

# Chapter 5: Sustaining a cohesive society

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# Chapter 5: Sustaining a cohesive society

## Overview

Australian communities tend to take democracy for granted. Our right to vote, our right to protest and our right to express our individuality are all freedoms that are not universally experienced. Yet many of these freedoms are institutionalised in our community and protected by our governments. Democracy is an essential ingredient for a unified community. It allows all voices to be heard and all opinions to be considered. Democracy both promotes and protects individual expression. As a result, democratic societies are often ones which experience a high degree of social cohesion or unity. As individual rights and freedoms are protected, people are free to express themselves without fear of persecution or discrimination. In Australian society there are mechanisms which legally protect individuals from these and other threats. In this topic, we dissect the social cohesion of Australian society. We see what social cohesion looks like, what threatens our communities and what protects them.



**FIGURE 1** Democracy allows all voices to be heard and all opinions to be considered.



### eLesson

#### Living in a cohesive society

Watch this video to learn more about what makes Australia a unified and cohesive country.

Searchlight ID: ELES-2378

## STARTER QUESTIONS

1. How does democracy contribute to a cohesive society?
2. Which rights do you believe should be universally given to people?
3. Describe a time when you felt threatened or unsafe in your school community.
4. What mechanisms were there to protect you from the event you described in question 3?
5. Do you believe a community needs to be unified in order to function properly?

## 5.1 Living in a cohesive society

Australia is often described as ‘the lucky country’. In modern Australian culture, this phrase has come to refer to our abundance of natural resources and our good weather, relatively peaceful history and tolerant society. It is interesting then that the man who coined this phrase meant it as an ironic criticism of Australian society. Author and social commentator Donald Horne believed that the positive aspects of Australian life had been gifted to us, rather than earned. Whether you agree with Horne’s criticism or not, Australian society can be perceived as lucky. In many ways, our society should not function as well as it does. With so many different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, it is reasonable to assume that civil conflict would regularly occur. However, although Australian society has not been without social problems, the level of cohesion within Australia is relatively high. In this section, we examine what social cohesion is and how it exists in Australia.



FIGURE 1 Australia is in many aspects a lucky country.

### What is a cohesive society?

Modern societies are both dynamic and delicate. They can expand and contract, stand together or fall apart. With nearly all Australian communities containing a complex mix of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, there exists significant potential for civil unrest. What stops this violence from occurring is a concept referred to as social cohesion. Often described as the glue which holds society together, social cohesion is defined by an OECD report as ‘a force which fights exclusion and **marginalisation**, creates a sense of belonging and promotes trust within communities.’ Social cohesion is not an official government policy and nor does it take one specific form. Instead, there are several ways in which it can be demonstrated in Australian communities.



**FIGURE 2** Most Australian communities contain a diversity of cultures.

## Social cohesion in Australia

The Australia you have grown up in is a tolerant and **inclusive** society. It is a society that encourages the demonstration of cultural and religious identity. As we see later in this topic, it is a society that uses legal mechanisms to protect individual freedoms and fight against all forms of discrimination. Modern Australian communities are culturally **integrated**. Although some new migrants do prefer to establish themselves in small groups, the majority of Australian communities are composed of a wide variety of ethnicities. The way in which these communities have developed and continued to exist peacefully is itself an example of social cohesion within Australia.



**FIGURE 3** The diversity of Australian communities is on display in our public spaces.

Numerous examples of social cohesion can be seen in everyday Australian life. On a walk around your neighbourhood you might see churches, mosques, synagogues or other religious buildings.

There are designated areas in the supermarket for Italian, Asian and Indian food. A crowded city-bound train carries people from countless cultural backgrounds. These examples exist because our communities have developed to be inclusive and tolerant. The sense of belonging that is felt and encouraged in Australian society exists only because of the mechanisms that have been put in place to protect individual freedoms. Subsequent sections of this chapter investigate how social cohesion in Australian communities is protected (section 5.2) and from which threats our communities need protection (section 5.3).

## ACTIVITIES

### REMEMBER

1. In your own words, define social cohesion.
2. Make a list of the examples of social cohesion you have seen today.
3. Describe two personal experiences: one when you have experienced social cohesion in your community, and one when you have experienced a lack of social cohesion.

