

# PUBH 3011 HEALTH POLITICS, POLICY AND PLANNING

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 401195

**Coordinator** Anna Spencer ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Anna Spencer/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Anna%20Spencer/))

**Description** Health professionals work in a complex health and healthcare sector governed by policy on population health and healthcare. This subject considers the role of policy in health and healthcare. It examines policy making as both a rational and linear process responding to population health needs in just and fair ways, and the reality of policy making which occurs within a complex socio-political and economic environment, shaped by powerful groups. The aim of this subject is therefore to consider how health professionals can develop effective policy and the role advocacy can play in the health policy arena to engender greater health equity.

**School** Health Sciences

**Discipline** Health Promotion

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 3 subject

**Equivalent Subjects** PUBH 2013 - Health Politics Policy and Planning  
 LGYA 7182 - Health Politics Policy and Planning  
 PUBH 3025 - Health Policy and Advocacy

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically analyse health policies and the policy making process
2. Identify the role of politics in the policy making process and demonstrate how it influences health outcomes for populations
3. Identify and demonstrate how context e.g. socio-political, historical, ideological and economic factors shape Australian health policy
4. Assess the role of quantitative and qualitative research in relation to health policy making
5. Evaluate the role of major interest groups (advocacy and lobbyists) in the policy making process
6. Identify the health policy needs of vulnerable populations
7. Develop an understanding of and skills in health advocacy work
8. Utilise interprofessional health competencies in communication, negotiation, cooperation and teamwork

## Subject Content

1. Defining policy
2. Goals, purpose and scope of health policy.
3. Historical and political aspects of Australian health policy and health care system.
4. Funding arrangements and levels of responsibility.
5. Ideological approaches to health including health care provision.
6. Structural interest groups, pressure groups and political processes.
7. Public policy types e.g. distributive, regulatory, self-regulatory or redistributive.

8. Healthy public policy.
9. Policy co-ordination and intersectoral collaboration.
10. Theories of power, choice/decision-making and the concept of rationing.
11. The politics of policy making
12. Policy making process and what is good health policy.
13. The agency of groups and individuals to challenge power and bring about policy change
14. Lobbying and its impact on the public health agenda and policy formulation
16. Interest groups and advocacy
17. Community participation/active citizenship and empowerment in health
18. Research in policy making

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/Group Task
Essay: Critical Analysis of a Health Policy	1,000 words	30	N	Individual
Proposal and Presentation: Advocating for a Vulnerable Population	Proposal and 20 minute presentation	30	N	Group
Final Quiz	Take home quiz	40	N	Individual

### Prescribed Texts

- Text book ? Buse, K., Mays, N., & Walt, G. (2012). Making health policy. Online Edition, Open University Press.