the first-mentioned person).

Penalty: Imprisonment for 10 years.

Note 1: For defences, see sections 70.3 and 70.4.

Note 2: Section 4B of the *Crimes Act 1914* allows a court to impose a fine instead of imprisonment or in addition to imprisonment.

Benefit that is not legitimately due

- (2) For the purposes of this section, in working out if a benefit is **not legitimately due** to a person in a particular situation, disregard the following:
- (a) the fact that the benefit may be customary, or perceived to be customary, in the situation;
 - (b) the value of the benefit;
 - (c) any official tolerance of the benefit.

Business advantage that is not legitimately due

- (3) For the purposes of this section, in working out if a business advantage is **not legitimately due** to a person in a particular situation, disregard the following:
- (a) the fact that the business advantage may be customary, or perceived to be customary, in the situation;
 - (b) the value of the business advantage;
 - (c) any official tolerance of the business advantage.

70.3 Defence—conduct lawful in foreign public official’s country

- (1) A person is not guilty of an offence against section 70.2 in the cases set out in the following table:

Defence of lawful conduct			
Item	In a case where the person’s conduct occurred in relation to this kind of foreign public official...	and if it were assumed that the person’s conduct had occurred wholly...	the person would not have been guilty of an offence against...
1	an employee or official of a foreign government body	in the place where the central administration of the body is located	a law in force in that place
2	an individual who performs work for a foreign government body under a contract	in the place where the central administration of the body is located	a law in force in that place

Defence of lawful conduct			
Item	In a case where the person's conduct occurred in relation to this kind of foreign public official...	and if it were assumed that the person's conduct had occurred wholly...	the person would not have been guilty of an offence against...
3	an individual who holds or performs the duties of an appointment, office or position under a law of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country	in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be	a law in force in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be
4	an individual who holds or performs the duties of an appointment, office or position created by custom or convention of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country	in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be	a law in force in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be
5	an individual who is otherwise in the service of a foreign government body (including service as a member of a military force or police force)	in the place where the central administration of the body is located	a law in force in that place
6	a member of the executive, judiciary or magistracy of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country	in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be	a law in force in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be
7	an employee of a public international organisation	in the place where the headquarters of the organisation is located	a law in force in that place
8	an individual who performs work for a public international organisation under a contract	in the place where the headquarters of the organisation is located	a law in force in that place

Defence of lawful conduct			
Item	In a case where the person's conduct occurred in relation to this kind of foreign public official...	and if it were assumed that the person's conduct had occurred wholly...	the person would not have been guilty of an offence against...
9	an individual who holds or performs the duties of a public office or position in a public international organisation	in the place where the headquarters of the organisation is located	a law in force in that place
10	an individual who is otherwise in the service of a public international organisation	in the place where the headquarters of the organisation is located	a law in force in that place
11	a member or officer of the legislature of a foreign country or of part of a foreign country	in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be	a law in force in the foreign country or in the part of the foreign country, as the case may be

Note: A defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (1). See subsection 13.3(3).

- (2) A person is not guilty of an offence against section 70.2 if:
- (a) the person's conduct occurred in relation to a foreign public official covered by paragraph (l) of the definition of **foreign public official** in section 70.1 (which deals with intermediaries of foreign public officials covered by other paragraphs of that definition); and
 - (b) assuming that the first-mentioned person's conduct had occurred instead in relation to:
 - (i) the other foreign public official of whom the first-mentioned foreign public official was an authorised intermediary; or
 - (ii) the other foreign public official in relation to whom the first-mentioned foreign public official held himself or herself out to be an authorised intermediary;
 subsection (1) would have applied in relation to the first-mentioned person.

Note: A defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (2). See subsection 13.3(3).

- (3) To avoid doubt, if:
- (a) a person's conduct occurred in relation to a foreign public official covered by 2 or more paragraphs of the definition of *foreign public official* in section 70.1; and
 - (b) at least one of the corresponding items in subsection (1) is applicable to the conduct of the first-mentioned person;
- subsection (1) applies to the conduct of the first-mentioned person.

70.4 Defence—facilitation payments

- (1) A person is not guilty of an offence against section 70.2 if:
- (a) the value of the benefit was of a minor nature; and
 - (b) the person's conduct was engaged in for the sole or dominant purpose of expediting or securing the performance of a routine government action of a minor nature; and
 - (c) as soon as practicable after the conduct occurred, the person made a record of the conduct that complies with subsection (3); and
 - (d) any of the following subparagraphs applies:
 - (i) the person has retained that record at all relevant times;
 - (ii) that record has been lost or destroyed because of the actions of another person over whom the first-mentioned person had no control, or because of a non-human act or event over which the first-mentioned person had no control, and the first-mentioned person could not reasonably be expected to have guarded against the bringing about of that loss or that destruction;
 - (iii) a prosecution for the offence is instituted more than 7 years after the conduct occurred.