### THINK

4. Despite the irony surrounding the phrase's origin, Australia is often referred to sincerely as 'the lucky country'. Do you believe this is a suitable nickname for Australia? Explain your answer.

### PREDICT

5. As immigration rates continue to increase, Australian society is at an interesting time in its development. How do you think increased immigration rates will affect social cohesion in Australia?

## 5.2 Threats to social cohesion

The threats that a society faces may vary in terms of significance. Some communities around the world are threatened by war and violence, others by poverty and famine. For the majority of Australians, these threats are thankfully not ones we deal with in our daily lives. The threats that Australians face are directed at our democratic freedoms and the harmony of our communities. In this section, we examine the threats to social cohesion and the dangers they pose, in particular:

- organised crime
- vested interests
- corruption
- lawlessness.

## Organised crime

When discussing organised crime, we must ignore stereotypes created and perpetuated by media and popular culture. While it is true that some criminal organisations have significant family connections, not all organised crime occurs in this way. According to the Australian Crime Commission, the major types of organised criminal activity can be classified into three main groups:

- criminal syndicates
- outlaw motorcycle gangs
- professional facilitators.



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### Weblink

#### Australian Crime Commission

Follow this weblink to learn more about how the Australian Crime Commission combats organised crime.

Although these groups operate in different ways, they can all pose threats to the social cohesion of Australian society.

### Criminal syndicates

Criminal syndicates are responsible for the majority of organised criminal activity in Australia. Ranging in size and influence, criminal syndicates are highly structured criminal enterprises. They can operate with structures and characteristics similar to those of regular businesses. Criminal syndicates usually involve large-scale criminal activity including the sale of illicit drugs and firearms, financial crimes, match fixing in sport and money laundering.

### Outlaw motorcycle gangs

In recent years, there has been a crackdown on criminal activity among the various motorcycle gangs that operate in Australia. Motorcycle gangs have existed in Australia since the 1960s. Gangs such as the Bandidos and Comancheros do include legitimate motorcycle enthusiasts. However, their membership also includes known criminals and members of criminal syndicates. Some of these gangs are not only involved in criminal activity, but also frequently engage in violent behaviour while undertaking these crimes. The potential impact of outlaw motorcycle gangs on Australian communities was deemed so significant that all states have passed legislation severely restricting gang activity.



**FIGURE 1**

Recent crackdowns have severely restricted the activities of the outlaw motorcycle gangs.

## Professional facilitators

A professional facilitator is an industry professional or person with specific expertise. Such a person is employed by criminal organisations to undertake specialist criminal activity. Professional facilitators are usually involved in crimes related to finance and technology. Criminal organisations may use a facilitator because they lack the required knowledge and skills, or because they want to distance themselves from the crime being committed. Professional facilitators may engage with criminals for personal gain or they may be forced into such activity through blackmail. The use of professional facilitators is becoming increasingly prevalent in Australian organised crime.



**FIGURE 2**

Professional facilitators such as IT experts are increasingly being employed by crime syndicates.

## Vested interests

Vested or conflicted interests can occur in a range of professions. Teachers who also act as tutors can have conflicted interests, as can a sports commentator who supports a particular team. The conflict of interest that can have the most significant impact on Australian society occurs in our political system. Before beginning their terms of office, politicians must disclose any potential conflict of interest that may interfere with their position and responsibilities. Existing investments, business relationships and personal assets are examples of potential conflicts.

Consider the example of controversial businessman and politician Clive Palmer. Elected as the member for Fairfax in the 2013 federal election, Palmer has amassed a large personal fortune due to his involvement in the mining industry. Although he has disclosed his assets to parliament, his critics claim that Palmer's opinion and eventual vote on government legislation will be influenced by his business interests. They argue that there is no more clear example of this conflicted interest than the proposed repeal of the 2011 mining tax (known as the Minerals Resource Rent Tax). Vested interests such as Palmer's can be viewed as a threat to Australian democratic processes. Instead of representing the interests of his electorate, Palmer could be accused of merely representing his own interests.

## Corruption

Unlike many governments around the world, Australian politics is relatively free from corruption. Forms of political corruption may include bribery, [embezzlement](#) and the repression of political opponents. While these acts are not commonplace in Australian governments, they have been known to occur.

