



# Sale of Knives Legislation

Updated: 19 December 2024



# Sale and supply of knives | National Comparison Table



State	Act & Amendment	Restrict sale to minor	Age of minor defined	Signage requirements	Restricted advertising	Staff acknowledgment	Secure storage
NSW	<a href="#">Summary Offences Act 1988</a>	✓	<b>&lt;16*</b> *16-17 yrs must have lawful excuse	✗	✗	✗	✗
WA	<a href="#">Weapons Act 1999</a>	✓ Includes supply	<b>&lt;18</b>	✗	✗	✗	✗
SA	<a href="#">Summary Offences Act 1953</a>	✓	<b>&lt;16</b>	✗	✓	✗	✗
VIC	<a href="#">Control of Weapons Act 1990</a>	✓	<b>&lt;18</b>	✗	✗	✗	Dagger, double ended blade and throwing knife is a prohibited weapon
ACT	<a href="#">Crimes Act 1900</a>	✓ Includes supply	<b>&lt;16</b>	✓ <a href="#">Section 384</a>	✗	✗	✗
QLD	<a href="#">Summary Offences Act 2005</a>	✓	<b>&lt;18</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓

**NT / TAS** No specific legislation applies in these states.

current as of 19 December 2024

# National Sale of Knife Laws

State	
NSW	<p><a href="#">NSW Summary Offences Act 1988</a>            UPDATED DEC 2024            Subdivision 1 Knives and offensive implements            11F Sale of knives to children</p>
WA	<p><a href="#">Western Australia Weapons Act 1999</a>            UPDATED SEP 2024 <a href="#">Police Legislation Amendment Act 2024</a>            7. Controlled Weapons            8A. Selling and supplying controlled weapons to children            ('Edged weapons' added to controlled weapons prescribed in Weapons Regulations 1999 (Act s. 3) (Sch. 2), Schedule 2 – Controlled weapons)</p>
SA	<p><a href="#">South Australia Summary Offences Act 1953</a>            Part 3A—Weapons etc            21D—Unlawful selling or marketing of knives</p>
VIC	<p><a href="#">Victoria Control of Weapons Act 1990</a>            S. 3(1)def. of controlled weapon inserted by No. 47/2000 s. 5(1).            Section 6 – Control of Controlled Weapons  <a href="#">Control of Weapons Regulations 2011</a></p>
ACT	<p><a href="#">ACT Crimes Act 1900</a>            Part 17 – Offences punishable summarily and summary procedure generally            Section 383 – Sale of knife to person under 16            Section 384 – Retail supplier of knives to display sign</p>
QLD	<p><a href="#">Summary Offences Act 2005</a>            UPDATED SEP 2024 <a href="#">Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024</a>            Part 3 Amendment of Summary Offences Act 2005 - Section 23            Gel blasters - Weapons Act 1990, section 67</p>
NT / TAS	<p><b>No specific legislation applies in these states.</b></p>

# National Sale of Knife Laws

State	Legal Requirements – Key Points
NSW	<p><b>NSW Summary Offences Act 1988</b> <b>UPDATED 2024</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A person who sells a knife to a child under the age of <b>16</b> years is guilty of an offence.</li> <li>2. It is a <u>defence</u> (proof of which lies on the person) to a prosecution for an offence under this section that the person selling the knife believed on reasonable grounds that the child was of or above the age of 16 years.</li> </ol>
WA	<p><b>Western Australia Weapons Act 1999</b> <b>UPDATED 2024</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In this section – child means a person under <b>18</b> years of age.</li> <li>2. A person who sells an edged weapon to a child commits an offence.</li> <li>3. A person who supplies an edged weapon to a child commits an offence.</li> <li>4. It is a defence to a charge of an offence ... to prove the accused believed on reasonable grounds that, at the time the edged weapon was supplied, the child had a lawful excuse to carry or possess the weapon.</li> </ol>
SA	<p><b>South Australia Summary Offences Act 1953</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an offence to sell a knife to a minor under <b>16</b>.</li> <li>2. It is a defence to prosecution for an offence to prove that:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the seller requested the minor to produce evidence of age of a kind prescribed by regulation; and</li> <li>b) the minor made a false statement or produced false evidence in response to that request; and</li> <li>c) in consequence, the seller reasonably assumed that the minor was of or above the age of 16 years</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. A person who markets a knife in a way that– (a) indicates, or suggests, that the knife is suitable for combat; or (b) is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving the use of the knife as a weapon, is guilty of an offence.</li> </ol>
VIC	<p><b>Victoria Control of Weapons Act 1990</b> and <b>Control of Weapons Regulations 2011</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an <b>offence</b> to sell knives to children under <b>18</b>.</li> </ol>
ACT	<p><b>ACT Crimes Act 1900</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a crime to sell a knife (except a plastic knife) to a person under <b>16</b>.</li> <li>2. A person who sells knives <b>must display the following sign</b>: 'It is an offence to sell a knife to a person under the age of 16. Proof of age may be required.'.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the sign must be no smaller than 210mm x 145mm (A5)</li> <li>ii. Letters within sign must be at least 8mm in height.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
QLD	<p><b>Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 – within Summary Offences Act 2005</b> <b>UPDATED 2024</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is an offence to sell a knife or controlled item to anyone under the age of <b>18</b>.</li> <li>2. Obligations on people and businesses to not sell to anyone under 18, display signage, instruct and warn staff, monitor promotional activity and securely store particular controlled items.</li> <li>3. Gel blasters are that are restricted items under the Weapons Act 1990, section 67 that is a replica of a firearm under that Act; are also controlled items.</li> </ol>
NT / TAS	<p><b>No specific legislation applies in these states.</b></p>