

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

**School / Faculty:** Faculty of Education and Arts

**Course Title:** SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

**Course ID:** WELSI2103

**Credit Points:** 15.00

**Prerequisite(s):** (ATSGC1361 or BAFND1001 or SOCIO1001 or WELRO1001)

**Co-requisite(s):** Nil

**Exclusion(s):** Nil

**ASCED Code:** 090515

**Grading Scheme:** Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

## Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

## Learning Outcomes:

### Knowledge:

- K1.** Identify and place in historical context the major themes which have contributed to the development of the Australian Welfare state
- K2.** Be aware of different discourses which underlie debates about social policy in Australia
- K3.** Be aware of contemporary issues and debates in a number of policy areas
- K4.** Critically review the policy-making process in Australia and be able to identify key stakeholders and actors in the policy making process
- K5.** Be aware of the implication of specific areas of social policy for the Human Services Field.

### Skills:

- S1.** Locate policy documentation and comment using a variety of sources
- S2.** Use a framework for policy analysis to identify and critically analyze social policy
- S3.** Explore the implications for service users and the Human Services field generally of specific areas of social policy
- S4.** Debate the relative merits of social policy from a clearly identified value base.

### Application of knowledge and skills:

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- A1.** Ability to analyse social policy rhetoric, and identify underlying values and ideological underpinnings
- A2.** Knowledge of the stages of the policy cycle, and capacity to identify how and when the different stages are utilised in relation to existing policies
- A3.** Capacity to explore and analyse diverse contemporary social policy issues through historical, political, community and discipline specific lenses
- A4.** Ability to convey understanding of key theoretical constructs underpinning social policy debates in Australia and internationally
- A5.** Identification of the basic fundamentals of economic theory which inform social policy development
- A6.** Ability to locate credible information about diverse social policies, and apply it to analysis of policies

### Course Content:

Topics may include:

- To provide a contextual understanding of major developments, debates and themes that have shaped the Australian welfare state.
- To explore and contrast the different discourses which underlie policy debates.
- To identify the major actors, institutions and forces which have and do influence the policy making process in Australia.
- To ensure that students are able to locate relevant policy material and community responses to it utilising a variety of resources.
- To explore and analyse specific areas of social policy utilising a defined policy analysis framework
- To identify change processes as they have been and are reflected in social policy in Australia.
- To identify and analyse major current debates in the Human Services and explore their significance for practice.
- To consider contemporary policy issues and identify students' own attitudes towards social policy choices.

### Values and Graduate Attributes:

#### Values:

- V1.** Value judgements which underlie different approaches to policy making
- V2.** Honour personal beliefs and attitudes about social policy debates
- V3.** Examine social policy from the perspective of welfare values i.e. the values of social justice professionalism, quality of service delivery and the rights of the individual.

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## Graduate Attributes:

graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Capacity to understand the importance of remaining engaged with social policy debates throughout professional life	Medium
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Ability to understand the values which inform policy debates	High
Capable, flexible and work ready	Encouraging students to develop an understanding of the link between engaged citizenship and ethical policy making	High
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Capacity to consider the social responsibility that governments and non-profit organisations have for ensuring the well-being of "citizens"	High

## Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, A1, A2	Using reading, research and analytical skills, identify current key issues and debates relevant to social policy.	E- Portfolio	20 - 40 %
K1, K3, K5, S3, A3, A4	To explore and analyse different issues relevant to contemporary social policy in Australia from a historical, political, community and discipline/field perspective	Essay	30 - 50%
K1, K3, K4, K5, S2, S3, S4, A2, A4, A5	Identify approaches to delivery of public policy making in Australia and significant themes which have impact on social policy.	Policy Analysis	20 - 30 %

## Adopted Reference Style:

APA