



# SOWK13014 Contemporary Social Policy

## Term 2 - 2024

Profile information current as at 05/09/2024 02:47 pm

All details in this unit profile for SOWK13014 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

## General Information

### Overview

Social policy is one of seven methods of change used in social work practice. This unit explores the historical, political and normative dimensions of social policy and policy-making in Australia and the international context. You will explore concepts such as the welfare state and neo-liberalism and you will examine and critically analyse social policy that is relevant to human service contexts.

### Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 3*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

### Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

120 credit points of study must include SOWK13009 and SOWK13010

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

### Offerings For Term 2 - 2024

- Online

### Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

### Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

## Class and Assessment Overview

### Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

### Class Timetable

#### [Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

#### [Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

### Assessment Overview

#### 1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 30%

#### 2. **Essay**

Weighting: 35%

#### 3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 35%

### Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

## CQUniversity Policies

**All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).**

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

## Previous Student Feedback

### Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

#### Feedback from Student and staff feedback

##### Feedback

There were issues related to a late availability of the unit. This impacted student access to resources and learning materials.

##### Recommendation

The staffing issues have been addressed. Following a review of the curriculum, adjustments and improvements should be made to address resource issues.

#### Feedback from Student and staff feedback

##### Feedback

There were problems with the text book and delays with orders

##### Recommendation

These issues have been addressed as staffing allocated and library resources ordered in a timely manner.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

### On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Analyse the historical development of social policy in Australia and the wider international context of social policy
2. Evaluate the inherent value-judgements associated with social policy development and implementation
3. Critically reflect on social policies that are relevant to the human services
4. Evaluate theories of policy development as they apply to social policy making in Australia.
5. Articulate the strategies that social workers can engage in to influence policy development and advocate for positive policy reform

## Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%	•	•		•	
2 - Essay - 35%	•	•	•		
3 - Written Assessment - 35%			•	•	•

### Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Communication					
2 - Problem Solving					•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•	
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work					
6 - Information Technology Competence					
7 - Cross Cultural Competence		•			•
8 - Ethical practice			•		•
9 - Social Innovation					•
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

### Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 30%				•			•	•	•	
2 - Essay - 35%			•	•			•			
3 - Written Assessment - 35%		•	•	•					•	

## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

### IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Helen Hickson** Unit Coordinator

[h.hickson@cqu.edu.au](mailto:h.hickson@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 08 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Overview of unit and assessments. Introduction to social policy for social workers Critical thinking and policy analysis, social justice	READ: McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Chapter 1. What is Social Policy? Find the AASW Code of Ethics (2020), which requires adherence to good practice in organisations and the AASW Practice Standards (2023)	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article You can watch my short video about how to do skim reading.

### Week 2 - 15 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Concepts: meaning of welfare states, welfare ideologies.	Read McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Chapter 1. What is Social Policy? Skim read : Abramovitz. (2001). Everyone is still on welfare: the role of redistribution in social policy. Social Work, 46(4), 297-308. (eReading List) Find the AASW Code of Ethics (2020), which requires adherence to good practice in organisations and the AASW Practice Standards (2023)	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article Follow up the definitions of any terms that you don't understand. Watch my short video about critical thinking

### Week 3 - 22 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Neoliberalism and the third way, the influence of ideas on social policy	Read: Morley, C., O'Bree, C. (2021). Critical Reflection: An Imperative Skill for Social Work Practice in Neoliberal Organisations? Soc. Sci. 10, 97. (eReading list) Skim read: Garrett, P.M. (2019). What are we talking about when we talk about 'Neoliberalism'?, European Journal of Social Work, 22:2, 188-200, (eReading list) OPTIONAL - PODSOCS PODCAST about Neoliberalism and Social work.	Watch the recorded lecture, look through powerpoint slides and I have added some reflective questions for you to think about. Follow up the definitions of any terms that you don't understand.

