

SOWK11016 *Human Services and the Law*

Term 2 - 2025

Profile information current as at 12/03/2026 11:37 am

All details in this unit profile for SOWK11016 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

In this unit, you will examine the relationship between human services and the legal context, and develop an understanding of the importance of integrating knowledge of legal systems and processes with human services practice and professional ethics. You will be introduced to the origins of the statutory contexts for human service work in Australia, and to the role which human service practitioners are required to play within these settings. Particular statutory areas are explored in some detail. This unit has a minimum grade requirement for assessments.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

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 - 2025

- 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: 40%

2. Group Discussion

Weighting: 10%

3. Written Assessment

Weighting: 50%

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 evaluation

Feedback

Two lectures were difficult to engage with.

Recommendation

Review lectures to identify ways to increase student engagement.

Feedback from Student evaluation

Feedback

The unit Moodle site was easy to navigate, and there was a great range of resources. I was surprised at my enjoyment of this subject.

Recommendation

Retain the Moodle site format and the interactive elements of Assessments 1 and 2, and continually review and update unit resources.

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain the origins of the statutory frameworks within which human service workers practice
2. Demonstrate the difference between criminal and civil statutory processes and law
3. Differentiate between the discrete jurisdictions within statutory systems with reference to the roles which human service workers are required to undertake
4. Explain how statutory systems impact on the work of human services workers, clients, organisations and the community
5. Explain the interaction of statutory systems and processes with professional codes of ethics in human service practice.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level ● Introductory Level ● Intermediate Level ● Graduate Level ● Professional Level ● Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 40%	●	●	●		
2 - Group Discussion - 10%	●	●	●		
3 - Written Assessment - 50%				●	●

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 - First Nations Knowledges					
11 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

SOWK11016

Prescribed

Integrating Human Service Law, Ethics and Practice

Edition: 4th edn (2016)

Authors: Kennedy, R., Richards, J., Leiman, T.

Oxford University Press

South Melbourne , Victoria , Australia

ISBN: 9780190302726

Binding: Paperback

Students are not required to purchase the textbook as it is available to access freely online through the CQUniversity Library: [SOWK11016 Textbook](#).

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

Madonna Chesham Unit Coordinator

m.chesham@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 14 Jul 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The law and human services	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 1 set readings and activities.	

Week 2 - 21 Jul 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Australian legal system	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 2 set readings and activities.	

Week 3 - 28 Jul 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The place of law within practice frameworks	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 3 set readings and activities.	

Week 4 - 04 Aug 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Professionals and agencies as legal entities?	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 4 set readings and activities.	Assessment 1 Quiz A - Due Week 4, Friday at 6 pm (AEST)
Week 5 - 11 Aug 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Managing information	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 5 set readings and activities.	Assessment 2 Group Discussion A - Due Week 5, Wednesday at 6 pm (AEST)
Vacation Week - 18 Aug 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Week 6 - 25 Aug 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Evidence, witnesses and court reports	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 6 set readings and activities.	
Week 7 - 01 Sep 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Legal accountability	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 7 set readings and activities.	
Week 8 - 08 Sep 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Crimes and victims	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 8 set readings and activities.	Assessment 1 Quiz B - Due Week 8, Friday at 6 pm (AEST)
Week 9 - 15 Sep 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
An introduction to child protection and domestic and family violence law	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 9 set readings and activities.	Assessment 2 Group Discussion B - Due Week 9, Wednesday at 6 pm (AEST).
Week 10 - 22 Sep 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Housing and income support	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 10 set readings and activities.	
Week 11 - 29 Sep 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Discrimination and harassment	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 11 set readings and activities.	
Week 12 - 06 Oct 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Voluntary assisted dying	Visit the study week schedule on Moodle for the Week 12 set readings and activities.	Written Assessment Due: Week 12 Wednesday (8 Oct 2025) 4:00 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 13 Oct 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 20 Oct 2025 Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Part A - Two Online Quizzes

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

Type: Two Online Quizzes

Quiz A

Quiz opens: 08:00 hours (AEST) Thursday, 7th August 2025 (Week 4)

Quiz closes: 18:00 hours (AEST) Friday, 8th August 2025 (Week 4)

