



Illicit drug laws and seizures

Illicit drug laws in Australia are very complex. Some are legislated at federal level and others are state and territory based.

Common offences include:

- possession (this can include equipment for growing, making or using drugs)
- use
- making (this includes growing)
- importing
- selling or supplying (known as trafficking).

National drug crimes are those that fall under Federal laws and should be reported to the Australian Federal Police. They include the importation and exportation of illicit drugs.

State and Territory drug crimes include local drug manufacturers, drug dealers and drug users. These should be reported to state and territory police. All forms of illicit drug crime can be reported to Crime Stoppers.

Australian Law enforcement agencies' current mandate is to reduce the supply of illicit drugs to the Australian community. To this end Australia's government and federal and state and territory law enforcement agencies cooperate nationally and with international organisations to combat illicit drug use and trafficking.

(Adapted from The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care [Last updated: 4 March 2024], [Drug laws in Australia](#))

Activity

Choose at least two of the following seizure scenarios and answer these questions:

- Describe what happened and where it occurred.
- Did members of the public provide information that led to the seizures and arrests? If so, how did they do this?
- Which law enforcement agencies were involved in the seizure - international, federal, state or territory police and what strategies did they use to apprehend the criminals?
- Using the notes in this worksheet, predict whether federal and/or state and territory laws will be used to prosecute the drug criminals in Australia. Give reasons for your answers.
- Using an app such as *Canva* to create a storyboard detailing the seizure of the drugs and the associated criminals.



Organised crime drug seizures

Please note that teachers may need to sign into their account before YouTube videos can be viewed.

NSW [NSW Police Seize \\$132 Million Worth Of Date-Rape & Party Drugs In Record Bust](#) | 10 News First

NSW [Inside a bikie drug lab](#)

QLD [28 people charged over cannabis operation](#)

Please note that teachers will need to sign into their account before this video can be viewed.

QLD [Nineteen people charged with drug offences after major Queensland operation](#)

TAS [Two men charged with trafficking after boat intercepted in history-making Tasmanian drug bust](#)

TAS [Cocaine haul worth \\$6 million seized](#)

SA [Organised Crime 416kg of Cocaine \(A\)](#)

SA [Two arrested after drug searches across five Adelaide suburbs](#)

VIC [Drug Lab capable of producing 100kg at a time](#)

VIC <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-12/vic-police-bust-drug-syndicate/105765216>

WA [2.4 Tonnes of Cocaine \(Operation Beech\)](#)

WA [WA Police seize \\$18 million worth of drugs, cash and a Ferrari in Perth organised crime crackdown](#)