

# Schools conversing together: Action Learning through Coaching.

## Purpose

“Becoming a reflective teacher using Action Learning and Cognitive Coaching<sup>sm</sup> to support changes in pedagogy”

## The ANSN Research Circle

Given the ANSN's commitment to learning in community a major focus for our work is the Research Circle. A Research Circle brings together colleagues with similar yet different interests to talk and work collaboratively using the rich experiences and expertise of each other. These conversations deepen the research being undertaken together.

This process:

- Connects teachers with each other and their school/community.
- Supports innovation and new ideas
- Brings a richness of experience and expertise around a table
- Provides a structure for colleagues to become both inquirers and researchers
- Enables groups to learn from one another
- Links the Circle with an expert (e.g. A university academic, professor, Consultant or leading innovator in the chosen area of research) from outside the organisation to act as a critical friend or expert facilitator or expert in the field of interest

## What happens in the 'Schools conversing together' Research Circle?

The group will come together three times over the period of the project and be supplemented with school visits by the Program Coach.

The initial two days are designed to build the Research Circle, connect teachers to each other, develop a shared understanding of each other's journey and to identify and explore the research processes for their work together within their home schools/communities.

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### Acknowledgements

This program is based on the Cognitive Coaching Training Resources (A. Costa and R. Garmston) and The Reflective Teacher – Using Action Research (WADET, 2005). It was developed by Leith Hogan with the assistance of Gavin Griff and Susie Rogers.



We will identify key issues from student learning and the classroom to focus upon. Information about using Cognitive Coaching<sup>sm</sup> Strategies through an Action Learning approach will be explored to stimulate discussion, debate and deeper connections between research partners and coaching.

Participants will develop a comprehensive Action Plan focussed upon an issue that they have identified within their school or community between the initial two days and the final day.

The final day will involve participants being coached to reflect upon what they have achieved and learnt. Opportunities will be given to share, reflect and re-plan their research.

The entire project is specifically designed to be interactive and exploratory. The 'think, plan, act, reflect' process of Action learning will be crucial as you identify the work that you wish to explore.

## What will be the key components of the 'Schools conversing together' Research circle training ?

Participants will be presented with key components of the Cognitive Coaching and Action Learning programmes as a vehicle for reflection. These components include:

- School support roles
- Teacher orientations/beliefs
- Cognitive Coaching<sup>sm</sup> Five States of Mind
- Critical Friend role and skills
- Trust/Rapport
- Paraphrasing
- Giving feedback and receiving feedback
- Questioning
- Cognitive Coaching<sup>sm</sup> Planning Conversations
- Cognitive Coaching<sup>sm</sup> Reflective Conversations
- Action Learning processes

## More Information

Contact the course leaders directly by email:

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Or contact the ANSN Head Office  
PO Box 544  
Strawberry Hills  
NSW 2012

Phone: (02) 9590 5341

Fax: (02) 9590 3416

## Where and When

Days 1 and 2:

Monday February 9th & Tuesday February 10th

Day 3:

Wednesday April 29th

Williamstown Primary School

Cecil St, Williamstown

VIC, 3016

9:30am to 4pm

There will be meetings in between these dates as nominated by the participants of the Research circle with the Research circle coach and/or the critical friend. These can take place at the participant's school or at a mutually agreed location.

## Costs (GST included)

3 Staff Members (ANSN Members)	- \$1600
3 Staff Members (Not Members)	- \$2000
2 Staff Members (ANSN Members)	- \$1150
2 Staff Members (Not Members)	- \$1400
1 Staff Member (ANSN Member)	- \$600
1 Staff Member (Not Member)	- \$750