Return to students: Results for Quiz A will be available on Friday, Week 7

Permitted attempts: One

Weighting: 20%

Length: Ten multiple-choice and three short-answer questions

Completion time: 90 minutes

Quiz B

Quiz opens: 08:00 hours (AEST) Thursday, 11th September 2025 (Week 8)

Quiz closes: 18:00 hours (AEST) Friday, 12th September 2025 (Week 8)

Return to students: Results for Quiz B will be available on Friday, Week 10

Permitted attempts: One

Weighting: 20%

Length: Ten multiple-choice and three short-answer questions

Completion time: 90 minutes

Extensions: Not available for Quiz A and Quiz B as per policy. The 72-hour grace period does not apply to this assessment.

Unit Coordinator: Madonna Chesham

Aim

This assessment aims to support your understanding and application of key legal concepts in social work. It is aligned with Assessment 2 – Group Discussion, encouraging both active learning and meaningful peer engagement. You will complete two online quizzes in Weeks 4 and 8, each assessing your understanding of core legal principles relevant to social work practice. These quizzes also form the basis for Assessment 2 group discussion in Weeks 5 and 9, where you will collaborate with peers to reflect on and analyse selected quiz questions. This structure is intended to deepen your learning through both self-assessment and group dialogue.

In each quiz, you will:

- Examine the legal frameworks that shape social work and human services.
- Demonstrate understanding of social workers' legal and professional responsibilities.
- Apply key laws to real-world scenarios, demonstrating a practical understanding of how legislation influences social work practice and decision-making.

Instructions

Please refer to the assessment task instructions on the unit's Moodle site.

Academic Integrity

You must abide by the principles of academic integrity (see Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure). Completion of this assessment with another party or sharing of responses is not permitted at any time.

Level of GenAI use allowed:

Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during this assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

This restriction is in place to support the development of essential critical thinking and reasoning skills, which are essential to navigating legal and ethical challenges in social work practice. In human services professions, AI-generated content cannot replace human judgment, especially when interpreting laws and assessing their relevance to social work practice. The intersection of the law and human services requires careful reasoning, contextual analysis, and an understanding of human impact and complexities that AI cannot authentically replicate.

Number of Quizzes

2

Frequency of Quizzes

Other

Assessment Due Date

Quizzes are due Friday in Week 4 and Week 8. An open quiz will be automatically submitted at 18:00 hours (AEST).

Return Date to Students

Results will be available two weeks after the quiz closes.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria will be available on the Moodle site.

Minimum Pass Criteria

- You must achieve a minimum grade of 49.5% to pass this assessment.
- Assessment re-attempt is not available for this assessment.
- In the event you are eligible for a supplementary assessment, all assessment tasks must be reasonably attempted in this unit.

Referencing Style

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

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the origins of the statutory frameworks within which human service workers practice
- Demonstrate the difference between criminal and civil statutory processes and law
- Differentiate between the discrete jurisdictions within statutory systems with reference to the roles which human service workers are required to undertake

2 Part B - Group Discussion

Assessment Type

Group Discussion

Task Description

Type: Two Online Group Discussions (Group Discussion A & B)

Group Discussion A

Forum opens: 08:00 hours (AEST) Saturday, 9th August 2025 (Week 4)

Forum closes: 18:00 hours (AEST) Wednesday, 13th August 2025 (Week 5)

Return to students: Results will be available on Friday, Week 7

Weighting: 5%

Length: 500 words +/- 10% (excluding references) - 300-word initial post and 200-word peer response

Group Discussion B

Forum opens: 08:00 hours (AEST) Saturday, 13th September 2025 (Week 8)

Forum closes: 18:00 hours (AEST) Wednesday, 17th September 2025 (Week 9)

Return to students: Results for will be available on Friday Week 11

Weighting: 5%

Length: 500 words +/- 10% (excluding references) - 300-word initial post and 200-word peer response

Extensions: Not available as per policy. The 72-grace period does not apply to this assessment.

Unit Coordinator: Madonna Chesham.

Aim

The discussion forums are designed to replicate a face-to-face tutorial. They encourage active learning, support deeper understanding of legal concepts in human services and social work, and provide opportunities to reflect on your quiz learning with peers. In Weeks 5 and 9, following each quiz, you will participate in two small group discussion forums.