Note: A defendant bears an evidential burden in relation to the matter in subsection (1). See subsection 13.3(3).

Routine government action

- (2) For the purposes of this section, a *routine government action* is an action of a foreign public official that:
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- (a) is ordinarily and commonly performed by the official; and
- (b) is covered by any of the following subparagraphs:
 - (i) granting a permit, licence or other official document that qualifies a person to do business in a foreign country or in a part of a foreign country;
 - (ii) processing government papers such as a visa or work permit;
 - (iii) providing police protection or mail collection or delivery;
 - (iv) scheduling inspections associated with contract performance or related to the transit of goods;
 - (v) providing telecommunications services, power or water;
 - (vi) loading and unloading cargo;
 - (vii) protecting perishable products, or commodities, from deterioration;
 - (viii) any other action of a similar nature; and
- (c) does not involve a decision about:
 - (i) whether to award new business; or
 - (ii) whether to continue existing business with a particular person; or
 - (iii) the terms of new business or existing business; and
- (d) does not involve encouraging a decision about:
 - (i) whether to award new business; or
 - (ii) whether to continue existing business with a particular person; or
 - (iii) the terms of new business or existing business.

Content of records

- (3) A record of particular conduct engaged in by a person complies with this subsection if the record sets out:
 - (a) the value of the benefit concerned; and
 - (b) the date on which the conduct occurred; and
 - (c) the identity of the foreign public official in relation to whom the conduct occurred; and
 - (d) if that foreign public official is not the other person mentioned in paragraph 70.2(1)(a)—the identity of that other person; and
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- (e) particulars of the routine government action that was sought to be expedited or secured by the conduct; and
- (f) the person's signature or some other means of verifying the person's identity.

70.5 Territorial and nationality requirements

- (1) A person does not commit an offence against section 70.2 unless:
 - (a) the conduct constituting the alleged offence occurs:
 - (i) wholly or partly in Australia; or
 - (ii) wholly or partly on board an Australian aircraft or an Australian ship; or
 - (b) the conduct constituting the alleged offence occurs wholly outside Australia and:
 - (i) at the time of the alleged offence, the person is an Australian citizen; or
 - (ii) at the time of the alleged offence, the person is a resident of Australia; or
 - (iii) at the time of the alleged offence, the person is a body corporate incorporated by or under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Note: The expression *offence against section 70.2* is given an extended meaning by subsections 11.2(1) and 11.6(2).

- (2) Proceedings for an offence against section 70.2 must not be commenced without the Attorney-General's written consent if:
 - (a) the conduct constituting the alleged offence occurs wholly outside Australia; and
 - (b) at the time of the alleged offence, the person alleged to have committed the offence is:
 - (i) a resident of Australia; and
 - (ii) not an Australian citizen.
- (3) However, a person may be arrested for, charged with, or remanded in custody or released on bail in connection with an offence against section 70.2 before the necessary consent has been given.
- (4) In this section:

Australian aircraft means:

- (a) an aircraft registered, or required to be registered, under the Civil Aviation Regulations as an Australian aircraft; or
- (b) an aircraft (other than a defence aircraft) that is owned by, or in the possession or control of, a Commonwealth entity; or
- (c) a defence aircraft.

Australian ship means:

- (a) a ship registered, or required to be registered, under the *Shipping Registration Act 1981*; or
- (b) an unregistered ship that has Australian nationality; or
- (c) a defence ship.

defence aircraft means an aircraft of any part of the Australian Defence Force, and includes an aircraft that is being commanded or piloted by a member of that Force in the course of his or her duties as such a member.

defence ship means a ship of any part of the Australian Defence Force, and includes a ship that is being operated or commanded by a member of that Force in the course of his or her duties as such a member.

70.6 Saving of other laws

This Division is not intended to exclude or limit the operation of any other law of the Commonwealth or any law of a State or Territory.

3 The Dictionary of the *Criminal Code*

Insert:

Australia, when used in a geographical sense, includes the external Territories.

4 The Dictionary of the *Criminal Code*

Insert:

resident of Australia means an individual who is a resident of Australia.

*[Minister's second reading speech made in—
Senate on 10 March 1999
House of Representatives on 3 June 1999]*

(24/99)