### Week 4 - 29 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

History of Australian Social Policy. How policy is made and changed	McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Chapter 2. Historical Context: Themes and perspectives	Assessment 1 – Online QUIZ
------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------

#### Week 5 - 05 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The institutional context for policy decision making. Taxation: Paying for policy	McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Chapter 4 The Institutional context of social policy.	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Vacation Week - 12 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

#### Week 6 - 19 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Critical Analysis for advocacy Critical frameworks.	Independent research. What is in the media about social policy topics?	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Week 7 - 26 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Indigenous Australians and Social Policy	Independent research. What is in the media about social policy topics and how they affect First Nations communities?	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Week 8 - 02 Sep 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Policy examples: Social security policies including Income security and unemployment.	McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Part 3 – Areas for social policy action	Assessment Task 2 is due  <b>Critical analysis of a social policy topic</b> Due: Week 8 Thursday (5 Sept 2024) 5:59 pm AEST

#### Week 9 - 09 Sep 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Policy Examples: Housing, Health, Education, Climate change.	McClelland, Smyth and Marston (2021). Social Policy in Australia. Oxford University Press, Part 3 – Areas for social policy action	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Week 10 - 16 Sep 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Advocacy: Policy networks, peaks, and NGOs. Kingdon's windows and streams.	Lancaster, K., Ritter, A., & Colebatch, H. (2014). Problems, policy and politics: Making sense of Australia's 'ice epidemic'. Policy studies, 35(2), pp.147-171.	Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Week 11 - 23 Sep 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

Advocacy and policy practice strategies.

McCoy, M., Nordberg, A., Hoefler, R., & Mellinger, M. (2017). Strengthening advocacy coalitions: Lessons for structure, engagement, and effectiveness from an IPV Coalition, *Journal of Social Service Research*, 43(4), 443-458.  
Hoefler, R., (2008) Policy Practice and Advocacy in Midgley, J.O., & Livermore, M.M. (eds) 2008, *The Handbook of Social Policy*, SAGE Publications, Thousand Oaks.

Watch recorded lecture, think about reflective questions, and read recommended book chapter or article

#### Week 12 - 30 Sep 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Changes and Challenges	Independent reading	Assessment 3 is due <b>Developing a Social Policy Briefing Paper</b> Due: Week 12 Thursday (3 Oct 2024) 5:59 pm AEST

#### Review/Exam Week - 07 Oct 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

#### Exam Week - 14 Oct 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Online Quizzes

#### Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

#### Task Description

Task Description

Each quiz will comprise 10 multiple choice questions randomly drawn from a question pool.

Each quiz will be time limited to 30 minutes.

Each student will have one attempt.

The quiz will be available to students for five days, but once the quiz is opened, it is limited to 30 minutes.

#### Number of Quizzes

#### Frequency of Quizzes

Other

#### Assessment Due Date

#### Return Date to Students

#### Weighting

30%

#### Assessment Criteria

Quiz questions will be drawn from the weekly required readings and the lecture notes.

Quiz One will cover content from weeks 1, 2, 3, 4 and be held at the end of week 4.

Quiz Two will cover content from weeks 5, 6, 7 and be held at the end week 7.

Quiz Three will cover content from weeks 8, 9, 10, 11 and be held at the end of week 11.

#### Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

#### Submission

Online

## Graduate Attributes

- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice
- Social Innovation

## Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Analyse the historical development of social policy in Australia and the wider international context of social policy
- Evaluate the inherent value-judgements associated with social policy development and implementation
- Evaluate theories of policy development as they apply to social policy making in Australia.

## 2 Critical analysis of a social policy topic

### Assessment Type

Essay

### Task Description

The aim of this assessment is to enhance your ability to critically analyse the 2024 Federal budget announcements, focusing on their implications for social work. You will assess the budget's impact on various social policy areas, identify key priorities, evaluate the potential effectiveness of the proposed measures and consider the implications for social work practice. You will utilise social policy theories and concepts discussed in the lectures and recommended readings to demonstrate your knowledge and analysis of the topic.

The essay should include:

1. A brief overview of the 2024 budget, which includes an outline of the key objectives and priorities set out in the budget and the aim of your analysis and the social policy area you will focus on.
2. Discussion about the background context, such as the current socio-economic context in which the budget has been announced and any significant social issues and challenges facing the country that the budget aims to address.
3. Analysis of Social Policy

Choose one social policy area from the following list to analyse the 2024 Federal Budget in detail:

- Healthcare
- Education
- Housing
- Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation
- Employment and Labour Market
- Child and Family Services
- Elderly Care
- Disability Services

Your analysis should include:

- Summary of the budget allocations and key initiatives proposed.
- Analysis of the potential impact of these initiatives on the target population.
- Critical evaluation of the adequacy and sustainability of the funding and measures.

