[Ethics for Professional Practice](https://moodle.federation.edu.au/course/view.php?id=81132)

**Assessment 1:**Written component

**Objective:**

This assessment invites students to discuss and debate ethical issues that arise in practice. They are encouraged to explore the issue through key theoretical lenses (ethical theories, relevant codes of ethics and practice) while applying reason and critique to their arguments concerning the issue and the suggested action.

**Students need to write up 1000 word reports outlining their individual position and main argument on the case study.**

Marking Criteria for written component:

The assessment will be marked in accordance with the following criteria:

* *Clear and succinct identification of the ethical issues and/or dilemma(s) present in the issue*
* *Discussion of the personal, societal, client, professional and agency values relevant to the ethical issues/dilemma(s).*
* *Proposal of a clear/logical action plan to resolve the ethical issues/dilemmas*
* *Coherent and cohesive writing style.*
* *Good observance of APA 7 referencing conventions.*

**Scenario**

Joe is a second-year social work student undertaking his first placement with the Monte Caesar Housing Trust (MCHT). The MCHT advocates for homeless people throughout Melbourne to get onto the Department of Housing waiting list – as long as they meet the criteria. It is therefore necessary to conduct thorough housing assessments before processing applications to the Department of Housing. The MCHT has an emergency housing facility which can accommodate up to 20 families waiting to be allocated houses by the Department of Housing.

Joe and his practicum supervisor, Viola, visit a family to do a housing assessment. The family comprises of Mum (Vaima’a), Dad (Sione) and their 10-month-old baby, Metua. The family currently lives in a converted laundry in the basement of a house which is clearly unsuitable as it is too small, poorly insulated and also damp – which *could* explain why Metua has developed eczema on her arms and legs.

The ‘landlords’, living in the main house (above the basement) are related to Vaima’a and Sione. Joe and Viola suggest chatting with them briefly to double-check the start/end-dates for Vaima’a and Sione’s tenancy. This is when they discover that the so-called landlords are also already tenants of the Department of Housing i.e. they are on a lease provided by the Department of housing. Joe and Viola immediately get worried as they know the Department of Housing has strict rules that prohibit sub-letting. If they submit Vaima’a and Sione’s application to the Department of Housing, it will be obvious (from the address) that they are currently being accommodated illegally. The Department of Housing may then evict not only Vaima’a and Sione – but also their ‘landlords’ from the property. Joe and Viola know they can’t leave Vaima’a, Sione and Metua living in these ‘unhealthy’ conditions. On the other hand, they cannot falsify the couple’s current address on the Department of Housing application.

**Should Joe and Viola submit the application and reveal the illegal accommodation of the family?**