

PUN640 Health Care Delivery and Reform

[REVISED]

Credit Points:	12
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Corequisite(s):	Nil
Antirequisite(s):	Nil
Equivalent(s):	Nil
Other Requisite(s):	Nil
Assumed Knowledge:	Nil
Date:	Semester 1 2018
Grading Scale:	1-7

Synopsis

The aim of this unit is for you to explore systems of health care both in Australia and internationally and the factors that influence the design and functioning of those systems so that you may contribute to the future development of health systems. The unit will use the Australian Health Care system as a case study but seek to draw from our examination of that system the concepts and analytical principles that may apply to all systems of health care. This unit introduces conceptual frameworks fundamental to the organization of health systems. Issues covered include the structure, operations, funding and evaluation of health systems and the evaluation of health system reform.

Rationale

A detailed understanding of the structure and functioning of the health system is essential for future health system leaders and managers. The unit explores concepts that form the basis for the way health systems are designed and operate. It also examines a number of issues that influence how health services are delivered and resourced with a particular focus on the Australian Health System but within an international context. These issues are critically analysed along with the health reform agenda and the drivers for change nationally and internationally. This unit is relevant to health professionals seeking to manage health systems or to lead and influence the future direction of health.

Aim

The aim of this unit is for you to develop an understanding of systems of health care both in Australia and internationally, of the factors that influence the design and functioning of those systems and of the concepts underpinning health system reform. The unit has been designed on the basis of insights drawn from research, policy and practice and utilises concepts of effectiveness, efficiency, and equity to evaluate systems and their components. We will use the Australian Health Care system as a case study but seek to draw from our examination of that system the concepts and analytical principles that may apply to all systems of health care.

Learning Outcomes

Completion of this unit requires you to provide evidence of having achieved the following learning outcomes:

1. Identify and evaluate the factors which influence the design and operations of health systems; both in Australia and internationally.
2. Critically appraise and apply conceptual frameworks for system evaluation such as equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

3. Identify and critically analyse the issues, opportunities and challenges faced by the health care systems and options for system development.
4. Critically appraise proposals for health system reform, and the underlying rationale.

Content

The content is divided into five modules:

- Module 1: An overview of health and health systems
- Module 2: Health resources
- Module 3: Frameworks for evaluation
- Module 4: Health economics
- Module 5: Current issues and reform

A Guide to study in this unit and a collection of readings will be provided via the Blackboard on-line teaching site to support your studies in this unit.

Approaches to teaching and learning

Teaching approaches for this unit have been based on the principles of adult learning theory and practice, and open learning guidelines have been followed in its design and delivery.

Teaching methods include:

- A weekly (2 hour) lecture which will be recorded and made available to all students.
- 3-4 tutorial sessions which will be conducted during the semester either by teleconference or electronic conferencing for external students. During these sessions you will have the opportunity to respond to challenges posed by your tutor and/or ask questions for clarification of content or process.
- All written materials including a study guide and key readings will be provided on the Blackboard site. These materials will include activities for you to undertake and seek feedback on to enable you to learn the processes of critical analysis and critical appraisal. The examples chosen in the activities will reflect authentic issues and challenges confronting health systems both nationally and internationally.

You should consider that each of these sources of information complement each other and provide you with different perspectives of the issues.

Assessment

There will be two items of assessment both in the form of essays. These two items will complement the learning by providing you with the opportunity to apply your understanding of health systems to the description and evaluation of particular health systems or segments of the system.

Feedback

Feedback will be provided to students progressively in the form of engagement in discussions at the lecture and tutorials and through moderated discussions on the Blackboard. Formal individual feedback will be provided on Blackboard to each student on each assessment item using a criteria grading as the basis for the feedback. In addition generic feedback on the assessment will be provided to all students. Students will also be provided with every opportunity to discuss assessment items individually with the Unit Coordinator either in person or by phone.

Assessment Submission and Extensions

Assessment items submitted after the due date without an approved extension will not be marked and will receive a grade of 1 or 0%. If special circumstances prevent you from meeting the assessment due date, you can [apply for an extension](#). If you don't have an approved extension you should submit the work you have done by the due date and it will be marked against the assessment criteria. QUT's assessment submission requirements reflect the expectations of professional practice where you will need to meet deadlines.

Assessment Item No. 1

Assessment name: Report

Description: Assessment of a health system

An assessment of a health system which critically analyses the issues, opportunities, challenges and design factors facing that health care system and which influence its evaluation and development.

Relates to learning outcomes: 1,2,3

Weight: 40%

Internal or external: Both

Group or Individual: Individual

Due date: Mid semester

Assessment Item No. 2

Assessment name: Essay

Description: Essay

You are required to critically evaluate, compare and contrast a variety of health systems exploring their governance, structure and function along with their ability to deliver desired outcomes. This essay will also analyse challenges and opportunities informed by current literature.

Relates to learning outcomes: 1,2,3,4.

Weight: 60%

Internal or external: Both

Group or Individual: Individual

Due date: End of semester

Academic Integrity

QUT is committed to maintaining high academic standards to protect the value of its qualifications. To assist you in assuring the [academic integrity](#) of your assessment you are encouraged to make use of the [support materials and services](#) available to help you consider and check your assessment items. Important information about the university's approach to academic integrity of assessment is on your unit Blackboard site.

A breach of academic integrity is regarded as Student Misconduct and can lead to the imposition of penalties.

Resource Materials

No specific texts are required for this unit although several texts will be provided as options for additional and extension reading. Students should have access to a computer and Microsoft Word for production of assignments.

There are no other specific costs.

Recommended Text(s):

1. Palmer, G., & Short, S. (2014). *Health Care and Public Policy: An Australian Analysis* (5th ed.). Australia: Palgrave MacMillan.
1. Duckett, S., & Willcox, S. (2015). *The Australian Health Care System* (5th ed.). Australia: Oxford University Press.
2. Willis, E., Reynolds, L., & Keleher, H. (2012). *Understanding the Australian health care system* (2nd ed.). Chatswood, NSW: Elsevier Australia.
3. Harris, M & Associates. (2006). *Managing Health Services Concepts and Practice* (2nd ed.). Marrickville: Mosby (Elsevier). (This can be accessed as an ebook)
4. Taylor, S., Foster, M., Fleming, J. (2008). *Health Care Practice in Australia. Policy, Context and Innovations*. South Melbourne, VIC: Oxford University Press.

Risk Assessment Statement

No specific risks are expected with this unit. Substantial computer-based work will be required. You should ensure that you take regular rest breaks when engaging in prolonged computer-based work.