



LAWS5005

Age and the Law

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Macquarie Law School

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor / Lecturer

Holly Doel-Mackaway

Contact via iLearn

see iLearn

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(130cp in Law or LAWS units) or (130cp including LAWS260 or LAWS2060)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the intersection of age and law, in particular, the ways in which the law protects, empowers and also negatively impacts on the lives of children and older people. This course equips students to understand the national and international legal frameworks impacting on children and young people and the elderly and the strengths and limitations of these frameworks. This unit is relevant to students interested in human rights and social justice, as well as students who want to gain an advanced understanding of the socio-legal context surrounding children and young people and/or the elderly.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the legal issues affecting children and older people in various contexts.

ULO2: Identify the elements of a rights-based approach to legal issues that affect children and older people.

ULO3: Engage in critical analysis of the way in which laws impact on children and older people.

ULO4: Evaluate the role of law reform in key areas affecting children and older people.

ULO5: Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the way law impacts on diverse communities of children and older people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

General Assessment Information

All written assessments submitted electronically must be submitted through the link provided in iLearn. This unit will utilise Turnitin plagiarism detection software. Students should carefully check that they submit the correct file for an assessment, as re-submissions will not be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file in error.

The design, moderation and feedback of all assessments is in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Procedure (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Late Submission Policy

A maximum penalty of five (5) percentage points of the total possible marks will be applied per day to late submissions, for up to a maximum of seven calendar days. Tasks that have not been submitted within the maximum number of additional late days will receive a mark of zero. This provision does not apply to online exams or other assessment with a time limit of less than 24 hours.

Penalties for late submission will be applied consistently and equitably to all students enrolled in the unit. Where short-term, serious and unavoidable circumstances have affected their ability to submit an assessment task, a student must submit a formal application for Special Consideration as per the Special Consideration Policy. Students should not request an informal arrangement from their tutor, lecturer or Unit Convenor.

Where an application for Special Consideration is approved, and the outcome is an extension to the due date of a task, submissions that are received after the new due date will be subject to late penalties that are calculated from the new due date. This only applies where the outcome is an extension to the due date – see the Special Consideration Policy for a schedule of all possible outcomes.

Special Consideration

Students should submit applications for Special Consideration electronically via the Service Connect portal, along with the supporting documentation. Before submitting their applications, students should refer to the Special Consideration Policy (link provided under 'Policies and Procedures' below).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Professional Skills</u>	20%	No	Ongoing

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Law reform campaign	30%	No	06/04/2025
Research Essay	50%	No	08/06/2025

Professional Skills

Assessment Type ¹: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 0 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will engage in classroom activities including mooting, presentations or demonstrations, structured discussion and problem solving, doctrinal analysis, simulated client consultations, and collaborative legal research. Through these activities students will develop skills in oral advocacy, legal analysis, critical reasoning, teamwork and team leadership, and/or strategic problem-solving. These activities are designed to strengthen students' ability to communicate legal concepts verbally and engage professionally within a supportive learning environment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the legal issues affecting children and older people in various contexts.
- Identify the elements of a rights-based approach to legal issues that affect children and older people.
- Engage in critical analysis of the way in which laws impact on children and older people.
- Evaluate the role of law reform in key areas affecting children and older people.
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the way law impacts on diverse communities of children and older people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Law reform campaign

Assessment Type ¹: Media presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **06/04/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be required to develop a campaign outline on an issue related to law and children or older people. Topic choices and details of the assessment will be outlined on iLearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Identify the elements of a rights-based approach to legal issues that affect children and older people.
- Engage in critical analysis of the way in which laws impact on children and older people.
- Evaluate the role of law reform in key areas affecting children and older people.
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the way law impacts on diverse communities of children and older people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **08/06/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

A research essay on a select topic related to child/elder law. Full details of the topic and further instructions will be available on ilearn

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the legal issues affecting children and older people in various contexts.
- Identify the elements of a rights-based approach to legal issues that affect children and older people.
- Engage in critical analysis of the way in which laws impact on children and older people.
- Evaluate the role of law reform in key areas affecting children and older people.
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the way law impacts on diverse communities of children and older people, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this

type of assessment

- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Students will have the opportunity to explore complex legal questions and develop practical and theoretical understandings relevant to child and elder law. All students must be aware that this unit predominantly focuses on children and the law and is convened by Dr Holly Doel-Mackaway, whose background is in international children's rights. The last two weeks of lectures will provide a brief introduction to elder law. However, this course will not provide students with a comprehensive overview of elder law.

In this unit we will also examine the relationship between Indigenous children and the law. Please see this resource produced by Walanga Muru, Macquarie University Office of Indigenous Strategy for information about [Aboriginal Cultural Protocols](#).

The course content (lectures and other learning materials) will be delivered online, every week during weeks 1-13. Lectures commence in week 1 (till week 12) and the tutorial about that lecture material occurs in the following week (thus, tutorials start in week 2 and go through till week 13).

All students are required to prepare for, attend and actively engage in either weekly face-to-face or online tutorials.

Each week students will be required to read the required readings and listen to approximately 2 hours of pre-recorded lecture or other course material that will be available on iLearn. The schedule of topics to be covered in the lectures, and required readings, will be available on iLearn and in the unit's Leganto reading list.

There is no textbook for the course rather a list of readings for each week will be posted on the unit Leganto link.

Students require access to a computer and a secure and reliable internet provider.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

This is subject to change so keep checking the iLearn page.

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	TUTORIAL	ASSESSMENT
Week 1	Children and the Law; Constructions of Childhood	No tutorial	

Week 2	The Development of the International Children's Rights Framework	Tutorial: Week 1 Topic	Weekly professional skills in-class
Week 3	Indigenous Children and the Law	Tutorial: Week 2 Topic	
Week 4	Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect	Tutorial: Week 3 Topic	
Week 5	Children, Migration, Conflict and COVID	Tutorial: Week 4 Topic	
Week 6	Juvenile 'Justice' and Criminal Responsibility	Tutorial: Week 5 Topic	Law Reform Campaign due
Week 7	Children: E-Safety, Agency and Privacy	Tutorial: Week 6 Topic	
RECESS			
RECESS			
Week 8	Children's Participation in Law and Policy Development; Legal Representation of Children	Tutorial: Week 7 Topic	
Week 9	Legal Capacity and the Medical Treatment of Children	Tutorial: Week 8 Topic	
Week 10	Does the 'Law' Uphold Children and Young People's Rights?	Tutorial: Week 9 Topic	
Week 11	Overview of Elder Law Elderly People: Decision Making, Capacity and Discrimination	Tutorial: Week 10 Topic	
Week 12	Elderly People: Financial Abuse and Aged Care	Tutorial: Week 11 Topic	
Week 13	No Lecture (tutorial only)	Tutorial: Week 12 Topic	Research Essay due

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)

- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)