### 4. Critical Evaluation

Your critical analysis should include:

- Assess the overall alignment of the budget with the principles of social justice and equity, and how the policy will address the needs of First Nations communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Discuss any potential gaps or overlooked issues in the budget.
- Consider the long-term implications of the budget for social policy development.
- Evaluate the policy in relation to its alignment to the AASW Code of Ethics (2020) and Practice Standards (2023).

You need to include a comment about the AASW's position regarding this policy and to identify areas where there are conflicts with AASW values and ethics.

You should include a conclusion that summarises the key findings of your analysis and provides recommendations for future policy considerations or improvements.

The essay should incorporate references to social policy literature. You are expected to refer to the unit content, suggested unit readings and undertake independent reading.



## Literature and references

In this assessment use at least 10 references to support your analysis. You may also use scholarly literature where relevant. Suitable references include peer-reviewed journal articles as well as textbooks and credible websites. When sourcing information, consider the five elements of a quality reference: currency, authority, relevance, objectivity, and coverage. Grey literature sourced from the internet must be from reputable websites such as from government, university, or peak national bodies: for example, the Australian Association of Social Workers.

## Requirements

- Use a cover page that includes your name and student number, the subject code, the date, and the number of words in your submission.
- Use a conventional and legible size 12 font, such as Times New Roman or Arial, with 2.0 line spacing and 2.54 cm page margins (standard pre-set margin in Microsoft Word).
- Include page numbers on the top right side of each page in a header.
- You should write in the third-person perspective.
- Use formal academic language.
- Use the seventh edition American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style. The CQUniversity Academic Learning Centre has an online APA Referencing Style Guide.
- The word count is considered from the introduction's first word to the conclusion's last word. The word count excludes the reference list but includes in-text references and direct quotations.

## Professional social work writing

It is crucial for students to demonstrate professional social work writing in their assessments. This involves using a tone that is respectful, clear, and free from bias, while also adhering to the ethical standards and principles of the social work profession. Effective communication, appropriate terminology, and a well-structured argument are key components of professional writing in social work. Your ability to present a persuasive, evidence-based argument in a professional manner will enhance your advocacy efforts and influence in policy reform debates.

## Generative AI

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI) tools, including AI-driven writing assistants and content generators, is not permitted in this assessment. This social work practice standard is based on the requirement for students to demonstrate essential human capacities, skills, and knowledge crucial for social work practice as outlined by the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS, 2021). Social work relies on human interaction, empathy, ethical decision-making, and effective communication—skills that cannot be adequately assessed through AI-generated content. To ensure the integrity and development of these capabilities, students must verify that any grammar or writing enhancement programs used do not incorporate AI components. Compliance with this social work practice standard is vital for meeting ASWEAS graduate attributes and preparing for professional practice.

## Resources

- You can use unit provided materials and other credible sources (e.g. journal articles, books) to reference your argument. The quality and credibility of your sources are important.
- We recommend that you access your discipline specific library guide: the Social Work and Community Services Guide.
- We recommend you use EndNote to manage your citations and reference list. More information on how to use EndNote is available at the CQUniversity Library website.
- For information on academic communication please go to the Academic Learning Centre Moodle site. The Academic Communication section has many helpful resources including information for students with English as a second language.
- Submit a draft before the due date to review your Turnitin Similarity Score before making a final submission. Instructions are available here.

