



Thesis writing

Body chapters



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

BUSINESS EXAMPLE

Example: thesis structure

Overview of Contents

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- Acknowledgements
- Abstract
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Model
- Chapter 3: Research Design and Methodology
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- Chapter 6: Implementation of the Occupational Rehabilitation Mandate
- Chapter 7: Impact of Occupational Rehabilitation Mandate
- Chapter 8: Conclusions, Implications and Future Directions

Structure is imposed on the presentation within chapters by the division of information into sections and subsections in a way that allows readers to see the relationships between different topics and subtopics. Because there is an organisational hierarchy here or a nesting of bits of information inside other bits of information, some kind of numbering system is needed to make the hierarchy apparent to the reader, as in the following excerpt:

Example: thesis structure (excerpt)

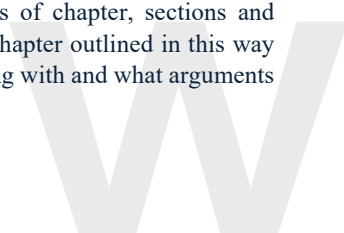
- Chapter 4: Emergence of Mandated Occupational Rehabilitation
 - 4.1 Introduction
 - 4.2 Rehabilitation prior to the Workers Compensation Act 1987
 - 4.3 Rehabilitation after the Workers Compensation Act 1987
 - 4.4 Implications for inter-organisational relations
 - 4.5 Summary

introduction and conclusion (summary) to the chapter are included as important structural elements

Notice how the table of contents excerpt above allows readers to see how bits of chapter, sections and subsections begin the process of presenting the argument to the reader: seeing a chapter outlined in this way gives the reader a 'big picture' understanding of what concepts the chapter is dealing with and what arguments are being presented.

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Structure within the sections and subsections of the thesis is also important for providing the reader/examiner with an easy-to-read thesis. Some of these issues involve the structure of paragraphs, the use of cohesive devices to ensure that your sections ‘hang together’ well and the creation of logical flow within and between paragraphs.

The following shows how section 4.1 then appears in the actual chapter.

Example: thesis structure type 2	
4.1 : Introduction	
As mentioned in the previous chapter, there are two main aims in determining the emergence of the occupational rehabilitation mandates:	<i>guides reader from previous chapter to this chapter</i>
(i) to establish and examine the historical environmental context within which mandated occupational rehabilitation has emerged in new South Wales from social, political and economic perspectives;	
(ii) to identify the patterns, frequency and the nature of changes to the occupational rehabilitation mandate that have occurred prior to and in the five years following the promulgation of the New South Wales Workers Compensation Act 1987 (the source of the mandate).	
Following the economic and social strains it placed on the industrial community for much of the 1980s; the New South Wales workers' compensation system underwent profound and rapid legal, procedural and structural changes from mid 1987 onward as successive State Governments sought to mitigate this burden. One complex body of legislation was replaced by another complex body. It was within this changing legal environment that the major parties involved in rehabilitation attempted to fulfil their obligations, legal or otherwise. In doing so they were faced with uncertainty as their procedural boundary-spanning routines were often to be no sooner learnt than disrupted by additional regulations, handbooks and WorkCover administrative structure.	<i>background</i>
Three major conceptual shifts occurred as a result of the changes to the New South Wales worker's compensation system. First, ... Second, ... Third, ... Finally, at the mandate level, ...	<i>summarises major conceptual shifts this chapter will deal with</i>
Pursuant to the above aims and following the above outline, this chapter has been organised into three sections. The first section sets out the ... the second section identifies ...	<i>outline of chapter</i>
The third and final section assess the ...	
4.2 Rehabilitation prior to the Workers Compensation Act 1987	
...	

