

ACR211- Crime Prevention and Security

Summative Assessment Task 3

Policy Report

Instructions and Guidelines

Due Date: 8pm, Monday 23 May, 2022 (Week 11)

Word Count: 2,000 words (+/- 10% NOT including the Reference List)

Total Marks: 50% of the Unit Assessment

Format: Please use **DOUBLE** spacing

Submission: Please submit a .DOC or PDF. Do **NOT** submit a Pages (.pages) document

Assessment Task

This assignment follows on from Assessment Task 2 (the Literature Review). As part of your previous assessments you will have already chosen ONE of the three topics outlined below (e.g. you are writing on the SAME topic you chose for your literature review for this assessment task, the policy report).

You will have already chosen ONE of the three scenarios below. Use your literature review as a foundation for your policy report as follows:

1. Prejudice motivated crime

In Victoria, there are laws that prohibit prejudice motivated crime including racial and religious vilification. Nonetheless, prejudice motivated crime continues to be a rising problem in Victoria, in Australia and around the world. A prejudice motivated crime is caused by hate towards another person or group because of characteristics such as race, religion, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. Incidents can have a significant impact not only on a victim they can also leave the broader community feeling vulnerable, threatened and isolated. You have been asked by the Victorian Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Commission to provide a current and detailed policy report on the problem of prejudice motivated crime in Victoria. Your report should outline the nature of the current problem, a recommended course of action including social and/or environmental crime prevention techniques, as well as how your recommendations would be implemented and evaluated.

2. School non-attendance

Children who regularly miss school are at greater risk of non-completion of Year 12, behavioural problems, long term unemployment and welfare dependency, homelessness, poverty and involvement with the criminal justice system. In Victoria parents/carers must, by law, enrol a child of compulsory school age (6 to 17) years of age in school and ensure the child attends. Schools must also record and monitor absences in line with the requirements of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic). Despite this, and while relatively high compared to other states and territories, attendance rates have been slowly declining in Victoria in the past decade (ACARA 2021). You have been asked by the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria to provide a current and detailed policy report on the nature and extent of the problem with school non-attendance in Victoria. Your report should outline the nature of the current problem, a recommended course of action including social and/or environmental crime prevention techniques, as well as how your recommendations would be implemented and evaluated.

Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (2021). Student Attendance. ACARA. <https://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/student-attendance>

3. Land clearing and deforestation

In 2021, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) listed Eastern Australia as one of 21 global deforestation fronts (WWF 2021). From 2001 to 2020, Australia lost 8.47Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 20% decrease in tree cover, and 2.25Gt of CO₂e emissions. Over this period, Victoria alone lost 1.57Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 25% decrease in tree cover, and 554Mt of CO₂e emissions (Global Forest Watch 2021). Australia has one of the highest rates of animal extinction in the world and a key driver of this ecocide is habitat loss (WWF 2021). In Victoria, in line with the Native Vegetation Removal Regulations it is illegal to remove or destroy vegetation on public land without authorisation and a permit is required to remove or alter native vegetation on private land. These regulations are primarily implemented through local council planning schemes (DELWP 2021). Despite this, land clearing continues. You have been asked by the newly elected Premier of Victoria to provide a current and detailed policy report on the nature and extent of the problem of land clearing and deforestation in Victoria. Your report should outline the nature of the current problem, a recommended course of action including social and/or environmental crime prevention techniques, as well as how your recommendations would be implemented and evaluated.

Global Forest Watch (2021). Dashboard: Australia/Victoria. <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/AUS/>

World Wide Fund for Nature (2021). Deforestation Fronts: Drivers and Responses in a Changing World. WWF. https://www.fint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/deforestation_fronts_drivers_and_responses_in_a_changing_world_full_report_1.pdf

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria (2021). Native Vegetation. DELWP <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation>

A policy report is **not an essay**. A policy report, also known as a policy paper, is an authoritative perspective on an issue that offers solutions to a problem. This document is based on the research you undertook as part of your literature review, and additional research you undertake in order to offer solutions (a recommended course of action) to the identified issue/scenario you have chosen to examine.

Policy reports are incredibly important for the CJS, researchers, and policy makers. Many of you will be writing these in your post-study careers (many of you may already be writing them), and if you are a criminology major, in third year most of your subjects will expect you to write these types of reports as well.

You need to be as objective as possible, so do not use emotive language or overstate the issue. Typically, policy reports are written in the third rather than first person.

