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| UNIT CODE AND TITLE | BH902 Policy in Health Services Management |
| AUTHOR | Eileen Sellers |
| SCHOOL | School of Business |
| COURSE | Master of Business Administration (Health Services Management) |
| PREREQUISITE (S) | BH901 Contemporary Issues in Health Services Management |
| COREQUISITE (S) | Nil |
| DURATION | One Semester |
| CREDIT POINTS | 15 |

OBJECTIVES

This unit concerns policy related to practices in Health Services Management. It focuses mainly on public policy with consideration of policies pertinent to the private sector as appropriate. Content is tailored to suit areas of practice of student cohorts, drawing primarily from policy applicable globally and that pertaining to students' country of origin. Both the broad public health sector and the health care/ hospital sector are considered.

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

Knowledge

- Discuss international trends in health care policy
- Examine the evolution and current position of World Health Care (WHO) policy statements
- understand factors which underpin health care policy
- define and explore concepts inherent to health care policy development, implementation and evaluation
- compare and contrast health care policy with policy in non-health arenas

Skills

- analyse selected health care policies

- effectively apply established principles to policy development and evaluation
- assess the congruency of current health care policy statements and political action
- evaluate the effectiveness of selected health care policies
- recommend strategies to enhance health care policy delivery

Values / attitudes

- appreciate the need for effective health care policy
- value a team approach to policy development, implementation and evaluation
- appreciate the potential for improvement in policy development and dissemination
- demonstrate ethical practice in all aspects of policy making and analysis

CONTENT

Content of the unit will comprise:

- Definitions of policy
- Ethical principles of policy making and analysis in health care delivery
- Change management in relation to health care policy
- Policy and power relationships
- International and local factors influencing health care policy
- International and local trends in health care
- Selected health care policies and their implications for managers
- Applicability of various models of policy formation and evaluation to the health services arena

LEARNING TASKS AND ASSESSMENT

| LEARNING TASK | ASSESSMENT (GRADING) | WEIGHTING (%) |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Compare designated health care policies | Report | 50% |
| Essay | Written assignment | 50% |

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

Australian Steering Committee for Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision (1998) *Final report*. Melbourne: Productivity Commission.

Baum, F. (1998) *The new public health: an Australian perspective*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Curtis, S. & Taket, A. (1995) *Health and societies: changing perspectives*. London: Edward Arnold.

George, J. & Davis, A. (1998) *States of health: health and illness in Australia* (2nd ed.). South Melbourne: Longman

Gardner, H.(Ed.) (1997) *Health policy in Australia*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Hancock. L. (Ed.) (1999) *Health policy in the market state*. St Leonards, NSW: Allen & Unwin.

Palmer, G.R. & Short, S.D. (1994) *Health care & public policy: an Australian analysis* (2nd ed.).South Melbourne: MacMillan Education Australia.

Purtilo, R. (1993) *Ethical dimensions in the health professions* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders.

Selected journal articles and websites