

In Progress

Please note that this Unit Profile is still in progress. The content below is subject to change.



SOWK29001 *Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice* Term 1 - 2027

Profile information current as at 17/09/2026 09:11 pm

All details in this unit profile for SOWK29001 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

This unit provides an overview of the intersection between ethical principles and legal imperatives in social work practice in Australia. You will develop an understanding of First Nations lore, the first laws of Australia, and how British colonisation shaped the Australian Legal System. You will explore the human rights principles that inform the law, social work ethics, and social justice responsibilities to address human rights violations and challenge structures that sustain oppression and inequality. You will explore different areas of the law relevant to working in human services, understanding the inherent tension between legal obligations, ethics, and values, which contribute to ethical decision-making challenges practitioners commonly encounter in various settings. Using ethical decision-making models and the AASW Code of Ethics (2020), you will navigate challenges in case studies that involve balancing competing rights and responsibilities, ethical use of power, and constraints on individual freedoms when working with involuntary service users. Additionally, you will examine First Nations peoples' experience of the law and social workers' ethical and legal obligations when working with First Nations people and people from culturally diverse contexts. To build a robust ethical framework for your future practice, you will critically reflect on your values and attitudes, considering how they might impact your work with service users and stakeholders whose life experiences, views and values differ from yours. You will undertake your first fieldwork placement while completing this unit. This practical experience will allow you to reflect on your practice within a human service agency, enhancing your understanding of social workers' ethical and legal dimensions.

Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 9*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Co-requisite - SOWK28005 Social Work Field Education 1

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 1 - 2027

- Sydney

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

Information for Class and Assessment Overview has not been released yet.
This information will be available on Monday 11 January 2027

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
- Academic Progression Policy and Procedure
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- 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 SUTE data.

Feedback

Improve video resources relevant to the unit of study.

Recommendation

In future offerings of this unit, we will integrate more video resources where relevant. We will also consider the value of adding short film or documentary content that will assist students with developing their understanding of the intersection between social work and the law.

Feedback from SUTE data.

Feedback

Provide more up to date literature.

Recommendation

This is important feedback and it will be a priority for future offerings of the unit of study that there is more up to date literature available in the e-reading list.

Unit Learning Outcomes

Information for Unit Learning Outcomes has not been released yet.
This information will be available on Monday 11 January 2027

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

Information for Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes has not been released yet.
This information will be available on Monday 11 January 2027

Textbooks and Resources

Information for Textbooks and Resources has not been released yet.
This information will be available on Monday 15 February 2027

Academic Integrity Statement

Information for Academic Integrity Statement has not been released yet.
This unit profile has not yet been finalised.