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Common Assault

Statute	s 61 Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)	
Elements	 Must be an act cannot be an omission Fagan v Commissioner of Metropolitan Police (1969) Battery: inflicting unlawful physical contact or touching without consent Assault: Positive act on the part of defendant to cause victim apprehension of immediate physical violence/contact MR (MacPherson v Brown) Battery: intend to inflict unlawful physical contact or recklessness as to the infliction of physical contact Assault: Intent to cause victim apprehension of imminent physical harm 	
Application (Cases)	 Act must be sufficiently imminent: Threats need to be imminent and immediate; generalised threats of future conduct will not suffice. <i>Knight</i> (1988) Knight (1988) Knight made threatening phone calls to magistrate and judge and daughter Knights threat's were not deemed to be immediate and the conviction was quashed Physical harm does not have to be immediate <u>as long as there is a present and continuing fear</u>. Zanker v Vartzokas 	
Important Theory / Misc	 Unlawfulness: an element of assault is that the conduct must be unlawful, but this does not have to be raised by the prosecution - <i>Bonora</i> (1994) Generally dealt with by the local court unless the prosecution decides to indict - Assault is a <i>Table 2</i> offence Maximum penalty when dealt with on indictment - 2 years Spitting is an assault - <i>DPP v JWH</i> 	