

# “Have a Say – Have Fun” Program

Aiming to create a shared vision  
between social work students and  
teachers.



**A shared vision = A MSW student  
vision + a MSW teacher vision**

# Acknowledgement of Country

- We recognise that Flinders Social Work operates on the traditional lands and waters of the Kaurna Peoples and we pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their sovereignty and continued responsibility to care for country.
- We respect the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges, languages and spirituality and their relationship with country.
- We are committed to truth telling about the history of social work education and practice in this State and working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities to achieve our shared vision for reconciliation.

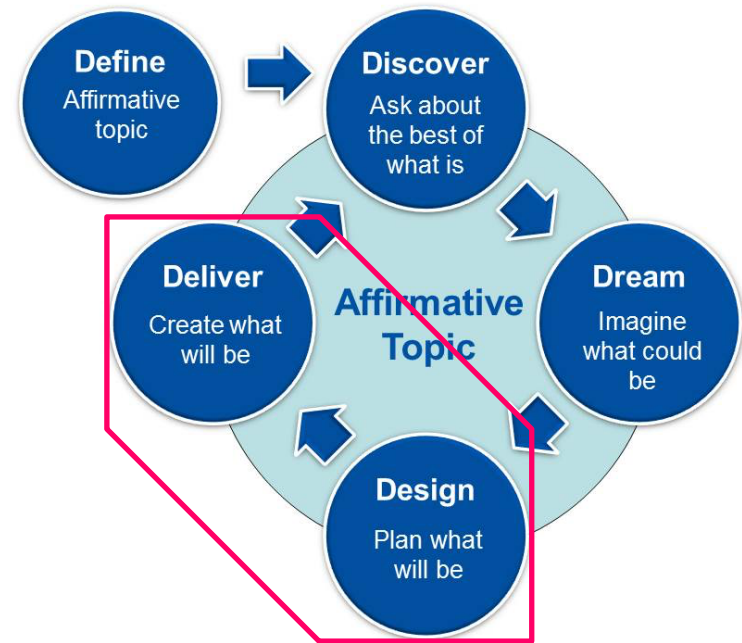
# Stages of Creating a Shared Vision

## Design

Once a MSW student vision is created, a MSW teacher vision can be prepared.

## Deliver

A shared vision can be created.



(Stuart, 2013)

# Creating a MSW Student Vision

## 1. MSW Student Voices (Discover)

What MSW Students Think of MSW

## 2. A MSW Student Vision (Dream)

What MSW Students Want MSW to Be



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# 1. MSW Student Voices

Student voices were collected via group discussion using **Appreciative Inquiry (AI)**, and findings were grouped based on commonality (≡ coding).

## **MSW Student Voices**

1. MSW students value social work education delivery.
2. MSW students value support from social work teachers.
3. MSW students want to gain practical skills.
4. MSW students want to give peer support and mentoring.

# Social Work Education Delivery

- MSW let students to experience their leaning.
- Application of theories into practice.
- Tutorials (more engagement) ← practical elements (guest speakers).
- Qualities of teaching staff.
- Different learning styles / delivery strategies → caters for different learning.
- Diversity of speakers delivering of lectures & share experiences.
- Relevance of assessments to learning.
- Diversity in assignment content → autonomy of choices.
- Multiple formats of resources (e.g. text; video; drop-in sessions).
- More than one assessment (opportunities to learn from previous assessments).
- Structured tutorials.
- Practice based class design.
- Great lecturers (with valuable experience).
- Tutorials were very helpful.
- Literature selected by experienced SW teachers.

**Exact wording from student voices is used.**

# Support from Social Work Teachers

- Teachers are approachable (particularly placement supervisors).
- Open-minded supervisors.
- Experienced teachers / FELO.
- Supportive teachers & students.

# Practical Skills

- SW knowledge & skills (practice-based knowledge & skills).
- Practical skills to be able to create programs as solutions.
- Strengthen case management.
- Actual approach in the field.
- Gain: work readiness for field / advocacy skills (to deal with challenges).
- Practice to apply knowledge and theory prior to placement / work.
- Workplace ready (confidence / competency / practical skills - not just theoretical).
- Practical skills (life skills).
- Practical skills.

**Exact wording from student voices is used.**



# Peer Support and Mentoring

- Facilitating / mentoring.
- Mentoring other students + supporting them.
- Contributing my experience + knowledge to help other students.
- Connection to other students + sharing experiences + learning
- Sharing & exchange of individual knowledge.
- Support fellow students.
- Institutional support mechanism → sharing experience and support / motivate new students.
- Provide platform (inclusion & togetherness).
- Mentoring / advice.
- Help / support / connect.
- Comeback to the uni and share experience to semester 3-4.
- By mentoring, teach / train, show / present, guide, share.
- Mentoring → sharing experience.

**Exact wording from student voices is used.**

## 2. A MSW Student Vision

Student voices were collected via interviews after turning MSW student voices into questions, and findings were grouped based on commonality (≡ coding).

### A MSW Student Vision

1. Classroom Education
2. Field Education
3. Peer Support and Mentoring

# Discussion on a MSW Student Vision

- **What Does a MSW Student Vision Say?**
- **Student Social Workers vs. Social Work Students**



**Constantly Reflecting on a Shared Vision!!!**

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# What Does a MSW Student Vision Say?

- MSW students want to maximize their learning experience while **feeling** that they do not have enough educational support and guidance in MSW.
- Why do they feel this way? The question can be answered by understanding what **social work education** is that Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) defines.

# Social Work Education

The following sections of the *Australian social work education and accreditation standards 2012 (ASWEAS) 2012 V1.4 (Revised January 2015)* indicate what social work education is:

- 2 Principles for social work education
- 4.3 Philosophy of social work education

## 2 Principles for Social Work Education

“Education combines attributes of thinking, being and doing. It prepares graduates to be **self-initiating**, critically reflective, innovative and able to solve problems across a wide range of issues and situations, and in a diverse range of contexts” (Australian Association of Social Workers [AASW], 2012, p. 9).

## 4.3 Philosophy of Social Work Education

- “Adult learning principles enabling students to be **self-directed** and goal-oriented will be visibly demonstrated in all social work education” (AASW, 2012, p. 20).
- “Social work education aims to **maximise opportunities for mutual learning** by both student and educator” (AASW, 2012, p. 20).

# Student Social Workers vs. Social Work Students

- Social work teachers (AASW) consider MSW students as **student social workers**, who can be “self-initiating” and “self-directed” (AASW, 2012, p. 9, p. 20).
- MSW students (Flinders University) tend to consider themselves as **social work students**, who can have enough educational support and guidance.



# Constantly Reflecting on a Shared Vision!!!

- **The gap** in understanding what social work education is can potentially be the reason why MSW students feel that way.
- Social work teachers can inform MSW students of what social work education looks like as **a MSW teacher vision**.
- Constantly reflecting on **a shared vision** “maximise[s] opportunities for [their] mutual learning” (AASW, 2012, p. 20).

# Be the **Change**

**We would like to be a bridge  
between social work students and  
teachers to further cultivate **social  
work culture at Flinders University.****



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# References

Australian Association of Social Workers. (2012). *Australian social work education and accreditation standards 2012 (ASWEAS) 2012 V1.4 (Revised January 2015)*. Retrieved from <https://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/3550>

Stuart, G. (2013). *What is appreciative inquiry?* Retrieved from <https://sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2013/11/21/what-is-appreciative-inquiry/>