Instructions

Instructions for this assessment can be accessed on the unit Moodle site.

Academic Integrity

You must abide by the principles of academic integrity (see Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure). Completion of this assessment with another party or sharing of responses is not permitted at any time.

Level of GenAI use allowed:

Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during this assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

This restriction is in place to support the development of essential critical thinking and reasoning skills, which are essential to navigating legal and ethical challenges in social work practice. In human services professions, AI-generated content cannot replace human judgment, especially when interpreting laws and assessing their relevance to social work practice. The intersection of the law and human services requires careful reasoning, contextual analysis, and an understanding of human impact and complexities that AI cannot authentically replicate.

Assessment Due Date

ONGOING - Group discussions will take place in Weeks 5 and 9 following each quiz. The group forum will automatically close at 18:00 hours.

Return Date to Students

Feedback and marks will be returned within two weeks of the completion of each Group Discussion.

Weighting

10%

Assessment Criteria

Refer to the marking rubric on the Moodle site for more details on how marks will be assigned.

Minimum Pass Criteria

- You must achieve a minimum overall grade of 49.5% to pass this assessment.

- Assessment re-attempt is not available for this Assessment task.
- For a supplementary assessment to be considered, all assessment tasks must be reasonably attempted in this unit.

Referencing Style

- American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submit a copy of your Group Discussion posts in a Microsoft Word format to the respective Group Discussion submission area on the unit Moodle site by the due date. Late penalties of 5% per day of the available mark may be applied as per the Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework). Contact TASAC if you experience technical issues submitting your assessment: Phone toll-free 1300 666 620 Email tasac@cqu.edu.au

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain the origins of the statutory frameworks within which human service workers practice
- Demonstrate the difference between criminal and civil statutory processes and law
- Differentiate between the discrete jurisdictions within statutory systems with reference to the roles which human service workers are required to undertake

3 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Type: Written Assignment

Due date: Wednesday, 8th October 2025, 4 pm AEST (Week 12)

Extensions: Available as per policy. The 72-hour grace period applies to this assessment.

Return date: Results for this assessment will be made available on Friday, 10th October 2025.

Weighting: 50%

Length: 1600 words +/- 10% (excluding reference list)

Unit Coordinator: Madonna Chesham

Aim

Social workers and human service workers commonly work with people experiencing issues/problems that have legal elements. While social workers and human services workers cannot provide legal advice, they must have knowledge of various legal frameworks and how they impact service users' lives. Drawing on the unit material for weeks one to twelve and other sources you have located through independent research, identify, describe and discuss the knowledge of legal frameworks required by the human service/social worker to effectively support the service user in the case study. The case study will be uploaded to the Assessment tile on the unit Moodle page early in the term.

Instructions

Instructions for this assessment can be accessed on the unit Moodle site.

Academic Integrity

You must abide by the principles of academic integrity (see Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure). Completion of this assessment with another party or sharing of responses is not permitted at any time.

Level of GenAI use allowed:

Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during this assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

This restriction is in place to support the development of essential critical thinking

and reasoning skills, which are essential to navigating legal and ethical challenges in social work practice. In human services professions, AI-generated content cannot replace human judgment, especially when interpreting laws and assessing their relevance to social work practice. The intersection of the law and human services requires careful reasoning, contextual analysis, and an understanding of human impact and complexities that AI cannot authentically replicate.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Wednesday (8 Oct 2025) 4:00 pm AEST

Upload submission via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (24 Oct 2025)

Weighting

50%

Minimum mark or grade

Students must pass the written assessment to receive a Pass overall for the unit.

Assessment Criteria

Refer to the marking rubric on the Moodle site for more details on how marks will be assigned.

Minimum Pass Criteria

- You must achieve a minimum grade of 49.5% to pass this assessment.
- To achieve a passing grade for this unit, you are required to pass this assessment item.
- Assessment re-attempt is not available for this Assessment task.

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. Late penalties of 5% per day of the available mark may be applied as per the Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework). Contact TASAC if you experience technical issues submitting your assessment: Phone toll-free 1300 666 620 Email tasac@cqu.edu.au

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Explain how statutory systems impact on the work of human services workers, clients, organisations and the community
- Explain the interaction of statutory systems and processes with professional codes of ethics in human service practice.

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