



## How long does copyright last?

This table outlines some of the key rules contained in the *Commonwealth Copyright Act 1968* regarding the term of copyright.

Type of work	Publication status	Duration	Notes
<b>General rules</b>			
Literary, dramatic & musical works such as books, newspapers, journals, letters, diaries, manuscripts, plays & sheet music  Engravings	Published <i>during</i> the life of the author	70 years after the end of the year in which the author died	For full details, see subsections 33(2), 33(3) & 33(5) of the <i>Copyright Act 1968</i>
	Published after the death of the author	70 years after the end of the year in which publication first took place	
	Has not been published	Until publication occurs, protection is indefinite	
Artistic works such as photographs, paintings, drawings & sculptures – but not engravings	Irrelevant	70 years after the end of the year in which the creator died	See subsection 33(2)
Sound recordings & films	Published	70 years after the end of the year in which publication first took place	See sections 93 & 94
	Unpublished	Until publication occurs, protection is indefinite	
Sound & television broadcasts	Irrelevant	50 years after the year in which the broadcast was made	See section 95
Published editions	Published	25 years from the end of the year in which the edition was published	See section 96
<b>Special rules</b>			
Literary, dramatic, musical & artistic works that are anonymous or pseudonymous	Published	70 years after the end of the year in which the work was first published	See section 34
	Unpublished	Until publication takes place, effectively indefinite	
Works of joint authorship	Not applicable	Apply the rules in section 33 of the <i>Copyright Act</i> , but calculations should use the year of death of the author who died last	See section 80
Works made by or under the direction or control of the Commonwealth or a State (Crown copyright)	Published & unpublished	Apply the relevant provisions from Part VII of the <i>Copyright Act</i>	See sections 180 & 181
Pre-commencement works: those published or made prior to 1 May 1969	Published & unpublished	The usual rules in relation to subsistence & duration of copyright may be altered by the transitional provisions in Part XI of the <i>Copyright Act</i>	See Part XI of the <i>Copyright Act</i> . You may need to consider provisions that have been repealed (eg sections 212 & 220(3))