

## **Training Bachelor of Psychology students in professional teamwork skills**

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Students in their fourth year of enrolment in the Bachelor of Psychology degree are required to complete a group research project. Many BPsych groups work effectively together to achieve their joint and individual research goals but occasionally problems arise within their group processes that frustrate both students and their supervisors. To address these difficulties, we developed a workshop on effective teams which has been incorporated into the BPsych curriculum.

Our aims in this workshop were that students (1) develop further understanding of how effective teams are formed and work together; (2) learn about people- and task-related problems, and how to manage or resolve these; and (3) anticipate the problems they might encounter and make a plan for resolving them. We expected that successfully meeting these aims would enhance the BPsych students' command of the generic skills encompassed in teamwork, skills useful in both university and employment settings.

Workshop materials were developed based on interviews with volunteer BPsych students from the 2001 cohort. Workshop and teaching materials were piloted in March 2002 with 21 students who voluntarily attended the workshop. Feedback from attendees at this pilot workshop was extremely positive.

This year, we enhanced the workshop's professional image by using specialist-printed teaching materials. We considered that this might be an important factor in encouraging students to take charge of the processes internal to their individual groups, and to manage those processes in a way that maximizes their learning outcomes. The workshop was incorporated into the BPsych curriculum and was run with the project groups across two 3-hour sessions. Preliminary student evaluations of the workshop were again very positive. Further evaluation of The Effective Teams Project will be undertaken following completion of the group research projects at the end of this year.

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