## **Assessment Due Date**

Week 8 Thursday (5 Sept 2024) 5:59 pm AEST

## **Return Date to Students**

Week 10 Friday (20 Sept 2024)

## **Weighting**

35%

## **Assessment Criteria**

## Rubric for Assessment 2

HD (85-100)	D (75-84)	C (65-74)	P (50-64)	F (0-49)	Grade
<b>Understanding of the Budget</b>					
<p>Advanced <u>understanding of the budget topic and the context.</u> Outlines key objective and priorities, provides advanced discussion on the background context and challenges facing the country. (26 – 30 marks)</p>	<p>Very good <u>understanding of the budget topic and the context</u> (23 – 25 marks)</p>	<p>Generally, demonstrates good <u>understanding of the budget topic and the context.</u> There is limited use of theories to connect to social work practice. (20 – 22 marks)</p>	<p>The assessment needs further development. There was some discussion about budget <u>topic</u>, but the assessment lacked connection with literature. (16 – 19 marks)</p>	<p>The assessment was poorly developed with no clear connection to the assessment task. Language is difficult to understand, and some sections need further clarity or explanation. (15 or fewer marks)</p>	/30
<b>Depth of analysis</b>					
<p>Provides a thorough and critical analysis of the chosen social policy area including the impact of the proposed initiatives on the target population and critical evaluation of the adequacy and sustainability of the proposed measures. Consistently integrates literature to support ideas (26-30 marks)</p>	<p>Provides a very good analysis of the chosen social policy area. Mostly integrates literature to support ideas (23-25 marks)</p>	<p>Provides a general analysis of the chosen social policy area. Mostly integrates literature to support ideas (20-22 marks)</p>	<p>The assignment needs further development to integrate literature to support ideas (16-19 marks)</p>	<p>The assessment does not integrate literature to support ideas (15 marks or fewer)</p>	/30

<b>Critical thinking</b>					
Demonstrates excellent evaluation of the budget's impact on social policy and identify strengths and weaknesses, potential gaps, long-term implications, AASW's position and how the policy will address the needs of minority groups (22-25 marks)	Demonstrates very good evaluation of the budget's impact on social policy and identify strengths and weaknesses. (20-21 marks)	Demonstrates general evaluation of the budget's impact on social policy and identify strengths and weaknesses. There is limited connection to AASW resources or use of theories. (17-19 marks)	The assessment needs further work to demonstrate knowledge evaluation of the social policy topic. (13-16 marks)	The assessment does not have a clear structure and the main points are not clearly described. (12.5 or fewer <u>marks</u> )	/25
<b>Clarity and coherence where ideas are presented in a clear and logical manner, including correct spelling, grammar and referencing that adheres to APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition referencing style</b>					
The assessment demonstrates excellent written expression that is clear. Consistently accurate spelling and grammar with no errors. All references are correctly cited with APA referencing and without the use of generative AI (13 – 15 marks)	The assessment demonstrates very good written expression that is clear. Consistently accurate spelling and grammar with no more than 1-2 errors. Accurate APA referencing with no more than 1-2 errors (12-13 marks)	The assessment structure shows mostly clear written expression. The main points are present but may be unclear. There are 3-4 errors with spelling and grammar. Good APA referencing with 3-4 errors (10 -11 marks)	The assessment shows some evidence of good structure but needs further work to be clear. The paper has 5 or more errors in spelling and grammar. Adequate APA referencing with 5-6 errors (8-9 marks)	The assessment does not have a clear structure and the main points are not clearly described. There are substantial spelling and grammar errors. Inadequate and /or inappropriate APA referencing (7.5 marks or fewer)	/15
				Total	/ 100

### Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

### Submission

Online

### Submission Instructions

Submit your assessment via the unit Moodle site in Microsoft Word format only.

## Graduate Attributes

- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cross Cultural Competence

## Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Analyse the historical development of social policy in Australia and the wider international context of social policy
- Evaluate the inherent value-judgements associated with social policy development and implementation
- Critically reflect on social policies that are relevant to the human services

# 3 Developing a Social Policy Briefing Paper

## Assessment Type

Written Assessment

## Task Description

Aims

The aim of this assessment is to enhance your understanding of social policy analysis and develop your ability to advocate for positive policy reform. You will analyse a social policy topic, identify aspects of the policy that require change, and propose solutions or next steps. Additionally, you will explore how social workers engage in social policy debates to influence policy change.

### Task Description

Choose one social policy topic from the list below:

- Family Violence: The National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032
- First Nations Health: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031
- Housing and Homelessness: National Housing and Homelessness Plan (in development)
- Child Safety: Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021 - 2031

#### 1. Introduction

- Provide a brief introduction to the social policy topic you have chosen. This should include an outline of the current policy framework and its key components and the purpose of your briefing paper.