From the Rum Rebellion (1808) to the Loans Affair (1975), political corruption has at times had an impact on the proper functioning of Australian governments. The Rum Rebellion led to the only successful armed revolution against an Australian government in history of this country, while the Loans Affair contributed to the sacking of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. More recently, political corruption has been rife in the New South Wales parliament. Since 2009, this suspect activity has resulted (directly or indirectly) in the resignation of two New South Wales premiers. Corruption in the New South Wales parliament has also caused Australia to slip in the corruption ratings calculated by independent assessor Transparency International (see figure 4). Political corruption compromises effective government and is therefore a serious threat to democracy and social cohesion in Australia.



RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
1	Denmark	91	21	India	41	101	Guatemala	17	151	Yemen	10	177	South Sudan	7
2	New Zealand	89	22	Indonesia	37	102	Guinea	16	152	Zimbabwe	9	178	Sierra Leone	6
3	Finland	88	23	France	71	103	Colombia	15	153	Chad	8	179	Equatorial Guinea	5
4	Sweden	85	24	Spain	67	104	Costa Rica	14	154	South Africa	7	180	Chile	4
5	Norway	84	25	United Arab Emirates	81	105	Uruguay	13	155	Poland	6	181	Latvia	3
6	Australia	80	26	Austria	76	106	Malta	12	156	Argentina	5	182	Egypt	2
7	Hong Kong	79	27	Canada	75	107	Portugal	11	157	Peru	4	183	Kenya	1
8	Netherlands	78	28	Germany	74	108	Hungary	10	158	Chile	3	184	Uganda	0
9	Ireland	77	29	Belgium	73	109	Switzerland	9	159	Kenya	2	185	Malawi	0
10	France	76	30	Denmark	72	110	Costa Rica	8	160	Kenya	1	186	Senegal	0
11	United Kingdom	75	31	Portugal	71	111	France	7	161	Kenya	0	187	Guinea	0
12	Germany	74	32	China	69	112	France	6	162	Kenya	0	188	Kenya	0
13	Denmark	73	33	Malaysia	68	113	Malaysia	5	163	Kenya	0	189	Kenya	0
14	Canada	72	34	United Arab Emirates	67	114	Kenya	4	164	Kenya	0	190	Kenya	0
15	United States	71	35	United Arab Emirates	66	115	Kenya	3	165	Kenya	0	191	Kenya	0
16	Hong Kong	70	36	United Arab Emirates	65	116	Kenya	2	166	Kenya	0	192	Kenya	0
17	Japan	69	37	United Arab Emirates	64	117	Kenya	1	167	Kenya	0	193	Kenya	0
18	United States	68	38	United Arab Emirates	63	118	Kenya	0	168	Kenya	0	194	Kenya	0
19	United States	67	39	United Arab Emirates	62	119	Kenya	0	169	Kenya	0	195	Kenya	0
20	United States	66	40	United Arab Emirates	61	120	Kenya	0	170	Kenya	0	196	Kenya	0

FIGURE 3 Global corruption rankings by country

## Lawlessness

Australian society has never been truly lawless. Indeed, martial law has only been invoked once in our nation’s history — immediately after the Eureka Stockade. Contemporary Australian society largely follows the rule of law, resulting in the majority of our communities remaining safe and peaceful. There have been times, however, when Australian citizens have pushed the boundaries of civil society; times when hostile groups and individuals have threatened the safety of others.

Freedom of assembly is widely enjoyed by our democratic society. Groups of people are free to congregate in support of a cause, or an ideology or event. The vast majority of protests in this country are peaceful in nature, although there have been several episodes of mob violence. The most infamous of recent episodes would have to be the 2005 Cronulla Riots. Situated on the New South Wales central coast, Cronulla is (like many suburbs in Australia) characterised by its ethnic diversity. The riots were the result of simmering tension between young Lebanese and Anglo-Saxon men. The violence escalated on 11 December after an earlier altercation between the two groups at a Cronulla beach. The riot and retaliations that followed were some of the most graphic examples of violent racism seen in modern Australia. Many people were injured in the bloody violence and over 100 arrests were made during the riots and the aftermath.



**FIGURE 4** A young man clashes with police during the Cronulla Riots in 2005.

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## Weblink

### 2005 Cronulla Riots

Follow this weblink to learn more about the Cronulla Riots.

