

Course Name	Human Service Workers and the Law				
Course ID	009690				
Area & Cat No.	JUST 2005				
Units	4.5	Career	UG	BUGE	Yes
School	SWP	Campus(es)	Magill, Whyalla	FOE	ASU
Components	Lecture, Tutorial	Mode	Internal/External/ Online	Final Exam	Yes/No?
Syllabus Plus	Yes/No?				

Prerequisite(s)

Aim

To enable the student to develop legal knowledge and skills appropriate for social workers and other human service workers and to begin a critical examination of the legal response to social issues.

On completion of this course students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of legal rights, obligations and responsibilities of human service workers;
- explain the relationship between legal, ethical and other regulation of professional practice;
- identify common legal issues arising for clients of human service organisations;
- identify the skills most commonly required of social workers and other human service workers in a legal context;
- demonstrate the capacity to identify and access relevant information and resources when faced with a legal problem;
- demonstrate the capacity to work with evidence, time lines and arguments as required in a legal context
- demonstrate ability to apply legal knowledge to the facts of a human service problem;
- critically evaluate laws relating to the human services;
- identify access and equity issues in the legal response to social issues.

By undertaking this course, students will progress in the development of the following qualities:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Graduate quality	Body of knowledge	Lifelong learning	Effective problem solving	Work alone and in teams	Ethical action	Communicate effectively	International perspective
Indicative unit weighting	1.5	0.5	1.5	-	0.5	-	0.5

Syllabus

Roles, functions, responsibilities and cultures of human service and legal workers; professional ethics and law; legal protections and risks for human service workers; professional negligence; confidentiality and privacy; appearing in court; contract law and other business related law; overview of criminal law; juvenile justice system, family law; child protection; debt; discrimination; residential and consumer protections; mental incapacity.

Teaching and learning arrangements

This course will be delivered using the following means:

Workshops (2 hrs x 13 weeks).

Tutorials (1 x 13 weeks).

Assessment

Take home short answer test	40%
Written case study analysis (3000 words)	50%
In class article commentaries	10%

Textbook(s)

Kennedy, R with Richards, J. (2004) *Integrating Human Service Law and Practice* Oxford University Press, Melbourne.

References

- Brammer, A. (2003). *Social Work Law*. Longman, London,
 Brayne, H. & Carr, H. (2003). *Law for Social Workers*. 8th edn. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
 Doyle, C. & Bagaric, M. (2005). *Privacy Law in Australia*. Federation Press. Sydney
 Ronalds, C. & Pepper, R. (2004). *Discrimination Law and Practice*. 2nd edn Federation Press, Sydney.
 Reamer, F. (2003). *Social Work Malpractice and Liability*. 2nd edn. Columbia University Press, New York.
 Swain, P. ed (2002). *In the Shadow of the Law*. 2nd edn. Federation Press, Sydney.

Course coordinator

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