



Law Reform and Community Development

Law Reform and Community Development (LRCD) LAW5217 provides students with the opportunity to experience first hand and to understand the impact of the law on members of the community, particularly those who come from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds.

LRCD is conducted from the Springvale Monash Legal Service (SMLS), which is situated in the City of Greater Dandenong, a region rich in cultural diversity, housing many newly arrived migrants and refugees, many of whom have suffered trauma and discrimination throughout their lives. Further, this region has high levels of unemployment, truancy, crime and homelessness. Students enrolled in LRCD will in many cases work on a number of issues relevant to marginalised and disadvantaged community members, through the avenues of law reform, advocacy and community legal education.

The hands-on experience students receive through advocating for social justice for these community groups enable them to develop a unique understanding of how the law impacts upon these communities. Further, students enrolled in this subject are often working and consulting with other agencies which promote social justice, such as other community legal services, and have the opportunity to network with workers from these agencies. This unit facilitates future engagement and possible employment with organisations in this sector.

Students working in this unit will attend a seminar program for eight weeks involving two hours contact per week plus regular tutorials of two hours per week. There is also an expectation that students will also be required to allocate eight hours per week over 12 weeks for client-group consultations, private research, preparation of materials and community presentations, with assessment being finalised over the remaining five weeks of a 17 week period.

Here's how previous students have described this unit -

'This subject has been one of the best of my degree so far and has given me a perspective on law reform that is so absent from traditional law subjects.'

'I had a great time in LRCD this year, and I have found that the methods I used for this project have really helped me with my internship work, so I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to learn these skills.'

'This subject is one that got me outside of a lecture theatre and thinking more broadly about what I have been learning - it is one that I will remember fondly'

How to apply:

Students must complete a form entitled "Application for a Place in Law Reform and Community Development Law 5218". This form is available from Student Services and is completed and returned to them.

Places are subject to a quota. The Convenor of Legal Practice Programs makes the ultimate decision of whether a student is offered a place in the program.



Students at the Springvale Monash Legal Service

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