Recently there has been a strong media focus on the amount of alcohol-fuelled assaults occurring on the streets of Australian cities. Although statistics show that the frequency of such assaults is decreasing, their indiscriminate and callous nature has shocked Australian communities. Assaults including so-called 'king hits', now called 'coward punches', are particularly frightening and have led to the tragic deaths of several young Australians. State governments are working to reduce the incidence of public violence both through the enforcement of harsh new penalties and through education and awareness programs aimed at young people.

## ACTIVITIES

### REMEMBER

1. Of the three categories of organised crime, which is the most recent?

### EXPLAIN

2. How can a conflict of interest stop a politician from fulfilling his or her duties?

### DISCOVER

3. Follow the **Global corruption rankings** weblink in your Resources section to help you answer the following questions:
  - a. Which countries experience the worst amount of political corruption and what do these countries have in common?
  - b. Which countries experience the least amount of political corruption and what do these countries have in common?

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## CREATE

4. Develop an anti-violence television commercial aimed at people your age. Your commercial could include a scenario where young people are faced with a violent situation.

## 5.3 Protecting social cohesiveness

As we have already discussed, contemporary Australia experiences a high degree of social cohesion. Our cultural differences are celebrated and used to foster unity and tolerance. In order for Australian society to remain unified, we need to protect the very elements that contribute to this sense of social cohesion. Among the most important of these elements are the democratic freedoms and rights of Australian citizens.

Australia has no **bill of rights** to officially protect democracy and social cohesion within its borders. Instead, Australian citizens rely on other safeguards and mechanisms to protect their freedoms and rights. The adherence to a system of shared values can also help unify Australian society. In this section, we explore the ways in which social cohesion and democratic rights are protected in contemporary Australia.



### Wrong to have no rights?

A bill of rights is a document that lists and describes the individual rights of citizens. It is a key feature of democratic society, so it may surprise you to learn that Australia is the only Western democracy that functions without an official bill of rights. There has been significant social and political debate regarding this issue. The enforcement of an Australian bill of rights would fall to our judicial system. Opponents to such a document claim that it would reduce the rights of citizens because judges are appointed and not democratically elected. Supporters of a bill of rights argue that such a **legally binding** document would officially protect social freedoms and also enhance social cohesion by enshrining the rights of the nation for all to see.

All three attempts to pass a bill of rights through the federal parliament have failed. Instead, the rights of Australian citizens are protected through three other methods: our Constitution, legislation (laws made by government) and common law (laws made by the judicial system). Whether a bill of rights eventually becomes part of Australian society remains to be seen.

### The right to protest

There have been hundreds of public protests in Australia's history. The causes behind these protests have varied in terms of their significance. The 1907 Sydney protest against bathing costume regulations pales in comparison to the so-called 'Day of Mourning' protest launched on Australia Day in 1938, the anti-war demonstrations of the early 1970s or the Sorry Day marches of 2000. Given the strong history of public protest in Australia, it is interesting to note that Australian

citizens are afforded the right to protest by an international convention and not by Commonwealth legislation. There is no current federal law that protects the right of freedom of assembly for Australian citizens, nor is it mentioned in our Constitution. Instead, this right is contained within the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a United Nations treaty which Australia has signed and ratified. Although the ICCPR is not enforceable by law in Australia, it does serve to protect the rights of Australian citizens. Regardless of the nature of the protest itself, people are free to join together to condone or condemn an issue, event or ideology. In this way, a key democratic freedom of Australian citizens is protected.



**FIGURE 1** Anti-Vietnam War protesters in Australia block a parade during the visit of former US President Lyndon Johnson in 1966.

## Anti-discrimination laws

In a culturally diverse society such as Australia, the existence of meaningful anti-discrimination laws is essential. All Australians — regardless of race, religion, gender, age or sexual persuasion — should feel safe in their own communities. Since 1975, various state and federal governments have introduced laws against the **discrimination** of people on the basis of their physical, religious or cultural characteristics. They include the following:

- *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*
- *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*
- *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Age Discrimination Act 2004.*

In conjunction with other state and territory laws, these are examples of how individual freedoms and rights are protected in Australian society. Individuals who feel they have been harassed or bullied on these grounds have the opportunity to lodge official complaints. These complaints are

then investigated, and if deemed appropriate the parties may be called to attend conciliation sessions. The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is responsible for handling all such complaints and any actions arising from them. It is funded by the federal government but is run independently of any political influence. Its leadership is made up of a vast range of academic and legal professionals. The role played by the AHRC is crucial in maintaining individual rights and social cohesion in our society.

