

# Case Study Research Workshop: Researching Phenomena in Context

Julie Ash<sup>1</sup> and Svetlana King<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Prideaux Centre for Research in Health Professions Education, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia

## **Introduction/background:**

Case study methodology is well established in educational and social science research but is arguably under-utilised in health professions education research. Case study research methodology is ideal for understanding complex phenomena that are context bound – like sustainability – and can be used to answer how and why questions, for both research and evaluation purposes. Case study is versatile, aligning readily with most paradigms and theories and allowing integration of qualitative and quantitative data.

## **Purpose and outcomes:**

From this workshop, participants will develop:

- An understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of case study methodology
- An appreciation of its practicality and versatility across a range of research contexts
- Skills in assessing the quality of case study research
- 'First steps' experience of developing a case study project

## **Issues for exploration or questions for discussion:**

This workshop will address the following questions:

- What is case study methodology and how can it be applied to health professional education?
- How can a case study be developed?
- How can case study be assessed for its quality?

Discussion questions are encouraged from participants to maximise individual learning.

## **Outline of workshop activities**

The presenters will provide an overview of the theoretical underpinnings of case study before outlining two different research projects which utilised this methodology.

The majority of the workshop will comprise two small-group activities and shared discussion on:  
Using criteria to appraise the quality of published case study research in the health professions education literature

Applying case study methodology to participants' own (or, where appropriate, facilitator-generated) research questions