

## University of Ballarat

### UNIT OUTLINE

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<b>UNIT CODE AND TITLE</b>	<b>BH901 Contemporary Issues in Health Services Management</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Eileen Sellers
<b>SCHOOL</b>	School of Business
<b>COURSE</b>	Master of Business Administration (Health Services Management)
<b>PREREQUISITE (S)</b>	Nil
<b>COREQUISITE (S)</b>	Nil
<b>DURATION</b>	One Semester
<b>CREDIT POINTS</b>	15

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### OBJECTIVES

This unit will introduce the concepts of Health Services Management within the context of public sector health provision based on government allocation. Current issues in health care as well as the meaning of the terms 'health' and 'service' are examined. The traditional 'caring' ethos of health care is considered in relation to current economic rationalist models of health care delivery. Demographic trends, ethical factors and health issues of current public concern are considered.

Active participation in the unit is expected to enable students to:

#### Knowledge

- discuss major contemporary issues in health care delivery
- understand principles of ethics which underpin health care delivery
- define and explore concepts of health, service, and management and their interrelationships
- compare and contrast health services management with management in non-health arenas

#### Skills

- analyse a particular health care work place situation

- effectively apply principles of health care delivery to fictitious and actual problem-solving exercises
- relate contemporary issues in health care delivery to real world situations
- evaluate conflicting perspectives in health services issues
- apply various paradigms of health care delivery to practice

### **Values / attitudes**

- appreciate the multiplicity of stakeholder positions in health services management
- value the importance of multiple perspectives in management of health services
- appreciate the potential for improvement in business practices in the health care arena
- adopt an ethical stance in problem-solving in health services management issues

### **CONTENT**

Content of the unit will comprise:

- Definitions of health, service and management
- Philosophy and ethics of health care delivery
- Commonalities and differences between management in health care and non-health care settings
- International factors influencing health care
- International and local trends in health care
- Selected health care issues and their implications for managers
- Applicability of various models of management to the health services arena

### **LEARNING TASKS AND ASSESSMENT**

<b>LEARNING TASK</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT (GRADING)</b>	<b>WEIGHTING (%)</b>
Investigate Health Services Management issues	Group Presentation	40%
Essay/report	Written assignment	60%

### **METHODOLOGY**

This unit will involve a significant amount of self-directed learning, and may employ lectures, interactive tutorials, on-line learning and participation, and/or student directed project groups.

### **REFERENCES**

Clinton, M. & Schiewe, D. (1998) *Management in the Australian health care industry*. (2<sup>nd</sup>ed.). South Melbourne: Addison Wesley Longman.

- Ellyard, P. (1998) *Ideas for the third millennium*. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press.
- Flanagan, H. & Spurgeon, P. (1996) *Public sector managerial effectiveness*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin.
- Ginter, P.M., Swayne, L.M. & Duncan W.J. (1995) *Strategic management of health care organizations* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) Maiden, MA: Blackwell.
- Helman, C.G. (1994) *Culture, health and illness*. Sydney: Butterworth Heinemann.
- Lawson, J. S., Rotem, A & Bates, P.W. (1996) *From clinician to manager: an introduction to hospital and health services management*. Sydney: McGraw-Hill.
- Rees, S. & Rodley, G. (Eds.) (1995) *The human costs of managerialism*. Sydney: Pluton Press Australia.

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Selected journal articles and websites