## Unity through values

Social cohesion can also be protected by communities following a set of shared values. Serving as ethical guidelines and principles, values can instruct people how to act in our communities. They tell us what is right and wrong, what is acceptable and what is **taboo**. All new Australian visa applicants are required to sign the Australian Values Statement. By signing this document, visa applicants commit to adhering to and demonstrating shared values of the Australian community. These values include:

- respect for individual freedom (including religious freedom)
- commitment to the rule of law, democracy, the equality of men and women and pursuit of the public good
- tolerance, fair play and compassion for those in need.

By unifying the Australian population behind a set of shared values, individual and collective freedoms and rights are protected. The Sorry Day marches of 2000 provide a clear example of the power of shared values. Sorry Day (held annually on 26 May) was established in 1998. The day commemorates the injustices committed against Indigenous Australians throughout our nation's history. To coincide with the ten-year anniversary of the official beginning of the reconciliation process, nationwide marches were organised for the May 2000 march. More than 250 000 people participated in Sydney alone, with hundreds of thousands more joining in around Australia. The majority of these people were not Indigenous, nor had they been personally affected by the crimes committed against our first people. Instead, they simply wished to show their support for a cause in which they believed and for values which they held dear. Together with the legal mechanisms of protection discussed earlier, shared values can significantly add to the social cohesion of Australian society. The Sorry Day marches show this cohesion in action.

## ACTIVITIES

### REMEMBER

1. If Australia has no official bill of rights, how are individual rights and freedoms protected here?
2. List the positives and negatives of not having an official bill of rights.
3. How is the right to protest protected in Australian society?

## EXPLAIN

4. If the AHRC is funded by the federal government, how does it remain free from political bias?
5. Explain how adherence to a shared set of values can affect social cohesion.

## THINK

6. Present two arguments for and two arguments against the statement that Australia needs an official bill of rights.

## 5.4 Resolving conflict

If a dispute is serious enough and breaks federal or state legislation, the opposing parties may eventually end up settling their differences in the court system. This is costly and time consuming for both parties. For these and other reasons, it is often easier to settle disputes outside of court. In Australia, conflict resolution is achieved through four main processes:

- negotiation
- conciliation
- mediation
- arbitration.

In this section, we discover more about the mechanisms of conflict resolution in Australian society and how these processes foster social cohesion.



FIGURE 1

It is usually cheaper and quicker to settle disputes without going to court.

## Mechanisms of dispute resolution

There are many similarities between the strategies used to resolve disputes or conflicts in Australian society. However, there are also distinct differences because each strategy is used for a unique purpose and situation. Each strategy also has its own advantages and disadvantages.

### Negotiation

One of the purest forms of **dispute resolution**, negotiation involves the opposing parties dealing directly with each other. By resolving the conflict without the help of a third party, the process is simplified and costs are minimised. Negotiations can be completed by correspondence or through direct meetings.

The first step of this process involves the opposing parties listing their preferred outcomes. Then the actual negotiation takes place and a mutually beneficial outcome is sought. Opposing parties are allowed to employ legal representatives although this is not an official requirement. Most forms of legal dispute can be resolved through negotiation.



**FIGURE 2**

Negotiation is an effective way to resolve most forms of legal dispute.

## Conciliation

Not to be confused with reconciliation, this dispute-resolution strategy involves the use of an independent third-party **conciliator**. This person is usually appointed by a formal tribunal such as the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Fair Work Commission. If the dispute involves matters requiring specific, technical knowledge of particular area, the opposing parties may request that a suitably qualified conciliator be appointed.

During a conciliation meeting, the opposing parties are allowed to express their views and discuss their perspectives on the dispute. It is the conciliator's role to facilitate this discussion, consider the opposing arguments and rule on the outcome. Similar to negotiations, legal representation is not required during conciliation although participants can request that lawyers are present at any time. Conciliations are frequently used to resolve disputes. More rigorous than a mediation and less intensive than an arbitration, conciliations provide a fair and affordable way to resolve disputes.



