



**Flinders
University**

College of Education,
Psychology & Social Work

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KEY CHANGES

Changes to the delivery and
format of supervision

Streamlined reporting of
student progress

Improved student readiness for
placement

SOCIAL WORK FIELD EDUCATION MODEL AGENCY FACT SHEET

Field Education integrates theory and practice, providing students with critical learning opportunities in real-world human service environments. It allows students to develop and reflect on their social work knowledge, skills, and values through professional practice; while ensuring they meet the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) standards.

The College of Education, Psychology and Social Work undertook a comprehensive review of Social Work Field Education in 2023, to identify areas of improvement and to gain a better understanding of the challenges faced by students and the organisations who support their learning.

The new model introduces agency tiers, a change to the supervision delivery which now includes group supervision and online delivery possible for all supervision, and improved reporting of student progress.

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 an embedded reflective practice model of supervision.
- Early identification of issues.
- Increased student support through group supervision.
- Reduced isolation on placement for students.
- Values multi-disciplinary supervision.
- Ability to increase the number of placement opportunities.

KEY FEATURES

New supervision model

The new supervision model is divided into **three tiers** based on the level of agency involvement in the supervision structure.

Tier One: On-Site Social Work Supervisor

The agency provides 11.5 hours of one-on-one supervision delivered by an onsite qualified social work supervisor. Students will receive five group supervision sessions provided by the university.

Tier Two: No On-Site Social Work Supervisor

The University provides all supervision, including 11.5 hours of one-on-one supervision by the University Field Supervisor (UFS) and five group supervision sessions. The agency is responsible for overseeing student tasks and providing feedback.

Tier Three: Partnered Agencies or Agencies with an extensive in-house Supervision model*

The agency provides the full 21.5 hours of supervision, a combination of group and one-on-one sessions.

Irrespective of which Tier an agency is aligned to, all students will be assigned a University Field Assessor responsible for initial placement meetings, assessments and academic progression reviews.

*For Tier three agencies without an existing group supervision framework, Flinders University is open to negotiating an arrangement that allows the provider to utilise Flinders University's content. This arrangement would be incorporated into their contract and include provisions for intellectual property rights.

Agency Tier	Clinical Supervision Required	Who provides the Clinical Supervision?	
One	21.5hr per student	Agency (11.5 hours one-to-one supervision)	University (5 x 2hr Group Supervision)
Two	21.5hr per student	University (all)	
Three	21.5hr per student	Agency (all)	
The University will provide additional support to students identified as needing assistance for various reasons, including those residing in rural and regional areas.			
In addition to the Clinical Supervision, an Agency is responsible for providing all day-to-day operational supervision.			

Group Supervision

The delivery of supervision has changed to include group supervision. Group Supervision has been introduced to ensure a high level of student support and exposure to different experiences. Students will be allocated to groups for the duration of the placement to allow the group to build a safe and productive learning environment with strong relationships to other students and staff.

Placement Structure

Students typically undertake placement 4 days per week in accordance with the work hours of the host agency, e.g., 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Some students are given approval to attend placement less than 4 days per week due to individual circumstances such as part-time study. The minimum attendance is two days per week, plus two weeks at full-time capacity. The maximum attendance is 5 days per week.

The placement semesters are:

- Semester One: Mid-February to late June
- Semester Two: Mid-July to late November
- Summer: Late October to Mid-March

Placements are generally 18 weeks in duration, undertaken as one continuous period, except when students are required to take a leave of absence to attend a compulsory weeklong Intensive Study Topic.

Below is an example of a placement block structure**:

W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	W9	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18
1:1	G	1:1	1:1	G	1:1	1:1	G	1:1	1:1	G	1:1	1:1	G	1:1	1:1	1:1	-
IPM					Mid-assessment											Final assessment	

W=Week IPM= Initial Placement Meeting 1:1 = one-to-one supervision G= Group Supervision

**This structure may slightly vary where a student does more / less than the standard ~30 hours per week.

Reporting

All reporting on supervision and student progress is now managed and completed via a Qualtrics survey.

KEY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Field education requirements and support

Field Education Requirements:

- AASW mandates 1,000 hours of field education, split across two distinct placements, with at least 500 hours in direct practice roles in Australia.
- Supervision is essential for ensuring professional accountability and skill development. **A minimum of 21.5 hours of supervision is required**, with at least half of it being 1:1.

Escalation and Support:

- First point of contact for any concerns is the student's **University Field Supervisor (for Tiers 1 & 2)** or **Topic Coordinator (for Tier 3)** via email.
- The **Topic Coordinator (for Tiers 1 & 2)** or **Course Coordinator (for Tier 3)** will be involved in any significant issues, including the potential withdrawal of students from placement if necessary.

Tiers 1 & 2 Escalation and Support Progression:



Tier 3 Escalation and Support Progression:



For more information or support, students and supervisors can access [Flinders University's Health & Wellbeing services](#), academic support, and other resources available to ensure a successful placement experience.