

SOWK29004 *Family and Structural Violence*

Term 1 - 2026

Profile information current as at 28/03/2026 01:20 am

All details in this unit profile for SOWK29004 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 expand your knowledge of family and structural theories of violence, with a focus on family and gender-based violence against women. Gender-based and family violence is pervasive in Australia, with 1 in 3 women experiencing violence by a partner, known person or a stranger since the age of 15, and 1 in 5 women experiencing sexual violence since the age of 15. These statistics underscore the urgent need for targeted social work interventions. You will design social work assessments and interventions informed by evidence-based practice, social work values and ethics, and sound theoretical underpinnings, specifically addressing the needs, safety resources and strengths of victim-survivors and their children. You will employ critical thinking and reflection skills to analyse societal power imbalances that sustain family violence and navigate ethical dilemmas involving care and control, such as autonomy and protection, as well as confidentiality and safety. This analysis includes understanding how intersecting identities such as gender, ethnicity, age, culture, class, and religion shape nuanced experiences of oppression and injustice. You will develop strategies and skills to collaborate with others to address systemic power structures that sustain violence and advocate for more positive outcomes for those impacted by violence and inequality. The unit also covers self-care, safety, and supervision strategies, recognising the specific challenges that family and gender-based violence can introduce into social work. This unit aims to equip you with the skills and knowledge to address family violence, promoting a more equitable and just society.

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

Pre-requisites: SOWK29001 Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice 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 - 2026

- 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

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Postgraduate 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. Written Assessment

Weighting: 30%

2. Written Assessment

Weighting: 30%

3. Case Study

Weighting: 40%

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](#).

Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically appraise the theoretical and empirical base for working with people experiencing family and structural violence
2. Develop assessments and interventions grounded in evidence-informed practice and professional ethics to address the diverse needs of victim-survivors of violence and trauma.
3. Apply collaborative and advocacy strategies, incorporating trauma-informed practices, to case studies to address systemic power structures and achieve better outcomes for people affected by violence and a more equitable society.
4. Engage in critical reflection to identify and challenge biases and assumptions, assess power imbalances, and cultivate ethical practice, cultural sensitivity, self-awareness, professional growth, supervision and self-care, which are essential for working in this field of 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
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•		•
2 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	
3 - Case Study - 40%		•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Knowledge	◦	◦	◦	◦
2 - Communication		◦	◦	◦
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills	◦		◦	
4 - Research	◦			
5 - Self-management		◦		◦
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility	◦	◦	◦	◦
7 - Leadership				
8 - First Nations Knowledges				
9 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures		◦		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

SOWK29004

Prescribed

Domestic and Family Violence: A Critical Introduction to Knowledge and Practice

Edition: 1 (2019)

Authors: Meyer & Frost

London: Routledge

London, United Kingdom

ISBN: ISBN: 9781138552739

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Academic Learning Centre services
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Teams

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

Nina Melander Unit Coordinator

n.melander@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 09 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction to Family and Structural Violence	Review the Moodle site and click on all the links. Find out what is in Student Support? Find out how to find the Library? Click on the link and learn what is in the Academic Learning Centre. Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Readings and activities as outlined in module. Assessments: Review the assessment tasks and make a study plan. Foundations of Academic Integrity Program: Complete your annual program. Announcements and Discussion Forums: Check for posts and updates.

Week 2 - 16 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Theoretical Perspectives and Human Rights	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Assessment 1 – Start your literature searching and preparing assessment. Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates. Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.

Week 3 - 23 Mar 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Domestic and Family Violence	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	<p>Census Date is next week. If you are struggling, please contact your Unit Coordinator for help.</p> <p>Assessment 1 – Read the literature to identify the credibility of the evidence and continue preparing your assessment.</p> <p>Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates.</p> <p>Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.</p>
Week 4 - 30 Mar 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Power and Coercive Control	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	<p>Census Date – Tuesday Week 4</p> <p>Assessment 1 – Read the literature to identify the credibility of the evidence and continue preparing your assessment. You might wish to seek assessment preparation help from the Academic Learning Centre and/or Studiosity.</p> <p>Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates.</p> <p>Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.</p>
Week 5 - 06 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Child Abuse and Neglect	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	<p>Assessment 1 – Check the originality of your assessment through Turnitin and make relevant changes to your assessment after reviewing your originality report.</p> <p>Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates.</p> <p>Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.</p> <p>Assessment One-Reflective Essay Due: Week 5 Wednesday (8 Apr 2026) 4:00 pm AEST</p>
Week 6 - 13 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Child Sexual Abuse	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	<p>Assessment 2 – Begin preparing for assessment two. Check in with your Unit of Study Coordinator.</p> <p>Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates.</p> <p>Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.</p>
Vacation Week - 20 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation Week!	Please use this mid-term break as an opportunity to rest and recover. Enjoy your break!	No timetabled learning activities. Please use this week to progress your assessments.
Week 7 - 27 Apr 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment 2 – Check the originality of your assessment through Turnitin and make relevant changes to your assessment after reviewing your originality report.
Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates.
Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.

Assessment Two- Written Assessment Due: Week 7 Wednesday (29 Apr 2026) 4:00 pm AEST

Week 8 - 04 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Institutional Forms of Violence	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates. Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.

Week 9 - 11 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Partnering with Victim-Survivors	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Assessment: Review case-study for final assessment. Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates. Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.

Week 10 - 18 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Safety Planning in Practice	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Assessment: Gather and review literature to support final assessment. Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates. Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications.

Week 11 - 25 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Social Work Practice in Child Protection	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Assessment: Work on final assessment. This is an important time to raise any questions with your unit of study coordinator. Announcement and Discussion Forums – Check for posts and updates. Student email – Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications. Student Unit and Teaching Evaluation survey – We encourage you to provide feedback about your unit and teaching experiences in this unit. The survey opens Week 11 and closes one week before release of grades.

Week 12 - 01 Jun 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Responding to Disclosures and Mandatory Reporting	Readings and activities as outlined in module.	Announcement and Discussion Forums - Check for posts and updates. Student email - Check your student email at least twice per week for important communications. Student Unit and Teaching Evaluation survey - Please complete the unit evaluation survey. Congratulations on completing this unit. Don't forget to check your unit enrolments for next term.
Exam Week - 08 Jun 2026		Assessment Three- Case Study and Safety Planning Due: Week 12 Wednesday (3 June 2026) 4:00 pm AEST
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation/Exam Week - 15 Jun 2026		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Term Specific Information

As this unit is offered face to face students are to attend campus as per their timetable. This unit has an 80% attendance rate. In addition, students are expected to prepare their own individual study plan to undertake self-led and self-directed study throughout the term. A key to your success is a strategic self-directed approach to learning and regular contact with your Unit Coordinator/s. Please check the Announcements and Discussion forums at least twice a week - there will be regular announcements about assessments and unit resources throughout the term and reviewing this information is essential to unit knowledge and your success. CQUniversity communicates with students through CQUniversity email. We recommend that you access your CQUniversity email at least twice a week so that you do not miss vital information about your studies.

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment One-Reflective Essay

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

The aim of this assessment is to develop students' capacity to critically reflect on their values, assumptions and professional responsibilities, and to apply evidence-informed, ethical and trauma-informed social work practice when working with children and families where there are concerns about violence, abuse or neglect. The assessment emphasises power, cultural sensitivity, supervision and self-care, and the development of appropriate assessments and interventions to support safety, wellbeing and justice.

Instructions

Please refer to the assessment task instructions 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. This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity. No Generative AI use is permitted in the completion of this assignment. You must not use AI tools or technology to produce substantive content. You are permitted to use technology or tools that assist with spelling, grammar or formatting.

Level of GenAI Use Allowed: Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during the assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

Extensions

Extensions to this assessment are available as per policy. The 72-hour grace period does apply to this assessment.

Minimum Pass Criteria

You must achieve a cumulative grade of at least 49.5% across all assessments to pass this unit.

In order for a supplementary assessment to be considered, all assessment tasks must be reasonably attempted in this unit.

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Wednesday (8 Apr 2026) 4:00 pm AEST

Submit online via the unit Moodle site

Return Date to Students

Week 8 Wednesday (6 May 2026)

Returned via Moodle

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria will be available on the Moodle site.

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

- Critically appraise the theoretical and empirical base for working with people experiencing family and structural violence
- Develop assessments and interventions grounded in evidence-informed practice and professional ethics to address the diverse needs of victim-survivors of violence and trauma.
- Apply collaborative and advocacy strategies, incorporating trauma-informed practices, to case studies to address systemic power structures and achieve better outcomes for people affected by violence and a more equitable society.

2 Assessment Two- Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Task Description

The aim of this assessment is to develop your ability to critically analyse the theoretical and conceptual foundations for working with people experiencing family and structural violence, and to demonstrate how these frameworks strengthen social work practice through trauma-informed, collaborative and advocacy-focused approaches that address systemic power and inequality.

Instructions

Please refer to the assessment task instructions 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. This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity. No Generative AI use is permitted in the completion of this assignment. You must not use AI tools or technology to produce substantive content. You are permitted to use technology or tools that assist with spelling, grammar or formatting.

Level of GenAI Use Allowed: Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during the assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

Extensions

Extensions to this assessment are available as per policy. The 72-hour grace period does apply to this assessment.

Minimum Pass Criteria

You must achieve a cumulative grade of at least 49.5% across all assessments to pass this unit.

In order for a supplementary assessment to be considered, all assessment tasks must be reasonably attempted in this unit.

Assessment Due Date

Week 7 Wednesday (29 Apr 2026) 4:00 pm AEST

Submit online via the unit Moodle site

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Wednesday (20 May 2026)

Via Moodle

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria will be available on the Moodle site.

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

- Critically appraise the theoretical and empirical base for working with people experiencing family and structural violence
- Develop assessments and interventions grounded in evidence-informed practice and professional ethics to address the diverse needs of victim-survivors of violence and trauma.
- Engage in critical reflection to identify and challenge biases and assumptions, assess power imbalances, and cultivate ethical practice, cultural sensitivity, self-awareness, professional growth, supervision and self-care, which are essential for working in this field of practice.

3 Assessment Three- Case Study and Safety Planning

Assessment Type

Case Study

Task Description

The aim of this assessment is to develop students' capacity to apply evidence-informed, ethical and trauma-informed social work practice when working with women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. Through analysis of a case study, students will conduct a safety assessment, develop appropriate interventions, and demonstrate critical reflection on power, culture, ethics, advocacy, supervision and self-care in order to promote safety, justice and equitable outcomes.

Instructions

Please refer to the assessment task instructions 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. This assessment requires students to adhere to the guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence tools as specified in the Artificial Intelligence Assessment Scale (AIAS). Any misuse or lack of disclosure regarding the use of AI tools will be considered a breach of academic integrity. No Generative AI use is permitted in the completion of this assignment. You must not use AI tools or technology to produce substantive content. You are permitted to use technology or tools that assist with spelling, grammar or formatting.

Level of GenAI Use Allowed: Level 1: You must not use AI at any point during the assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

Extensions

Extensions to this assessment are available as per policy. The 72-hour grace period does apply to this assessment.

Minimum Pass Criteria

You must achieve a cumulative grade of at least 49.5% across all assessments to pass this unit.

In order for a supplementary assessment to be considered, all assessment tasks must be reasonably attempted in this

unit.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Wednesday (3 June 2026) 4:00 pm AEST

Submit online via the unit Moodle site

Return Date to Students

Vacation/Exam Week Wednesday (17 June 2026)

Returned via Moodle.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria will be available on the Moodle site.

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

- Develop assessments and interventions grounded in evidence-informed practice and professional ethics to address the diverse needs of victim-survivors of violence and trauma.
- Apply collaborative and advocacy strategies, incorporating trauma-informed practices, to case studies to address systemic power structures and achieve better outcomes for people affected by violence and a more equitable society.
- Engage in critical reflection to identify and challenge biases and assumptions, assess power imbalances, and cultivate ethical practice, cultural sensitivity, self-awareness, professional growth, supervision and self-care, which are essential for working in this field of 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