**FIGURE 3** Australian Human Rights Commissioner Tim Wilson

## Mediation

The words mediation and conciliation are often used interchangeably but the dispute-resolution processes are not identical. According to the Australian Mediation Association, mediation is about promoting understanding between opposing parties and using creative problem solving to seek a preferred outcome.

Both processes involve a third party acting to resolve the dispute. In conciliation, however, that third party is usually an expert brought in to rule on a technical dispute. Although they have the necessary legal qualifications, a mediator may lack specific technical expertise on a matter. Unlike an expert conciliator, a mediator focuses on the communication between the opposing parties rather than on the technical nature of the dispute itself.

The lack of this expert knowledge does not detract from a mediator's importance. The difference between the two roles is similar to the difference between a GP and a specialist doctor. Your GP is a qualified doctor who has treated a range of diseases and ailments. A specialist, however, has had more specific training in one particular area.

Any outcome achieved through mediation is not imposed upon the parties. Disputes may even remain unresolved if the opposing parties do not agree on the outcome of the mediation.



**FIGURE 4**

A mediator focuses on the communication between the opposing parties rather than on the technical aspects of the dispute.

## Arbitration

Arbitration is used when the opposing parties require a resolution that imposes a legally binding decision. It is the most intense and therefore most expensive method of conflict resolution outside of a courtroom trial. As with mediation and conciliation, arbitration involves the use of an independent third party: the arbitrator. Either an individual arbitrator or a panel of suitably qualified individuals can be used in this process. As this process often requires technical legal knowledge and skills, opposing parties engaged in arbitration usually employ legal representation.

Arbitration is a more lengthy process than other methods of conflict resolution because the adjudicator requires time to consider the legal implications of the opposing arguments, and may also need to review evidence of a technical nature. Due to the lengthy nature of the process and the frequent use of legal representation, the cost of arbitration is significantly higher than other methods of conflict resolution. Participants in this process also need to be willing to accept the consequences of any legally binding outcome delivered by the arbitrator or panel. For these reasons, the other methods of conflict resolution described are more frequently undertaken.

## ACTIVITIES

### REMEMBER

1. What are the advantages of settling a dispute out of court?
2. Why is negotiation known as the most simple and direct form of conflict resolution?
3. How does the outcome of arbitration differ from that of the other forms of conflict resolution discussed?

## EXPLAIN

4. Construct a table that explains the similarities and differences of the methods of conflict resolution discussed in this section. Your table should resemble the example shown below.

Method	Reason used	Summary of process	Outcome decided by
Conciliation			
Mediation			
Negotiation			
Arbitration			

## THINK

5. Indicate which dispute-resolution method you would use for each of the following examples. Include a brief justification for your choice.
- You are the manager of a mining company involved in a dispute with an engineering subcontractor.
  - You work at your local supermarket and you have lodged an official complaint with the AHRC about racist remarks made by your manager.
  - You are renovating your house and your neighbour has lodged a complaint about its impact on your street.

## DISCOVER

6. Use internet resources to discover how a person can become a qualified mediator. Explain the process that they would need to go through and the prior qualification they would need.

# SkillBuilder: Using and referencing quotes

## Tell me

When writing an essay, assignment or report, you need to include evidence to support your arguments. If this evidence takes the form of a quote or includes the use of statistics, then you must show the reader where this information came from. This can be done through the use of a referencing system.

There are many different referencing systems used throughout the academic world. Some systems were developed at the world's leading universities and so bear their names. The Oxford and Harvard systems are examples of these, and they happen to be the two most widely used referencing systems.

- The Oxford referencing system uses numbered footnotes. A footnote lists bibliographical information at the foot (bottom) of a page, and the number corresponding to that footnote is shown at the end of the relevant section of text, usually a sentence, like this.<sup>1</sup> (This footnote does not actually reference anything but is just used as an example of what a footnote looks like.)
- The Harvard system uses in-text references in the form of parentheses or brackets containing the author's name and the year of publication, like this: (Smith, 2014).

The Harvard referencing system has its origins in the scientific field. A simple and direct system, it was later adopted by the wider academic community. Due to its simplicity and ease of use, the Harvard system has become more widely used than its Oxford counterpart. For this reason, we will focus on the use of the Harvard referencing system in this SkillBuilder. Not only will you learn how to use the Harvard system, you will also be shown how to incorporate the quotes themselves into your written work.



