

Contents

Foreword by Professor Allan Fels, AO page v *List of figures* хi List of tables xii List of case studies, exercises and original contributions xiii **Part 1 Policy and Theory** Introduction 3 Why study policy? What is policy? Types of public policy How should we think about policy? Australian public policy in a globalised world Conclusion Questions for discussion 16 Further reading 1 The Australian policy context Decision making in the Australian Commonwealth parliamentary system 18 A parliament in decline? Australian federalism Big government, small government: Debates about public sector reform in Australia Unsettling the Australian settlement 31 Conclusion 32 Questions for discussion 33 Further reading 2 State or market I: Ideology and public policy 34 Market-focused ideologies 38 State-focused ideologies Critical perspectives and contemporary debates 44 Conclusion Questions for discussion 49 Further reading 3 State or market II: The economics of public policy 50 What is economics? **Economics for beginners** 51 Why markets work well Why markets don't always work well 60 Understanding market failure

Vİİ



CONTENTS

The emerging field of behavioural economics 64 The role of assumptions in economic models 65 Conclusion: Economic analysis versus economic language 67 Questions for discussion 68 Further reading 4 Models and theory for understanding policy 70 Rationalism and incrementalism The policy process model The policy cycle: Theory or model? 76 Theory and policy 77 Conclusion: Evaluating models and theories 85 Questions for discussion 85 Further reading 5 Policy actors and policy instruments 87 How do policy actors interact? 90 The impact of institutional design on policy actors 95 The role of professional lobbyists **Policy instruments** 98 Conclusion 104 Questions for discussion 105 Further reading 6 Identifying issues: Agenda setting and policy discourse 107 Issue identification and agenda setting Policy discourse as problem construction 111 Policy discourse as gatekeeping Policy discourse as politics 116 Conclusion: Democratising the policy process 117 Questions for discussion 118 Further reading

Part 2 Policy in Practice 119

7 Who does policy? **Politicians** 122 Advisers 126 **Public servants** 127 Central agencies and line departments 128 Academics 129 Think tanks 130 Interest groups 131 Interaction between policy workers 133 Conclusion 136 Questions for discussion Further reading 137

viii



CONTENTS

8 The nuts and bolts of policy work: From advice to implementation 139 What makes for good advice? 140 Timely advice 141 Political advice versus policy advice 143 Short-term versus long-term advice 145 Balancing competing advice and 'the national interest' 146 Implementation 149 Conclusion 153 Questions for discussion 154 Further reading 155 9 Policy evaluation 156 What is policy evaluation? The objectives of policy evaluation 159 What is being evaluated? Conducting an evaluation: Where to start? Don't ask the guestion if you don't want the answer 169 When I am wrong I change my mind; what do you do? 170 Conclusion 171 Questions for discussion 172 Further reading 172 10 The role of the media in setting the policy agenda 173 The 24-hour news cycle 175 The changing media landscape and its impact on the policy process 177 The role of media advisers What is spin? 181 The role of the media versus the role of the policy maker: Who decides what is important? Influencing politicians via the media 185 189 Conclusion Questions for discussion 190 Further reading 190 11 Consulting with stakeholders 191 Why consult? 193 What is consultation? 195 Who is a stakeholder? 198 What makes consultation meaningful? 200 The risks of consultation Conclusion 204 Questions for discussion 204 Further reading



CONTENTS

12 Research and policy 206
What is policy research? 207
What is evidence-based policy? 208
Strategies for policy research 212
Comparative research 218
Conclusion: Weighing up the evidence or weighing up the politics? 219
Questions for discussion 220
Further reading 221

13 Communication, ethics and accountability 222
Communication in policy work 223
Professional ethics 227
Whistleblowing and leaks 230
A final word on accountability 232
Questions for discussion 236
Further reading 237

Glossary 238 References 242 Index 265