ACTION LEARNING SETS
Field Education 1
UniSA Teaching and Learning Framework for Field Education

- Teaching and Learning principles
  - Participation and Collaboration
  - Student Engagement
  - Reflective Practice
  - Active Learning
  - Practice Standards
Action Learning Sets

Focusing on the question

- We focus on the right question rather than the right answer
What is Action Learning?

- Action Learning is a learning tool which can be applied to any number of different educational, workplace and personal issues and challenges. In Action Learning groups or 'sets' we meet regularly with others in order to explore solutions to real problems and decide on the action we wish to take.
Action Learning Sets

When doing this in the set, the stages include:
1. Describing the problem as we see it
2. Receiving contributions from others in the form of questions
3. Reflecting on our discussion and deciding what action to take
4. Reporting back on what happened when we took action
5. Reflecting on the problem-solving process and how well it is working
Action Learning Sets

This is consistent with the notion of reflexivity where the social work practitioner:
1. Reflects on something specific
2. Critically evaluates the activity
3. Makes a conscious decision to change behaviour or activity in the future
4. Enacts the change
5. Recommences the cycle
Action Learning Sets

- Taking action is crucial and the only real learning comes from doing something and then reflecting on the outcome.
- Set members support and challenge one another to think - and to take action - outside the box.
- Participants are learning all the time whatever their role in the Set: presenter, questioner, active listener or reflector.
How is an Action Learning Set different to a tutorial?

- The focus of the Action Learning Set is to bring current work issues/challenges to the group to be worked through in a reflexive manner.
The Action Learning Sets also cover a range of social work skills and knowledge. These are:

a) Learning Plan
b) The professional self (home and work)
c) The professional self (clients and skills)
d) Portfolio and mid placement meeting
e) Integrating theory with practice
f) Values and AASW Code of Ethics
g) Understanding social work and research
h) Reflection and endings