

## Action inquiry for staff and organisational development

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to, and take them through the basic steps of an action inquiry project.

Action inquiry is an umbrella term for the on-going use of any plan, act and evaluate cycle to achieve improving changes. Action inquiry methods include action learning, action research and reflective practice, all of which are commonly used in educational development. These processes are at the heart of developing schools as learning organizations, and teachers as innovative and autonomous professional life-long learners.

The course is therefore appropriate for classroom teachers who want to improve their teaching, and also those with management responsibilities who wish to facilitate action learning circles in their school or department. As action inquiry is best done collegially, two or more staff from any one school are encouraged enrol in the course together.

The course has a strong practical orientation. To facilitate this and support participants in their work, workshops are held once a fortnight, giving everyone time to trial the processes in their schools between meetings.

### Course Outline

DATE	TOPICS	HOURS
8 March	Introduction to action learning and the design of a trial action learning cycle.	3
10-21 March	Implementation and recording of trial cycle.	6
22 March	Sharing of participants' experiences in performing a trial cycle and discussion of issues arising. Introduction to action learning circles in the learning organization.	3
29 March	Sharing of participants' experiences in forming action learning circles and discussion of any issues arising. Planning a critical review of practice cycle.	3
1-11 April	Performing a critical review of practice cycle.	10
12 April	Sharing of participants' critical review of practice cycles and discussion of any issues arising. Deciding the area of concern and planning a first action learning cycle.	3
14-25 April	Performing the first action learning cycle.	5
26 April	Clinic on results of participants' first action learning cycles and issues arising. Participants evaluate their first action learning cycle, and plan their second action learning cycle and process for reporting and disseminating results.	3

Total: 36 hours

**Course tutor**

The tutor is David Tripp who is an Associate Professor at the Australian Institute of Education, Murdoch University in Western Australia. Currently he is visiting the National Institute of Education, Singapore, as a Senior Fellow in Policy and Management Studies.

Dr Tripp specialises in action learning processes in learning organizations. He has pioneered a journal writing and critical incident approach to reflective practice, and his book on the method is a widely used text. In 1996 he wrote the SCOPE Program, and last year action learning and facilitation materials for the Western Australian Ministry of Education's new *Quality Teaching Program*.

Max.20 participants