

# WELF 7003 CONTEXTUALISED PRACTICE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 102394

**Coordinator** Maggie Hall ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maggie Hall/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maggie%20Hall/))

**Description** Social work practice is informed by, and negotiated through, policy, legislative and ethical frameworks. This subject focuses on how these frameworks influence and shape social work practice in Australia and provides an opportunity for students to critically reflect upon their power, responsibilities and obligations. In this subject, students will acquire the knowledge and skills to advocate for marginalised and disadvantaged individuals and groups through activism and advocacy and, work for social justice change through reform of legislation and policy.

**School** Social Sciences

**Discipline** Social Work

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

**Restrictions**

Students must be enrolled in 1792 Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyse legislative and policy practices that both enhance and inhibit wellbeing at individual, family and community levels.
2. Analyse aspects of state mental health, domestic violence and child protection legislation relevant to social work practice, including confidentiality, involuntary interventions and guardianship.
3. Critically analyse different models of social policy making in Australia
4. Analyse and integrate knowledge of and commitment to social work values and ethics to guide professional practice.
5. Critically evaluate the application of advocacy skills in relation to legislative and policy frameworks and processes.

## Subject Content

- legal frameworks for social work practice in Australia
- The policy process
- political institutions and policy making
- Legislative and policy practices that both enhance and inhibit wellbeing at individual, family and community levels.

Case studies:

child wellbeing and protection

mental health

family violence

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- ethics and social work practice

- Advocacy strategies using knowledge of Legislative and policy frameworks and processes

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group	Mandatory Group Task
Presentation	5-10 minutes, maximum 4 Powerpoint slides	20	N	Group	Y
Reflection	1,000 words	30	N	Individual	Y
Report	2,000 words	50	Y	Individual	Y

Prescribed Texts

- Bacchi, CL 2009, *Analysing policy : what's the problem represented to be?*, Pearson Education, Frenchs Forest, Australia.
- Rice, S., Day, A. and Briskman, L. (ed) (2018) *Social Work in the Shadow of the Law*. 5th (ed). Annandale, NSW: The Federation Press.

Teaching Periods

## Autumn (2025)

### Parramatta City - Macquarie St

**On-site**

**Subject Contact** Maggie Hall ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maggie Hall/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Maggie%20Hall/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject\\_code=WELF7003\\_25-AUT\\_PC\\_1#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=WELF7003_25-AUT_PC_1#subjects))