

## *Book Review*

### [Professional Liability in Australia](#)

By S Walmsley, A Abadee, B Zipser and G Sirtes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2016. [Shop now](#)  
Review from: Law Institute Journal, May 2016.

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The previous editions of this text have long been the first point of reference for many lawyers, especially insurance lawyers, when considering a professional liability issue. As the second edition was published in 2007, this new edition has long been anticipated. The wait has been worthwhile. The overall structure is similar to that of the previous edition. The first chapter sets out, in considerable detail, general principles that apply to claims against professionals, including claims in tort, contract and equity, and under statute, and has interesting sections on contentious issues such as contribution, proportionate liability and expert evidence. This is followed by separate chapters concerning doctors, solicitors, barristers, accountants and auditors, building professionals, valuers and financial services professionals. In his foreword to the first edition in 2002, Justice McHugh wrote that he was not aware of any other general Australian reference book on the subject. The task of researching and compiling the text, in so many diverse areas, must have been daunting. Since the previous edition, there have been many important legal developments to which the authors give appropriate treatment, including legislative amendments (for instance the Australian Consumer Law and Corporations Act reforms) and significant High Court and other appellate decisions. That said, they have trimmed the previous text so that this third edition is no bulkier than the second, which in itself is a considerable achievement. The writing is clear and well structured and, in addition to the lengthy index, each chapter has a detailed table of contents which will be helpful for busy practitioners. All in all, this is an excellent and long-awaited textbook and should find itself at home in the libraries of all dispute resolution lawyers.

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