



**Flinders
University**

College of Education,
Psychology & Social Work

SOCIAL WORK FIELD EDUCATION MODEL STUDENT FACT SHEET

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The College of Education, Psychology and Social Work recently undertook a comprehensive review of Social Work Field Education to identify areas of improvement and to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by students.

As part of the process, key stakeholders were consulted including current students, academics and work integrated learning team.

The overall aim of the review was to create a Field Education Model that improves the experience of all stakeholders, better prepares students and allows for growth in the social work area.

The benefits of the revised model include:

- High level of consistency for students in preparation for Field Education and supervision.
- Consistent learning experience with embedded reflective practice model of supervision.
- Greater oversight to support students.
- Early identification of issues.
- Increased student support through group supervision.
- Reduced isolation on placement for students.
- Values multi-disciplinary supervision.
- Improved support for regional and remote placements.

The key changes for students are further explained in this fact sheet.

KEY CHANGES

Revised student orientation and
introduction to placement
session

Introduction of group
supervision sessions for students

Improved student readiness for
placement

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

Pre-Placement

A revised **student orientation and introduction to placement** session will be implemented. This large group session will:

- Reinforce key elements of roles and responsibilities.
- Go through what to expect on placement, logistics and the supervision model.
- Provide guidance around professional context and behaviour.

There will be both face to face and live online availability for the session, and attendance is mandatory.

Key outcome: Improved student readiness for placement.

Supervision model

All students will be allocated to and supervised in groups of 5 for the duration of the placement, by a Flinders University academic supervisor. This allows you as a student, to build a safe and productive learning environment with strong relationships to other students and staff. A total of 6 group supervision sessions will be provided in 2-hour blocks approximately every three weeks throughout the placement. Sessions will be offered in both face-to-face and/or via Teams to provide flexibility for students. Flinders staff will be responsible for the logistics of allocating groups.

Students will then receive 11 hours of one-on-one supervision by the agency field supervisor.

There are a few variations in the model for the following cases:

- Additional support will be provided to students, by the University, who are identified as needing additional support for a variety of reasons including being in rural and regional areas.
- Where an agency does not have a social work qualified agency supervisor, students will be provided 11 hours of one-to-one supervision with a University organised external field supervisor.
- Where an agency already provides both group and one-on-one supervision, you will receive check-ins from the Flinders University academic supervisor at 3 points during the placement.

Key outcome: Increased student support through group supervision.