Your 2000 word policy report should include:

- A title page and a contents page that is correctly numbered.
- 1. **Introduction** (Approximately 100-150 words). This would include a **definition of the problem or issue** raised by your chosen topic/scenario. This is not a dictionary definition but an outline of what the problem is and why it is considered a problem, by building on the scenario you have selected. Who has defined this as a problem? You might like to consider using statistical data where possible to indicate the extent of the problem.
- 2. **Report description** (Approximately 100-150 words). This is where you explain your crime prevention approach/techniques including social and/or environmental crime prevention, what you are focusing on and why (e.g. are you taking a purely social or environmental crime prevention approach, why or why not? Or are you advocating a multi-pronged approach and if so, why?).
- 3. **Limitations** (Approximately 100-150 words). You need to be aware of the limitations of the research you mention in your report. All research has limitations. For example, does most of your research come from the US? Can it be translated to the Australian context? Or you might like to draw attention to the limitations of the particular approaches/methodology adopted by others in the field.
- 4. **Background data/ literature review**. This is where you ***insert your unedited literature review***. Include your Assessment Task 1; Part B here. There is no need to update Assessment Task 2 as this section has already been marked (but of course you are welcome to do so if you would prefer but be aware that no additional marks will be awarded if

you do). **The literature review section of your policy report DOES NOT count towards your word count of 2000 words.**

5. Key issues (approximately 500 - 600 words). Based on what the literature says and the scenario/topic prompt, what are the key issues you have identified that need focusing on by policy makers? Are there issues about getting community buy-in (does the community believe this is an issue)? Will the Victorian community support these recommendations -why or why not? What needs to happen to have support socially as well as politically? Have you sufficiently dealt with the issue of social inclusion and exclusion?

At this point if you have found more literature that did not fit in your literature review that appears to be important for discussing key issues and recommendations, consider including it here.

6. Future directions (Approximately 700-800 words). Here you outline your recommended course of action.

What do you recommend is the ideal way to move forward? (i.e. recommendations). You may list a number of recommendations here in addition to your recommended course of action with regard to social and/or environmental crime prevention techniques. Ensure your report is realistic and your recommendations are well justified/referenced throughout. For example, do not recommend initiatives that are highly unlikely to be supported or require exceptional amounts of money. Think of the social and political dynamics of crime prevention in making your recommendations. Additional things for you to consider might include:

cont.

What are the current crime prevention initiatives already in place? What are their strengths and limitations?

What is the short-term activity needed? What about the long-term?

Who would be responsible for delivering on the recommendations?

What is your problem-solving approach? What needs to be considered in implementing your chosen course of action? How will you deal with the problem of 'implementation failure', for example?

How would evaluation take place? Think of the problem-solving methodologies discussed in the unit - how would you ensure your recommendations can be evaluated? Here you should use models like the 5Is or SARA to underpin your report. You may use sub-headings here that correlate directly with a problem-solving methodology.

Are there any potentially negative consequences from your recommendations? You may decide to discuss issues such as social inclusion and exclusion here if you haven't already.

7. **Conclusion** (approximately 100-150 words). Given what you have recommended above, provide a succinct overview of the most important aspects of your recommended course of action. This is your final opportunity to convince your reader not only of the urgency of the issue/problem/scenario but to also adopt your recommendations.

8. **References.** All references, including the ones from the Assessment Task 2 Literature Review should go here. DO NOT separate the literature review references from the rest of the references. Incorporate ALL your references into ONE LIST. As part of the literature review you should have used a minimum of 8 academic references.

For the policy report **you should use a minimum of 8 different (e.g. additional) academic references (these MUST BE IN ADDITION to the ones you already used for your Assessment Task 2 Literature Review as they are not new academic references so they do not count towards the 8).** In total there should be at least 16 academic references (a minimum of 8 references for the literature review plus a minimum of 8 different/additional references) in your reference list. You can use as much grey literature (i.e. policy reports, legislation, ABS data) as you like. Your references list and references will not count towards your word count. This and all in-text citations must be in Harvard referencing style. You can find the Deakin guide to Harvard style referencing here <https://www.deakin.edu.au/students/studying/study-support/referencing>.

Additional details

Word count

The reference list is NOT included in the word count. However, your Title page and Table of Contents page ARE included in the word count. Please include a word count at the end of your policy report, including a breakdown of literature review versus the rest of the policy report (e.g. word count: literature review (950 words), policy report (1980 words)).

You are welcome to use graphs or tables if they are correctly referenced. These do not normally count towards your word count particularly if they are very long. Recreate tables, do not just cut and paste them from your source; ensure that the formatting and visual presentation of your graphs and tables fit the rest of your document. **Do not use any other types of visuals. You do not have to use graphs or tables if you do not want to or if they are not necessary to your work.** If you do use them, make sure they serve a purpose.

Remember, all sections should have adequate research to support your claims. This is important when making evidence-based policy recommendations. You are offering what you might anecdotally consider to be a good option in addition to basing your recommendations on evidence/research. In a policy report the introduction often has references. Therefore, reaching the minimum required references should be easily manageable.

Don't overthink your writing. This is not about how fancy or flowery your writing is. Can you write straight to the point without exaggeration? Can you make sure that your ideas and solutions connect with each other well and move your work along to the desired outcome? That is, you should aim to produce a solid policy document that gives clear direction forward for solving the problem.

Take a look at some policy reports and see what the writing and layout is like in order to help you put together your report.

Your word count is 2000 words +/- 10%. The approximate word count for each section of your policy report is a rough suggestion. How you break it down is up to you, but remember the Key Issues and Future Directions sections are where the bulk of your writing should be.

If you are unclear about any aspects of this report, please refer to:

- i. The specific criteria in the AT3 rubric;
- ii. If you have more direct questions, please raise these in the *Policy Report* discussion thread on CloudDeakin.