

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

**Faculty:** Faculty of Education and Arts

**Course Title:** THEORY & PRACTICE OF GROUPWORK

**Course ID:** WELRO2104

**Credit Points:** 15.00

**Prerequisite(s):** (WELRO1001)

**Co-requisite(s):** Nil

**Exclusion(s):** (All non BA (Rural Social Welfare) students)

**ASCED Code:** 090515

**Grade Scheme:**

Graded (HD, D, C, etc.)

**Work Experience:**

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

**Placement Component:**

No

**Program Level:**

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Knowledge:**

- K1.** Recognise different types of groups relevant to welfare practice
- K2.** Identify and describe the philosophy and practices of various groups in different welfare contexts
- K3.** Recognise the various roles of welfare practitioners within group and community practice, and articulate role conflicts or ethical dilemmas particularly in relation to working in rural communities
- K4.** Identify strategies for planning a successful group, including selection, offering places, managing group processes and group dynamics, normative behaviours and termination
- K5.** Describe the role of group work in community practice, research and administration
- K6.** Describe the use of group work in a specialised field of practice

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

WELRO2104 THEORY & PRACTICE OF GROUPWORK

## Skills:

- S1.** Demonstrate beginning competence in working with different types of groups in professional practice
- S2.** Demonstrate analytical and planning skills in developing group work projects including report writing
- S3.** Demonstrate skills in working with group processes such as planning, decision making, meeting procedures, conflict resolution and taking a leadership role
- S4.** Communicate effectively within a small group context
- S5.** Develop and implement strategies to address and resolve conflicts and /or ethical dilemmas within the small group context
- S6.** Critically reflect on group processes including their own role within groups

## Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Ability to analyse different group work models and theories and how they are applied to community and human service practice.
- A2.** Ability to research evidence to ascertain group intervention effectiveness
- A3.** Ability to apply a range of theoretical approaches to a variety of group interventions and to conceptualise their application to welfare practice
- A4.** Capacity to communicate effectively within a group dynamic and to resolve conflicts or dilemmas within a group context

## Course Content:

Working with groups and communities is an important aspect of welfare practice. This course provides you with an introduction to groupwork practice in the welfare context by exploring what groupwork actually is. The course also explores the values and theories underpinning groupwork; groupwork models and stages of group development; group dynamics and group processes and will enable you to develop an awareness of intervention strategies to enable you to effectively plan and implement group programs.

Topics may include:

- An introduction to the history of group work in the welfare context, the types of groups (task and treatment groups) used and the ethical issues involved in groupwork practice.
- An understanding of group dynamics and the role of leadership in ensuing task and treatment groups meet their purpose
- An examination of group processes including stages in group development, decision making and conflict resolution
- Effective methods for task and treatment groups; and
- Professional practice issues including the skills required for program development to meet an identified issue or problem, working in interdisciplinary teams and program evaluation.

# Course Outline (Higher Education)

WELRO2104 THEORY & PRACTICE OF GROUPWORK

## Values:

- V1.** Demonstrate respect for individual difference and varied contributions to group processes
- V2.** Work cooperatively as part of a team
- V3.** Identify the ethical issues applicable to groupwork practice in welfare; and
- V4.** Demonstrate the use of the AIWCW (Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers) code of practice within the small group context.

## Graduate Attributes:

FedUni graduate attributes statement. To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as critical, creative and enquiring learners who are capable, flexible and work ready, and responsible, ethical and engaged citizens.

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Knowledge, skills and competence	Encourages students to develop analytical and reflective skills in regards to group dynamics from a treatment and organisational context	Medium
Critical, creative and enquiring learners	Capacity to develop skills in independent learning	Medium
Capable, flexible and work ready	Ability to engage with contemporary debates about current issues in the welfare sector	Low
Responsible, ethical and engaged citizens	Encourages students to foster socially just attitudes regarding the welfare field	High

## Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, A1, A2, A3, A4	Work Collaboratively to plan and design a group program relevant to the Community and Human Services	Group Project Report	40-50%
K1, K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, A1, A2, A3, A4	Communicate with peers and staff and demonstrate knowledge regarding group work process.	Presentation	20-30%
K3, K4, S1, S2, S5, S6, A2, A3	Using an experience of a small group and in-class learning experiences, analyse the groups' stages and processes and critically reflect on your own personal style in teams.	Written analysis of group/self-reflection	20-30%

## Adopted Reference Style:

APA