#### 2. Policy Analysis

- Analyse the current policy, highlighting its objectives, target population, and implementation strategies.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the policy.
- Identify the social, economic, and political context influencing the policy.

#### 3. Identifying Issues

- Identify and discuss specific aspects of the policy that require change.
- Use evidence from academic sources, government reports, and relevant data to support your analysis.
- Highlight the impact of these issues on the target population and broader society.

#### 4. Proposing Solutions

- Propose realistic and evidence-based solutions or next steps to address the identified issues.
- Discuss how these solutions align with principles of social justice, equity, and effectiveness.
- Consider potential challenges and how they might be mitigated.

#### 5. Role of Social Workers

- Explore how social workers engage in social policy debates and advocacy.
- Discuss the strategies social workers use to influence policy change, such as lobbying, coalition building, and public education.
- Provide examples of successful social worker-led policy reforms or initiatives.

#### 6. Conclusion

- Summarise the key points of your analysis and proposed solutions.
- Reinforce the importance of the recommended changes for improving the policy.

### Suggested Resources

- Policy Documents: Access relevant policy documents through government websites and databases.
- Academic Journals: Utilise the university library for accessing journals and articles on social policy.

- Professional Organisations: Refer to publications and resources from social work and social policy organisations.
- News Outlets and Reports: For current events and case studies related to your chosen policy topic.

Note: Students are encouraged to approach this assignment with a critical and analytical mindset, drawing on a wide range of sources to support their analysis and proposals. Discussions in tutorials and lectures will provide additional guidance and support.

#### Professional social work writing

It is crucial for students to demonstrate professional social work writing in their assessments. This involves using a tone that is respectful, clear, and free from bias, while also adhering to the ethical standards and principles of the social work profession. Effective communication, appropriate terminology, and a well-structured argument are key components of professional writing in social work. Your ability to present a persuasive, evidence-based argument in a professional manner will enhance your advocacy efforts and influence in policy reform debates.

#### Generative AI

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen-AI) tools, including AI-driven writing assistants and content generators, is not permitted in this assessment. This social work practice standard is based on the requirement for students to demonstrate essential human capacities, skills, and knowledge crucial for social work practice as outlined by the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS, 2021). Social work relies on human interaction, empathy, ethical decision-making, and effective communication—skills that cannot be adequately assessed through AI-generated content. To ensure the integrity and development of these capabilities, students must verify that any grammar or writing enhancement programs used do not incorporate AI components. Compliance with this social work practice standard is vital for meeting ASWEAS graduate attributes and preparing for professional practice.

#### Literature and references

In this assessment, use at least ten references to support your argument. You may also use seminal scholarly literature where relevant. Suitable references include peer-reviewed journal articles as well as textbooks and credible websites. When sourcing information, consider the five elements of a quality reference: currency, authority, relevance, objectivity, and coverage. Grey literature sourced from the internet must be from reputable websites such as from government, university, or peak national bodies: for example, the Australian Association of Social Workers.

#### Requirements

- Use a cover page that includes your name and student number, the subject code, the date, and the number of words in your submission.
- Use a conventional and legible size 12 font, such as Times New Roman or Arial, with 2.0 line spacing and 2.54cm page margins (standard pre-set margin in Microsoft Word).
- Include page numbers on the top right side of each page in a header.
- You may write in the first-person or third person perspective.
- Use formal academic language.
- Use the seventh edition American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style. The CQUniversity Academic Learning Centre has an online APA Referencing Style Guide.
- The word count is considered from the introduction's first word to the conclusion's last word. The word count excludes the reference list but includes in-text references and direct quotations.

#### Resources

- You can use unit provided materials and other credible sources (e.g. journal articles, books) to reference your argument. The quality and credibility of your sources are important.
- We recommend that you access your discipline specific library guide: the Social Work and Community Services Guide.
- We recommend you use EndNote to manage your citations and reference list. More information on how to use EndNote is available at the CQUniversity Library website.
- For information on academic communication please go to the Academic Learning Centre Moodle site. The Academic Communication section has many helpful resources including information for students with English as a second language.
- Submit a draft before the due date to review your Turnitin Similarity Score before making a final submission. Instructions are available here.

#### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Thursday (3 Oct 2024) 5:59 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Friday (18 Oct 2024)

**Weighting**

35%

**Assessment Criteria****Rubric for Assessment 3**

HD (85-100)	D (75-84)	C (65-74)	P (50-64)	F (0-49)	Grade
<b>Demonstrated understanding of the social policy topic and its context</b>					
Advanced <u>understanding of</u> the social policy topic and its context. (26 – 30 marks)	Very good <u>understanding of</u> the social policy topic and its context (23 – 25 marks)	Generally, demonstrates good understanding of the social <u>policy topic</u> and its context. There is limited use of theories to connect to social work practice. (20 – 22 marks)	The assessment needs further development. There was some discussion about social policy <u>topic</u> , but the assessment lacked connection with literature. (16 – 19 marks)	The assessment was poorly developed with no clear connection to the assessment task. Language is difficult to understand, and some sections need further clarity or explanation. (15 or fewer marks)	/30
<b>Depth of analysis</b>					
Provides a thorough and critical analysis of the chosen social policy area. Consistently integrates literature to support ideas (26-30 marks)	Provides a very good analysis of the chosen social policy area. Mostly integrates literature to support ideas (23-25 marks)	Provides a general analysis of the chosen social policy area. Mostly integrates literature to support ideas (20-22 marks)	The assignment needs further development to integrate literature to support ideas (16-19 marks)	The assessment does not integrate literature to support ideas (15 marks or fewer)	/30
<b>Quality of solutions</b>					
Proposes realistic, evidence-based, and well-justified solutions or next steps. Consistently integrates literature and unit material (13-15 marks)	Very <u>good proposed</u> solutions. Mostly integrates literature to support all ideas (12 marks)	Generally good solutions are proposed. Needs stronger connection to literature to support ideas. (10-11 marks)	The assignment needs further development to integrate literature and unit material (8-9 marks)	The assessment does not integrate literature and unit material (7.5 marks or fewer)	/15

<b>Role of social worker and implications for social work practice</b>					
Effectively discusses how social workers engage in policy debates and influence change. Consistently integrates literature and unit material (13-15 marks)	Very good discussion about how social workers engage in policy debates and influence change. Mostly integrates literature to support all ideas (12 marks)	General discussion about how social workers engage in policy debates and influence change. Needs stronger connection to literature to support ideas. (10-11 marks)	The assignment needs further development to integrate literature and unit material (8-9 marks)	The assessment does not integrate literature and unit material (7.5 marks or fewer)	/15

**Clarity and coherence where ideas are presented in a clear and logical manner, including correct spelling, grammar and referencing that adheres to APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition referencing style**

The assessment demonstrates excellent written expression that is clear. Consistently accurate spelling and grammar with no errors. All references are correctly cited with APA referencing and without the use of generative AI (9-10 marks)	The assessment demonstrates very good written expression that is clear. Consistently accurate spelling and grammar with no more than 1-2 errors. Accurate APA referencing with no more than 1-2 errors (7-8 marks)	The assessment structure shows mostly clear written expression. The main points are present but may be unclear. There are 3-4 errors with spelling and grammar. Good APA referencing with 3-4 errors (6 marks)	The assessment shows some evidence of good structure but needs further work to be clear. The paper has 5 or more errors in spelling and grammar. Adequate APA referencing with 5-6 errors (5 marks)	The assessment does not have a clear structure and the main points are not clearly described. There are substantial spelling and grammar errors. Inadequate and /or inappropriate APA referencing (4 marks or fewer)	/10
				Total	/ 100

**Referencing Style**

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Submission Instructions**

Submit your assessment via the unit Moodle site in Microsoft Word format only

**Graduate Attributes**

- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Social Innovation

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Critically reflect on social policies that are relevant to the human services
- Evaluate theories of policy development as they apply to social policy making in Australia.
- Articulate the strategies that social workers can engage in to influence policy development and advocate for positive policy reform

## Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

### What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

### Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

### Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

### What can you do to act with integrity?



#### Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



#### Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



#### Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem