

Australian Social Policy and the Human Services

Third edition

Social policy encompasses the study of social needs, policy development and administrative arrangements aimed at improving citizen wellbeing and redressing disadvantage. In a period of increasing political instability, growing inequality and polarisation, in Australia and globally, social work and human services practitioners are uniquely positioned to partner with governments, policy-makers and non-government organisations to respond to these challenges and promote the wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Australian Social Policy and the Human Services introduces readers to the mechanisms of policy development, implementation and evaluation. This third edition emphasises the complexity of practice, examining the links and gaps between policy development and implementation and encouraging readers to develop a critical approach to practice. The text now includes an overview of Australia's political system and has been expanded significantly to cover contemporary issues across several policy domains, including changes in labour market structure, homelessness, mental health and disability, child protection and family violence, education policy, Indigenous initiatives, conceptualisations of citizenship, and the rights of diverse groups and populations.

Each chapter is framed by learning objectives, key terms, reflection points, end-of-chapter exercises, illustrative examples and suggestions for further reading.

Written in an engaging and accessible style, *Australian Social Policy and the Human Services* is an indispensable resource for students and practitioners alike.

Ed Carson and Lorraine Kerr have researched, taught and published on Australian social policy for many years and have been employed in a variety of positions in this field. Both have recently retired from their previous roles – Lorraine as a social planner and social worker in local government and lecturer at a number of universities, Ed as Professor of Social Policy, and before that as Dean of Graduate Studies, at the University of South Australia.

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*To Ella and Jack
Our Grandchildren – you are the future.*

Contents

<i>List of figures and tables</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Acronyms and abbreviations</i>	<i>xiv</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xvii</i>
<i>Using your VitalSource enhanced eBook</i>	<i>xx</i>
Introduction	1
The study and practice of social policy	2
Organisation of the book	4
Aims of the book	4
Terminology	7
Part 1 Debates and principles	9
1 Fundamental debates in social policy	11
Who shapes social policy? An overview of Australia's political system	14
Welfare categories	18
Equality and equity	20
Contested concepts of welfare	24
Risk: How should it be managed?	24
Whose responsibility is it?	26
What entitlements should the state provide?	28
Eligibility: Who benefits?	33
Redistribution: How much?	34
Conclusion	36
Exercises	37
Further reading	38
2 Personal and professional values in human services practice	39
Society's changing values and their influence on practice	41
Ethics, morals and practice	44
Ethics and practice	45
Morals and practice	48
Critical analysis	50
A personal philosophy of practice	53
Conclusion	55
Exercises	56
Further reading	58
Part 2 Australian social policy	59
3 The history of Australian social policy	61
Welfare support before Federation	62
Welfare support after Federation	66

viii Contents

Keynesianism and social policy	68
Post-World War II, 1945–75	70
Conservative growth, 1949–72	72
Universalism, 1972–75	73
Welfare state to enabling state, 1975–2019	74
Liberal–Country Party Coalition, 1975–83	75
Labor, 1983–96	76
Liberal–National Coalition, 1996–2007	79
Labor, 2007–13	81
Liberal–National Coalition, 2013–19	83
Welfare reform and risk management	86
Conclusion	88
Exercises	89
Further reading	90
4 The policy-making process	91
Social policy: Development and analysis	92
Approaches to analysing social policy	95
Positivist policy-making approaches	97
Rational planning	97
Incrementalism	100
Critiques, alternatives and hybrids	102
Bottom-up models	103
Post-structuralism	105
Stages in the policy process	108
Planning	109
Formulation	110
Implementation	111
Evaluation	113
Evidence-based policy and programs	114
Realist evaluation	115
Conclusion	117
Exercises	118
Further reading	119
Part 3 The human services	121
5 Funding and governance in Australian human services	123
Contractualism and new public management	127
Funding disability services and aged care	132
Partnerships, relational contracting and compacts	135
Partnership working and relational contracts	138
Perverse outcomes	139
Policy networks and network governance	139
Network governance	140

Hollowing out and deskilling	141
Developments in funding and service delivery	143
State–NGO relationships	143
Impact investing and social impact bonds	145
Conclusion	147
Exercises	148
Further reading	149
6 Australian human services organisations	150
The human services workforce	151
Wages and conditions	153
Qualifications	155
Policy pressures and professional practice	157
Recruitment and retention	157
Stress and burnout	158
Towards trust	160
Volunteers	163
Informal caring and volunteering	164
Volunteering costs	164
Employee and corporate volunteering	166
Changing NGO structures and regulations	167
Corporate social responsibility and social enterprise	167
Regulation and reporting	170
Conclusion	172
Exercises	173
Further reading	174
Part 4 Australian social policy in practice	175
7 Income support	177
Measurements of poverty	179
The Henderson Poverty Line	179
Median income	182
Basket of goods	183
Longitudinal data	183
Changes in eligibility, entitlements and poverty	184
Inequality	186
Multiple disadvantage and social exclusion	188
Income support policies	190
Individual responsibility	193
Conditionality and activation	196
Equity and redistribution	200
Disability Support Pension	202
Family payments	203

x Contents

Conclusion	205
Exercises	206
Further reading	207
8 Employment	208
Work as primary welfare	209
Wages and conditions	209
Inequality in the workplace	210
Changes in the labour force	213
Mature-age workers	215
Young workers	217
Women in the labour force	218
Globalisation	219
Immigration and employment	220
Future changes	224
Employment policies and job search programs	228
Working Nation	228
Job Network	228
Job Services Australia	231
Jobactive 2014–15	232
Jobactive 2016–17	233
Jobactive 2018–19	234
Conclusion	238
Exercises	240
Further reading	241
9 Housing	242
Home purchase and ownership	244
First home purchase policies	246
Mortgage regulation	247
Private rental housing	250
Social rental housing	253
Public housing	254
Community housing	256
Social housing stock and funding	257
Categories of disadvantage and housing	260
Disability	260
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	261
Homelessness	265
The face of homelessness	269
Young people	269
Older women	270
Conclusion	272
Exercises	274
Further reading	275

10 Health care	276
Social determinants of health	277
Health inequity and resource redistribution	281
Health policies	282
Medicare	284
Bulk-billing and private health insurance	284
Merit good or private good?	286
Government funding	288
Disadvantage and health needs	291
Ageing	291
Ethnicity	294
Mental health	296
Disability	299
Conclusion	304
Exercises	305
Further reading	306
11 The family and child welfare	307
The changing family	308
Family structure	310
Family member roles	312
Family values and the idealised family	314
Same-sex families	315
Family policies	315
Family Tax Benefit	316
Child Care Rebate	319
Child care regulation and monitoring	322
Formal child care	322
Informal child care	323
Child protection	324
Increased focus on abuse	325
Mandated substitute care	332
Family and domestic violence	335
Education	340
Conclusion	347
Exercises	349
Further reading	349
12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	351
Assimilation and social control	352
Contemporary Indigenous policies	356
Closing the Gap	356
Northern Territory Emergency Response	358
Stronger Futures	362

xii Contents

Indicators of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage	366
Education	366
Health	370
Housing	372
Employment	374
Violence and incarceration	376
Child protection	378
Formulation failures and implementation gaps	380
Conclusion	382
Exercises	384
Further reading	384
13 Citizenship and globalisation	386
Citizenship in Australia	387
Citizenship and social exclusion	389
Same-sex couples, LGBTQI+ individuals and families	392
Disability	394
Environment	395
Immigration and social cohesion	397
Assimilation, integration, multiculturalism, post-multicultural assimilation	399
Refugees and asylum seekers	405
Entitlements and eligibility	407
Transnational identities and social cohesion	409
Globalisation and localism	411
Conclusion	418
Exercises	421
Further reading	421
Summary and conclusion	423
Contested concepts of welfare	425
Social policy development and implementation	426
Social justice as a rationale for practice	427
Concluding comments	429
<i>References</i>	431
<i>Index</i>	471

Figures and tables

Figures

2.1	Model in critical analysis	51
4.1	Policy levels	93
8.1	Share of projected growth by industry, 2018–23	225
9.1	Australian tenure type distribution, 2017–18	243
9.2	Social housing types	253
9.3	Indigenous Australian tenure type distribution, 2016	262
10.1	Social determinants of health	277
10.2	Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over experiencing selected chronic conditions, by quintile of socioeconomic disadvantage, 2017–18	279
10.3	Proportion of the population aged 18 years and over experiencing selected health risk factors, by quintile of socioeconomic disadvantage, 2017–18	280
10.4	Health expenditure, 2016–17	290
11.1	Household composition, 2016	311
11.2	Family composition of families with children, 2016	311

Tables

4.1	Alignment of a four-stage and an eight-stage policy cycle	109
7.1	Weekly pensions and benefits compared with Henderson Poverty Line recommendations, March 2019	181
8.1	Distribution of unemployment, March 2019 (%)	214
8.2	Long-term unemployment as a percentage of total unemployment	214
8.3	Comparison of visa-holder numbers, 2014–19	222
10.1	Outcomes of social determinants of health by location, 2018	280
10.2	Number of selected health practitioners per 100 000 people, 2018	282
10.3	Projected proportion (%) of the population aged 65+ and 85+ years, 2012–2101	291
11.1	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–20: First Action Plan 2009–12	326
11.2	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–20: Second Action Plan 2012–15	328
11.3	Notifications and substantiations of child abuse and neglect, children on orders and children in mandated care, 2009–10 to 2013–14	329
11.4	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–20: Third Action Plan 2015–18	329
11.5	Notifications and substantiations of child abuse and neglect, children on orders and children in mandated care, 2014–15 to 2017–18	330
11.6	National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009–20: Fourth Action Plan 2018–20	331

Acronyms and abbreviations

AASW	Australian Association of Social Workers
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
ACCI	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ACCS	Additional Child Care Subsidy
ACECQA	Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
ACNC	Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission
ACOSS	Australian Council of Social Service
ACSA	Aged and Community Services Australia
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
ACWA	Australian Community Workers Association
AEF	Australian Environment Foundation
AHA	Australian Hotels Association
AHRC	Australian Human Rights Commission
AHRI	Australian HR Institute
AHURI	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
AIFS	Australian Institute of Family Studies
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALP	Australian Labor Party
ALRC	Australian Law Reform Commission
AMA	Australian Medical Association
APH	Australian Parliament House
APO	Analysis & Policy Observatory
ASIO	Australian Security and Information Organisation
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
BCA	Business Council of Australia
CAARS	Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support
CALD	culturally and linguistically diverse
CCS	Child Care Subsidy
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
CDP	Community Development Program
CEDA	Committee for Economic Development of Australia
CEDAW	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFMEU	Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union
CHP	Council to Homeless Persons
CIP	Commission of Inquiry into Poverty
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COBA	Customer Owned Banking Association
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRoC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSHISC	Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

DES	Disability Employment Services
DESSFB	Department of Employment, Skills, Small & Family Business
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIBP	Department of Immigration and Border Protection
DPMC	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
DSS	Department of Social Services
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FBT	fringe benefits tax
FTB	Family Tax Benefit
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFC	global financial crisis
GNP	Gross National Product
GST	goods and services tax
HECS	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
HIA	Housing Industry of Australia
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JCF	Job Compliance Framework
LASA	Leading Aged Services Australia
LFPR	labour force participation rates
MIAESR	Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
MP	Member of Parliament
NACA	National Aged Care Alliance
NAHA	National Affordable Housing Agreement
NCN	National Council of Nonprofits
NCVER	National Centre for Vocational Education Research
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NFF	National Farmers' Federation
NGO	non-government organisation
NHHA	National Housing and Homelessness Agreement
NPARIH	National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing
NPSI	National Plan for School Improvement
NQF	National Quality Framework
NRAS	National Rental Affordability Scheme
NTER	Northern Territory Emergency Response
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PBS	Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
PHIDU	Population Health Information Development Unit
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RGWR	Reference Group on Welfare Reform
RJCP	Remote Jobs and Communities Program

xvi **Acronyms and abbreviations**

SAHT	South Australian Housing Trust
SBS	Special Broadcasting Service
SCRGSP	Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision
SEDIF	Social Enterprise Development and Investment Funds
SHEV	safe haven enterprise visa
SRS	Schooling Resource Standard
TAFE	technical and further education
TPV	temporary protection visa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VCSS	Victorian Council of Social Service
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WHO	World Health Organization
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

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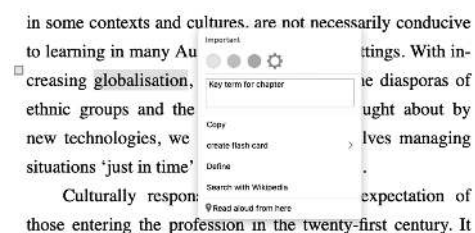
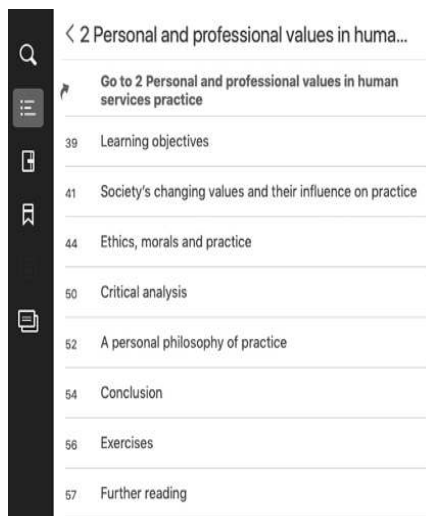
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The **codes of ethics** of the

codes of ethics Frameworks that set out the values of an organisation such as the AASW, outline the principles and standards to which professionals are bound and provide guidelines for how professionals should approach problems.

Links

Links to further informative publications, documents and websites can be found throughout each chapter. Explore the links to extend your knowledge.

Videos/audio

Informative video and audio links appear throughout each chapter. These have been selected to explain, illustrate and extend on the key topics covered.

Link and reflection question

The article, 'You Say Morals. I Say Ethics – What's the Difference' by Paul Walker and Terry Lovat from the University of Newcastle (*The Conversation* 2014) claims a distinct difference between ethics and morals.

Q: Do you think Walker and Lovat's argument has relevance for human services practice? How or why not?

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A complete glossary of the text's key terms and definitions can be found exclusively within the VitalSource enhanced eBook.

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Research questions

Linking together the chapter, multimedia and web content, research questions are designed to test your analytical skills. Use the guided solutions to assess the key points covered in your response.

Short-answer question

Q: What did Jane Addams' approach see as the cause of disadvantage?

Jane Addams' approach to disadvantage

Jane Addams' approach to disadvantage was based on the belief that it reflected structural issues (e.g. unemployment), which require policy changes to overcome.

Submit

Exercises

Q1: You are a caseworker in an agency that supports young people with mental health issues. Many of the young people who attend your service admit to recreational drug use. The decision has been made by your agency that, in the context of promoting harm minimisation, the agency will join with like-minded organisations to advocate for free pill testing at music events. Such testing is being resisted as a policy measure by both your state government and the federal government. You have been given the task of leading your agency's submission to your relevant state and federal MPs. At the moment, you are unsure whether you are pro- or anti-pill testing. What are the competing value positions here and how will you approach the task of writing the submission? What are the implications for you, your agency and the young people who use your service?

The competing value positions are:

When developing your answer, consider the following points:

- the importance and influence of the values and beliefs of all involved in this

Exercises

Respond to the end-of-chapter exercise questions and use the guided solutions to assess your response.

Online resources

At the end of each chapter, online resources direct you to relevant web content that will enhance and extend your learning.

Online resources

- [Amnesty International. range of current human rights issues](#)
- [Austhink. list of critical thinking websites](#)
- [Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics](#)
- [Australian Community Workers Association Code of Ethics](#)
- [Australian Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Ethics Centre](#)
- [United Nations. information on current issues in human rights](#)