

Faculty of Higher Education

Subject Code	FDS901
Subject Name	Community Food Security and Public Health
Credit points	6
Study Level	Year 2
Delivery mode	On campus
Location	Melbourne
Prerequisites	None

Subject Coordinator
Dr Jennifer Alden
KellyD@angliss.edu.au

Subject Overview	<p>The dominant food system is characterised by the paradox of abundance and scarcity. The global food system produces enough food to feed 11 billion people, yet more than half of humanity currently experiences malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency, and / or suffers from, or is at an elevated risk of suffering, non-communicable diseases linked to eating nutrient-poor, energy-dense foods. This subject engages students in a critical exploration of the concept of 'food security' at the national and local levels and emphasises 'community food security' in the context of contemporary Australia. The causes and proposed solutions of food insecurity in Australia will be critically analysed and discussed. Students will compare and evaluate the effects of successive public health policy and programmatic interventions at the state and federal levels to address food insecurity. Students will also engage with critical perspectives on obesity and public health and examine the role of obesogenic environments in shaping eating practices, and explore current debates around what constitutes a healthy diet, taking into account the vested interests, discourses, policies and practices at play in the development of healthy eating guidelines.</p>
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Learning Outcomes	Evaluate the key issues, drivers and limitations of food insecurity in national and local community contexts
	Critically appraise Australia's approaches to food security and public health policy development, the importance of such approaches for disease prevention and enhanced health and well-being, and the impact of population-based approaches
	Construct a well-informed, clear and evidence-based argument on the public health impacts of current approaches to food security issues in a local or regional setting
	Critique approaches used to enhance food security and public health and well-being via local government and community policies and initiatives
	Critically explore and discuss the competing discourses of food security and healthy eating at a local, national and global level

Assessments	Details	Weighting
	Essay	35%
	Case study analysis	25%
	Infographic appraisal and presentation	40%

Graduate Attributes addressed in this subject	Systematic and coherent body of knowledge
	Cognitive skills to analyse and critique, synthesise and consolidate knowledge
	Communication skills