Explanations for the use of group work

It is recommended that you insert a brief statement in each of your Unit of Study Outlines if you are using group work. It will help to contextualise your teaching and assessment practices as well as offering students a clear justification for your choices and making your expectations explicit, thus allowing them to engage with the unit of study and its various components. Below are two such examples of statements you are encouraged to adapt these according to your individual needs and experience.

Example 1

*This Unit of Study uses a variety of learning and teaching experiences in order to facilitate student learning, the achievement of learning outcomes, and the development of generic student attributes. One of these methods is the use of group work. In this unit of study you will be participating in both in-class and out-of-class group work activities. This will require you to work as a member of a team to solve problems, discuss key issues, develop strategies and plans, explore creative options and ideas, conduct research, and present and report upon work. Group work will be used for both learning and teaching, and assessment purposes, and is linked inextricably to the achievement of the outcomes of this unit of study.*

Example 2

There are three important reasons why you are being asked to undertake group work in this Unit of Study (or assessment task).

1. Evidence shows that with appropriate support, independent learning groups provide more meaningful student-to-student interaction and enhance your learning. Indeed, research shows that students are more likely to learn *more from each other than they are from the teaching staff*.
2. Evidence shows that co-operative participation in a well-designed original research project can enhance student learning.
3. This Unit of Study and/or the assessment task within it are designed intentionally to encourage the development of a range of generic student attributes, including the ability to undertake research, to communicate effectively orally and in writing, and to work constructively in group.
4. Prospective employers are usually favourably disposed towards someone with a demonstrated ability to work effectively in a group!