

## **Collaborative insider research in VET**

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This paper will talk about my experience as a TAFE staff member who opted to do a PhD on VET practices using a collaborative methodology. It will describe why I chose this pathway, a PhD, and on a topic intimately connected to my workplace. The research is about action learning as a professional development strategy. The data gathering methods I chose included participating in ANTA funded action learning. Although I was on leave from my TAFE job, the other participants seemed to embrace me like any other member of their action learning group. The participants all consented to being part of the PhD, though their identities were to be protected. In planning my methodology for this research, I espoused an ideal of collaboration for mutual benefit. However, some of my ideas about collaborative methodology came into question through the research process. Here I will re-count what happened and suggest some explanations connected to the nature of work in VET and the place of academic research in VET culture.

***Topic area:*** Research methods

***Key words:*** Research methods, collaboration, action learning

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