



LEGISLATION

Crimes (Currency) Act 1981

The *Crimes (Currency) Act 1981* makes provisions with respect to offences connected with the counterfeiting of money.

Although it is Commonwealth legislation, **all state, territory and federal police are authorised under the Crimes (Currency) Act to seize and prosecute currency-related matters**. The legislation covers domestic and foreign currencies, including US dollars and euros.

Counterfeit-related offences according to the Crimes (Currency) Act include, but are not limited to:

- **Making counterfeit money:** a person shall not make, or begin to make, counterfeit money. The maximum penalty is 14 years' imprisonment (for a person not being a body corporate) or \$75,000 (for a person being a body corporate).
- **Uttering counterfeit money:** a person shall not utter counterfeit money, knowing it to be counterfeit money. The maximum penalty is 12 years' imprisonment (for a person not being a body corporate) or \$60,000 (for a person being a body corporate).
- **Possessing counterfeit money:** a person shall not have in their possession counterfeit money. The maximum penalty is 10 years' imprisonment (for a person not being a body corporate) or \$50,000 (for a person being a body corporate).
- **Possessing instruments and material used for counterfeiting:** a person shall not possess a machine, or any tools, etc, intended to be used in connection with counterfeit money. The maximum penalty is 10 years' imprisonment (for a person not being a body corporate) or \$50,000 (for a person being a body corporate).

For more information see the [Crimes \(Currency\) Act 1981](#).

Reproducing banknotes

The legislation relevant to banknote reproductions includes the *Crimes (Currency) Act 1981* and the *Copyright Act 1968*. The Reserve Bank of Australia's [reproduction guidelines](#) are intended to assist those who wish to reproduce or create images of banknotes to minimise the risk of non-compliance with the relevant legislation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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