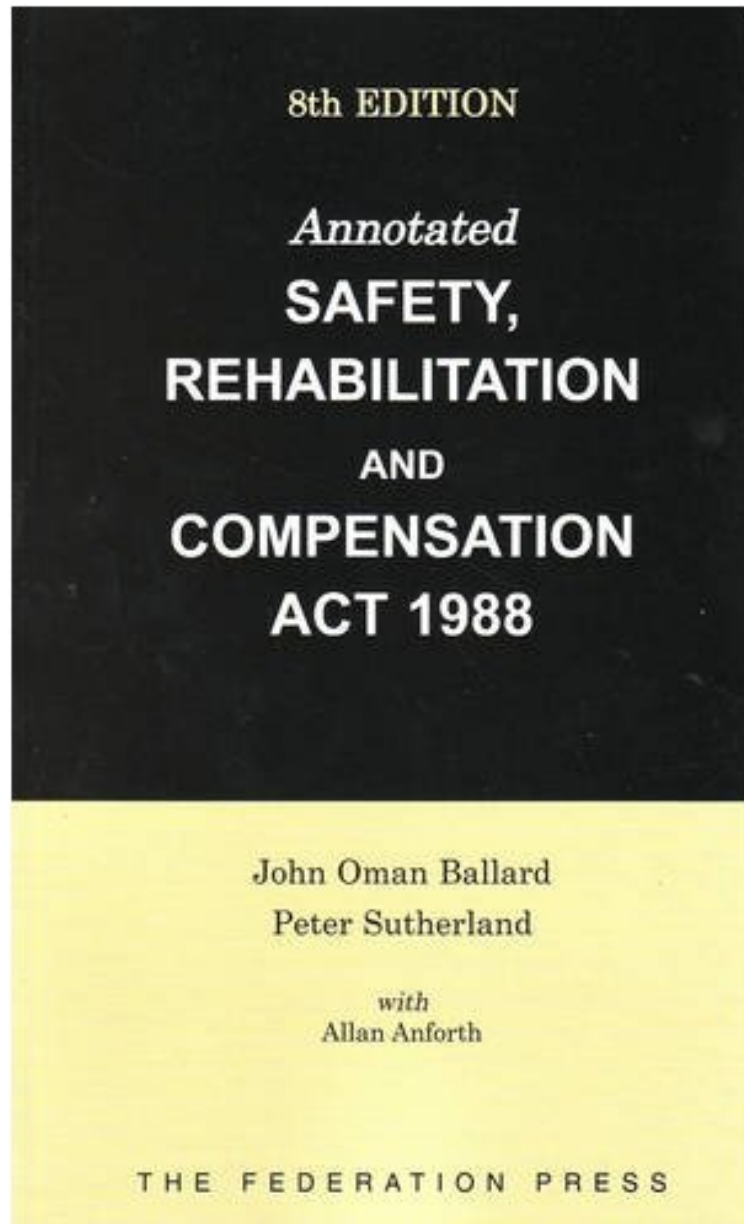


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of the CD-ROM: I have had the distinct pleasure of reviewing every update of this fine reference book, and reviewed the hard copy of the sixth edition earlier this year. At that time I mentioned that an electronic copy was on the way, and here it is! The first thing to say is that electronic books are, to my way of thinking, of greater use in Chambers or an office, than in Court because I have yet to find a way of flicking through a CD as quickly as I can look at an index. However, anyone who has any experience of using portable document files (PDF's), will be at home in using this document. As anyone who is familiar with the bound edition will instantly realise, the electronic copy is far more extensive and more than 950 pages longer. It contains a wealth of additional material, such as the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act 1971 and the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930, set in a separate folder so that one can identify the legislation by reference to appropriate dates. There is a continuing need to refer to these Acts because of the effect of the Transitional Provisions of the SRC Act. The various Practice Directions are included as is the Guide to Assessment of the degree of Permanent Impairment, a document which was difficult to obtain before the Internet took over our lives. The HREOC Guide to covert surveillance is also included. The index is worthy of mention as it provides a very speedy method of research. Find the topic you are looking for, click your cursor on the link or links and you can easily move between index and the various sections, references etc. Because this document is set out in PDF, it requires one's computer to have Adobe Acrobat installed, but as this is a freeware program for read only purposes, most computers would already have it, and anyone who does not, can easily acquire it, at no cost. I think the current version is Acrobat Reader 6. I don't think the electronic edition should be seen as a replacement to the bound book, but it does contain a great deal of material that is otherwise hard to obtain. It saves a lot of time and trouble in searching Austlii or other Web sites for the legislation. A month or so ago, I received a review copy but found that it contained a fault which has been rectified in the version sent to me this week. The updated version is easily recognised as it is described as v2 (version 2). Do I recommend the electronic version? Most definitely. Would I buy it? I don't see how a person who practices in the AAT could afford to only rely on the hard copy and suggest that before long, we will be buying both, one to take to Court and the electronic copy to keep on our computer, for more detailed research purposes. - BJM, Tasmanian Law Society Newsletter, October 2004