

IPSP ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

Undertaken by agencies funded by DEEWR under the IPSP including

Professional Support Coordinator (PSC) 

Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs)  

Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)  



WHY ACTION RESEARCH?

- National PSC Alliance research project
www.pscalliance.org.au
- Link between professional learning and action research in creating sustained change and quality services for children and families
- Learning about action research and inquiry projects

THE VISION

- Build relationships
- Understand and experience Action Research
- Explore possibilities for future application within child care services
- Support collaboration and coordinating delivery of professional development and support for the sector
- Support best practice to improve outcomes for children and families

WHERE DID WE START?

- Independent external facilitator
- IPSP Agencies committing time and resources
- Invitation to sector and associations to participate
- Appreciate inquiry workshop to bring together the range of stakeholders and identify strengths, achievements and successes
- Developing a shared vision for the future

THE QUESTION

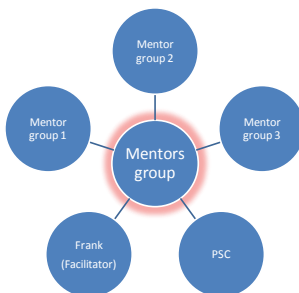
“how can we work together more collaboratively and inclusively to acknowledge and strengthen capacity within services?”



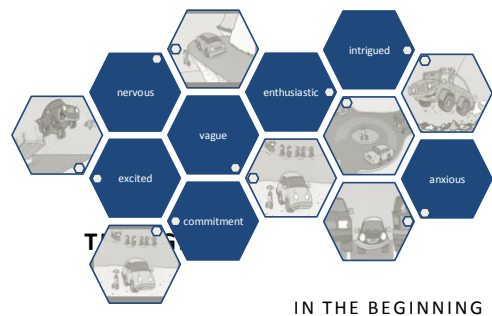
THE PROCESS / MODEL

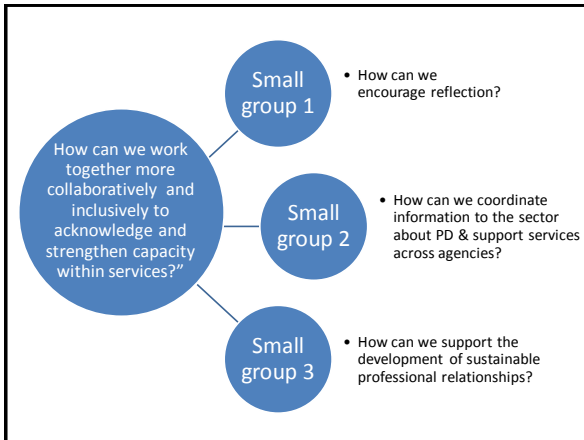
- 3 small groups consisting of 4 to 5 representatives
- Mentors allocated to each group
- Large group consolidation meetings quarterly
- Gowrie SA coordinated large group meetings, documented the process and supported the evaluation of the project

MENTOR'S GROUP



FEELINGS AT THE BEGINNING





FEELINGS HALFWAY THROUGH

"we have been given license to explore concepts of sustainability, relationships and capacity building – those deeper things that everyday work has limited time for"

"Really excited, still a little anxious as I would like to know about the 'end' resource, yet enjoying the process and discussion"

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

What made the difference between how you feel now compared to the beginning?

"Several things – slow building of trust in the group; the tone set by our leader; respect and relationship building within our group; license to think and explore"

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE?

"I don't feel anywhere near as anxious as I did when I started. I am more comfortable that we are on a journey together"

"The mentor is fantastic as are the members of the group. I think the relationships have made a difference and also that its OK not to know."



OUTCOMES

- 'Products' from the small groups
- Collaborative projects
- Relationships across agencies and associations
- More coordinated support for the sector
- A model for action research / inquiry projects
- Action research for child care services

KEYS TO SUCCESS

The structure – small groups, mentors, facilitator, consolidation meetings

Providing time and resources to undertake the project

The vision - participants felt commitment to the greater purpose and what could be possible

Constant emphasis on learning through relating across boundaries (professional, organisational, system)

Value placed on relationship building, mutual trust, openness, respect and willingness to reach out

WHERE NOW....?