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## Show me

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### In-text referencing

- If you are using paraphrased information from a source, then you need to include the author's surname and the year the source was published in parentheses at the end of a sentence (Smith, 2014).
- If you are including a direct quote, then you need to also include the page number in the reference (Smith, 2014: 12).
- If you mention the author's name in the middle of the sentence, then you need to include the year of publication directly after this, again in parenthesis. For example, you may write: Author John Smith (2014) explains the correct use of the Harvard referencing system.

Now that you know how to reference another author's work, we will turn our attention to the incorporation of quotes into your written work.

## Incorporating quotes

There are four techniques for incorporating quoted material into your work, and you should choose the one that works best for a particular quote:

1. *Direct quote*. You can simply use what the author has written: [Smith \(2014: 12\) claims that 'the Harvard system is far better than its Oxford counterpart.'](#)
2. *Edited quote*. You can edit what the author has written. In this example, the three dots represent an omission and the square brackets represent an addition. These changes are usually made to make the quote fit the grammar of the sentence: [Smith \(2014: 12\) claims that '... Harvard is \[a\] far better \[system\] than its Oxford counterpart.'](#)
3. *Substantial quote*. If you are using a substantial quote (three lines or more), you need to include it as a separate paragraph. To differentiate the quote from the regular text, this paragraph is usually indented and written with a slightly smaller font or different line spacing:

[If the dispute involves matters requiring specific, technical knowledge of particular area, the opposing parties may request that a suitably qualified conciliator be appointed. During a conciliation meeting, the opposing parties are allowed to express their views and discuss their perspectives on the dispute \(Richardson, Smithies and Rood, 2014\).](#)

4. *Paraphrase quote*. You can paraphrase the quotation instead of quoting it directly. With this method, you need to ensure that you have not plagiarised the author. The meaning of the quotation should be retained without using the author's exact words.

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## Let me do it

The time has now come for you to practise incorporating quotes using the Harvard referencing system.

1. Choose three separate sources (try to use different kinds of sources).
2. For each source, incorporate a quote using the four techniques shown above (direct quote, edited quote, substantial quote and paraphrased quote).

## Review and reflect

### Review

The vast majority of Australian communities enjoy a level of social cohesion not seen in many countries around the world. Individuals and groups are free to demonstrate their cultural and religious traditions, creating communities rich with diversity. However, there are threats to the tranquillity and cohesion of Australian society. Criminal activity, political corruption and lawlessness threaten our communities and can impinge on our democratic rights and freedoms. Aware of these threats, state and federal governments have developed and implemented strategies to protect

social cohesion within Australia. These methods serve to protect the freedoms and rights of groups and individuals. They also have the common goal of maintaining and protecting social cohesion in Australian communities.

- For the most part, Australian communities experience an extremely high level of social cohesion.
- Several threats to the freedom and rights of Australians exist within our communities, and at times in our governments as well.
- A wide range of mechanisms have been developed to protect our communities, our freedoms and our rights.

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**Interactivity**

**Multiple choice**

Searchlight ID: INT-5530

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**Interactivity**

**True/false**

Searchlight ID: INT-5531

**eBook plus**

**Interactivity**

**Crossword**

Searchlight ID: INT-5532

## Reflect

The threats that pose the greatest danger to social cohesion in Australia society are described in section 5.2. For this task, you will need to evaluate these threats and the impact they can have on Australian communities, and on the freedoms and rights of the Australian people.

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**Weblink**

**Australian Crime Commission**

Use this weblink to help you complete this activity.

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**Weblink**

**Political corruption**

Use this weblink to help you complete this activity.

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**Weblink**

**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

Use this weblink to help you complete this activity.

1. Rank the threats described in section 5.2 in terms of their potential impact on social cohesion in Australia. Use a table like the example shown below to assist the ranking process.

Threat	Potential impacts	Rank
Organised crime		
Vested interests		
Corruption		
Lawlessness		

2. Once you have completed the ranking table, justify (in appropriate detail) your top and bottom rank.
3. Do you believe there are appropriate strategies in Australia to deal with the threats to social cohesion? If not, what else could be done?

UNCORRECTED PAGE PROOFS