

Case Study 3: Media, mental illness and violence

How can I use this case study?

The case study materials have been provided in a number of formats to allow for flexibility in use, in a variety of subjects and topic areas. Some ways in which you can use the materials and ideas for student tasks are provided below.

The case study materials

This case study consists of a comprehensive collection of materials relating to the escape of Neville Garden, a man convicted of murder, from a psychiatric hospital whilst on day leave.

The materials are provided in six separate files:

- Media releases from the Victorian Police about Neville Garden's escape and his return to custody
- News reports from March 27-28
- News reports from March 29-30
- Editorials and opinion columns about Neville Garden and broader issues associated with his escape from custody
- Criticism and discussion resulting from the main coverage of the incident
- Audio of a radio interview between a journalist who criticised the media and Derryn Hinch

This range of materials will allow students to conduct a thorough analysis of media coverage of the incident, and provide an insight into reactions to that coverage. The case study also explores issues around criticism of the media.

Lecturer's notes and student notes

Both the lecturer notes and student notes include a series of questions as a guide to working through the case study materials. You may choose to have students work through each of these questions, or focus on specific questions relevant to a particular task or topic. For each of the questions, it will be helpful to provide students with a copy of the resource *Fact or fiction?* This can be downloaded from the lecturer or student CDs or from the *Mindframe* for Universities website (www.mindframe-media.info).

Assessment of student tasks

The lecturer notes are more comprehensive than the student notes and contain an overview of the key issues raised by each question. Information in the lecturer notes can be used to facilitate class discussion or to assess students' work. Alternatively, copies of the information contained in the lecturer notes can be provided to students if this better suits your teaching style.



Using the source material for a print news story

Students could be provided with all the case study materials and asked to write a news story of approximately 300 words about the original incident. Students may refer to *Fact or fiction?* to assist them with the issues they will need to resolve.

Prior to undertaking this task students could be guided through a discussion of Questions 1-3.

As a starting point for a feature article

Students could prepare a 1500 word article analysing the overall media coverage of the incident, suitable for publication in the Media section of *The Australian*. The resource *Fact or fiction?* can be used as a reference for the article. Alternatively, the media coverage of this incident can be used as the starting point for a discussion about potential angles for a feature article that explores broader issues relating to mental illness, violence and crime.

Using the source material for a radio current affairs story

Students could be provided with the audio of the interview with Derryn Hinch (provided on CD, DVD or on the website), and the printed transcript. Using the audio and their own research, students can record and edit a 3-minute current affairs story.

Using the source material for an ethics seminar or assignment

Questions 1-5 provide a guide for working through the ethical issues raised in this case study. Additional topics for discussion or assignments are also provided in Question 8.