

Year 11 Legal Studies student work sample – Grade C

Question: How significant are the legal and non-legal responses to mitigating disadvantage of a specific group in Australia?

Two legal responses are the Mabo Case and the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cwth). The Mabo Case was led by Eddie Mabo and involved all Indigenous peoples ~~going on a strike until they had gained equal rights~~ ~~this comes under the anti-discrimination legislation~~. This legislation aims to protect those discriminated on the basis of race and government policies that restricted freedom and the basic rights of Indigenous Australians. ~~This legis~~ and remained until the 1970's. In 1975 the Commonwealth government enacted the Racial Discrimination Act. Each state that agreed to this act now enacted similar anti-discrimination addressed discrimination on the bases of race, gender and disability. In New South Wales, the act that is relevant is the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Two non-legal responses are the official apology and mentoring programs. In February 2008, Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, delivered a formal apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples. This was a highly

symbolic event to Australia's stolen generation as it marked a momentous step towards recognition of the wrong doings done to Australia's Indigenous peoples. Mentoring is another non-legal response active throughout Australia. In 2005, the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) was created in New South Wales. This program involves partnering a university student with an Indigenous high school student, in hope to guide and support the student through their high school years. This gave hope to Australia that Indigenous teenagers will stay within

An introduction would assist with the answer; however, the Racial Discrimination Act is a good example of a legal response. A sound description of the Act is provided

The Mabo case is a highly relevant example of a legal response to disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians. More facts and discussion are required

The non-legal response of the apology is a valid, contemporary example. The inclusion of the date, the name of the Prime Minister, the audience and the stolen generation demonstrates sound knowledge of the topic

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a schooling system to gain qualifications that could lead to future possible employment. Similar to this employment strategy, but operating only in outer suburbs of Sydney and regional areas of New South Wales is another mentoring program. ~~This is~~ However, this program is slightly different to AIME as it pairs young Indigenous Australians with an Aboriginal elder. This aims to encourage and support young people as they enter the workforce.

AIME is the second non-legal response to Indigenous needs. Explanation of the mentoring program is sound. Explicit links to the purpose of mitigating specific group disadvantage is required

Grade Commentary

A sound explanation that offers two legal and non-legal examples that respond to the issues of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage. The selection of four examples, three highly relevant, demonstrates a sound research and selection process. Credibility of the explanation was impaired with the example of the Mabo case needing more factual detail and elaboration. Drawing a direct link to the question of how these responses mitigate specific disadvantage as experienced by your group would have strengthened the writing. Paragraphing and topic sentences are evident, demonstrating sound written expression.

Rowan's response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade C standard.