

National Sale of Knife Laws | Comparison Table



State	Act	Restrict sale to minor	Age of minor defined	Signage requirements	Restricted advertising	Staff acknowledgment	Secure storage
NSW	Summary Offences Act 1988	✓	16	✗	✗	✗	✗
WA	Weapons Act 1999	✓	18	✗	✗	✗	✗
SA	Summary Offences Act 1953	✓	16	✗	✓	✗	✗
VIC	Control of Weapons Act 1990	✓	18	✗	✗	✗	✗
ACT	Crimes Act 1900	✓	16	✓	✗	✗	✗
QLD	Summary Offences Act 2005	✓	18	✓	✓	✓	✓

NT / TAS No specific legislation applies in these states.

National Sale of Knife Laws

State	
NSW	NSW Summary Offences Act 1988 Subdivision 1 Knives and offensive implements 11F Sale of knives to children
WA	Western Australia Weapons Act 1999 7. Controlled Weapons 8A. Selling and supplying controlled weapons to children (controlled weapons prescribed in Weapons Regulations 1999 (Act s. 3) (Sch. 2), Schedule 2 – Controlled weapons)
SA	South Australia Summary Offences Act 1953 Part 3A—Weapons etc 21D—Unlawful selling or marketing of knives
VIC	Victoria Control of Weapons Act 1990 S. 3(1)def. of controlled weapon inserted by No. 47/2000 s. 5(1). Section 6 – Control of Controlled Weapons Control of Weapons Regulations 2011
ACT	ACT Crimes Act 1900 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
QLD	Summary Offences Act 2005 Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 Part 3 Amendment of Summary Offences Act 2005 - Section 23 Gel blasters - Weapons Act 1990, section 67
NT / TAS	No specific legislation applies in these states.

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State	Legal Requirements – Key Points
NSW	<p>NSW Summary Offences Act 1988</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A person who sells a knife to a child under the age of 16 years is guilty of an offence. 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.
WA	<p>Western Australia Weapons Act 1999</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this section – child means a person under 18 years of age. 2. A person who sells a controlled weapon to a child commits an offence.
SA	<p>South Australia Summary Offences Act 1953</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is an offence to sell a knife to a minor under 16. 2. It is a defence to prosecution for an offence to prove that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the seller requested the minor to produce evidence of age of a kind prescribed by regulation; and b) the minor made a false statement or produced false evidence in response to that request; and c) in consequence, the seller reasonably assumed that the minor was of or above the age of 16 years 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.
VIC	<p>Victoria Control of Weapons Act 1990 and Control of Weapons Regulations 2011</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is an offence to sell knives to children under 18.
ACT	<p>ACT Crimes Act 1900</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is a crime to sell a knife (except a plastic knife) to a person under 16. 2. A person who sells knives must display the following sign: '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"> i. the sign must be no smaller than 210mm x 145mm (A5) ii. Letters within sign must be at least 8mm in height.
QLD	<p>Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024 – within Summary Offences Act 2005</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is an offence to sell a knife or controlled item to anyone under the age of 18. 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. 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.
NT / TAS	No specific legislation applies in these states.