

Policy Research Methods Masterclass 2012

Promoting Professional Research, Consultation and Communication Skills for Policy Officers to Develop Robust Evidence-Based Policy

This Policy Research Methods Masterclass consists of three distinct Masterclass Days that can be taken in any combination, either in one continuous package or as individual components. Focused on enhancing participants' analytical capacity and research / evidence gathering skills, this course is a must attend for career-focused policy professionals seeking to further enhance their skills.

MODULE ONE

Developing and Communicating Policy Using Evidence-Based Research Practices



EXPERT FACILITATOR:
Dr Delwyn Goodrick
Independent Evaluation Specialist

- Using research and evaluation to inform policy change
- Using logic models to identify information needs and knowledge gaps
- Commissioning and managing research to inform policy

MODULE TWO

Conducting Stakeholder Consultations – Qualitative Data Gathering Techniques



EXPERT FACILITATOR:
Dr Delwyn Goodrick
Independent Evaluation Specialist

- Asking good questions and facilitating stakeholder consultations
- Implementing new techniques and technologies
- Analysing and presenting qualitative data powerfully

MODULE THREE

Working with Statistics – Quantitative Data Gathering Tools



EXPERT FACILITATOR:
Dr Gordon Emmerson
Research Consultant

- Defining the problem and establishing research objectives
- Gathering statistical data and agreeing what is relevant to policy problems
- Evaluating and selecting data gathering tools and methods



19, 20 & 21 June 2012
Canberra

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

Book & Pay by 10 February 2012 to receive additional Super Saver Discounts!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Policy Officer
- Policy Analyst / Advisor
- Policy Manager
- Branch / Section Manager
- Research and Evaluation Specialists
- Branch Managers
- Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation Facilitation
- Research Officers

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MODULE ONE: 19 June 2012

Developing and Communicating Policy Using Evidence-Based Research Practices



EXPERT FACILITATOR:
Dr Delwyn Goodrick
Independent Evaluation Specialist

Dr Delwyn Goodrick is a psychologist with over twenty years experience in research and program evaluation. She is also an experienced and dynamic facilitator with considerable expertise in managing group processes. Delwyn's facilitation style is interactive and inclusive, drawing upon experience and skills of the groups with whom she works. She has the ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholder groups, including community and Executive groups across different levels of both the public, not-for profit, and private sector.

After working as an academic for ten years, Delwyn joined the Department of Human Services, Victoria, during which time she initiated the establishment of an Evaluation Support Unit to support organisational capability in evaluation. Delwyn currently provides consultancy and training services in program evaluation and social research in Australia and overseas to a range of Public Sector and community agencies.

ABOUT THE MODULE

Many Policy Officers are faced with the challenge of adapting to the many interfaces involved with evidence-based policy research methods and necessary evidence gathering from all involved stakeholders. This practical masterclass will provide a practical toolkit covering:

Building capability for evidence-based policy in your agency

- Identifying the skills needed for effective evidence-based policy work
- Understanding the structures and strategies that inform evidence-based policy

The role of research and data at all stages of the policy cycle

- Increasing knowledge of policy cycles and how to operate with influence

Using research and evaluation to inform policy change

- Understanding the roles of research, monitoring, evaluation and audit in driving policy change and improving implementation
- Improving the way you write policy proposals and briefings

Using 'program logic' and 'policy logic' to identify information needs and knowledge gaps

- Discover powerful techniques to identify the context and drivers for policy, the roles of other policy players, and the data that can be collected to improve implementation

Commissioning and managing research to inform policy

- Clarifying what is to be achieved through research and data collection
- Identifying sources of data
- Understanding the features of effective research tenders
- Commissioning and managing research; working within policy timelines

Informing conversations: Using research to build stakeholder support

- Using data and research evidence to make the case for new policy ideas and for policy change
- Clarifying what success would look like
- Operating with influence with internal and external stakeholders
- Building policy coalitions using data and case studies

EVENT SCHEDULE

8.30 - 9.00	Registration and Morning Coffee
9.00 - 10.30	Session One
10.30 - 10.50	Morning Tea
10.50 - 12.30	Session Two
12.30 - 1.30	Networking Lunch
1.30 - 3.00	Session Three
3.00 - 3.20	Afternoon Tea
3.20 - 5.00	Session Four
5.00	Close of Masterclass

SUPER SAVER DISCOUNTS

Receive \$500 off registration if you register and pay by 10 February 2012

MODULE TWO: 20 June 2012

Conducting Stakeholder Consultations – Qualitative Data Gathering Techniques



EXPERT FACILITATOR:
Dr Delwyn Goodrick
Independent Evaluation Specialist

Dr Delwyn Goodrick is a psychologist with over twenty years experience in research and program evaluation. She is also an experienced and dynamic facilitator with considerable expertise in managing group processes. Delwyn's facilitation style is interactive and inclusive, drawing upon experience and skills of the groups with whom she works. She has the ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholder groups, including community and Executive groups across different levels of both the public, not-for profit, and private sector.

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ABOUT THE MODULE

Effective public policy needs to be informed by good evidence. This practical masterclass provides rigorous approaches and methods to engage stakeholders, covering:

Planning and conducting qualitative research

- Reviewing rationales for employing qualitative techniques
- Ensureing alignment of research to fulfil objectives
- Strategies to manage stakeholder requirements
- Planning and scoping the research process

Achieving quality research within ethical guidelines

- Ethical issues in stakeholder consultations, focus groups and interviews
- Identifying and manageing specific ethical issues in the use of qualitative approaches

Asking good questions and facilitating stakeholder consultations

- Designing processes and formulating good questions that uncover the values and perspectives of stakeholder groups
- Manageing group consultations effectively – Dealing with common small group issues

Understanding emerging trends in qualitative research

- Reviewing the expanding role and scope of technology capability
- Using audience response technology in group consultations

Enhancing the credibility and rigour of qualitative approaches

- How to ensure the rigour and relevance of qualitative approaches
- Dealing with criticisms of qualitative and interpretive approaches
- Analysing qualitative materials and developing credible and persuasive accounts

ABOUT THE MASTERCLASS

The Policy Research Methods Masterclass has been developed to provide policy officers with higher level research skills and strategic awareness to enhance the impact of their work. It is an ideal course for experienced policy officers looking to improve their higher level policy research and analysis skills. and is a worthwhile "next step" course for the Alumni of the previous Policy Officer training series.

Places are limited to ensure maximum participation and engagement.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS

Receive up to \$200 off registration if you register and pay by 30 April 2012

LIMITED PLACES

Book early to ensure your place!

MODULE THREE: 21 June 2012

Working with Statistics – Quantitative Data Gathering Tools



EXPERT FACILITATOR:

Dr Gordon Emmerson
Research Consultant

Dr Gordon Emmerson is a specialist in quantitative research. He taught undergraduate and postgraduate statistics programs at Victoria University within the Psychology Department. Gordon was employed as a statistical/methods advisor to university staff in the US at Kansas State University in the late 1980s. He is an experienced group facilitator and regularly conducts workshops across a range of topic areas. He is an experienced user of data management and statistical packages including SPSSwin and Excel. He has also undertaken a number of research and evaluation consultancies in the government, health and education sectors.

ABOUT THE MODULE

Knowledge of quantitative methods and alternative tools for informing evidence based policy is highly valued in policy officers in a variety of settings. Knowledge of quantitative methods and statistics in the context of policy development will round off the policy officers suite of research skills. In this practical module, participants will explore:

Defining the problem and establishing research objectives

- Understanding the real need for a Consultative Process
- Understanding who the real stakeholders are
- Determining how and when information will be exchanged

Agreeing what data is needed in order to solve the problem?

- Identifying issues and performance improvements to be addressed
- Establishing research scope priorities for time, cost and function

Evaluating and selecting data gathering tools / methods

- Clearly connecting data needs with data collection tools and procedures
- Selecting and designing data gathering tools
- Comparing experimental research with survey research

Gathering statistical data

- Focusing sampling procedures to provide the most useful data
- Establishing a Causal or Relationship Research design to match data requirements
- Survey methods to collect data including interview, internet, paper

Analysing benefits and costs for policy innovation and integration

- Analysing results and selecting data for your Final Research Report
- Presenting data in the final report to distinguish “before and after” cost / benefits
- Communicating and defending research findings

TEACHING METHOD

This masterclass will be delivered using a three tiered approach. The structure of each session is as follows:

1. Technical overview of the topic area under discussion
2. Practical application of management principles in the review of case studies, worked examples and interactive exercises
3. Discussion of subject outcomes and implementation problems

Masterclass participants will have the opportunity to include comments and questions about issues outlined in the program by way of a pre-course questionnaire. This feedback will enable the course facilitators to address individual questions and concerns.



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 register and pay by 30 April 2012

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	Position						Position						Position											
	Phone				Fax				Phone				Fax				Phone				Fax			
	Email																							
	Please select your modules				MODULE ONE: <input type="checkbox"/> 19 June 2012				MODULE TWO: <input type="checkbox"/> 20 June 2012				MODULE THREE: <input type="checkbox"/> 21 June 2012											
	Days in total				Sub total incl GST (see rate table below)				Days in total				Sub total incl GST (see rate table below)				Days in total				Sub total incl GST (see rate table below)			

* Please photocopy this form if more than three delegates will attend

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Your Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Please confirm my registration for The Policy Research Methods Masterclass 2012				
	No. #	Options (per person)	Standard Rate	Early Bird Rate*	Super Saver Rate**
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Three Days	\$3695 + GST = (\$4064.50)	\$3495 + GST = (\$3844.50)	\$3195 + GST = (\$3514.50)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Days	\$2495 + GST = (\$2744.50)	\$2345 + GST = (\$2579.50)	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	One Day	\$1295 + GST = (\$1424.50)	\$1195 + GST = (\$1314.50)	N/A	
* Receive up to \$200 off registration if you register and pay by 30 April 2012 ** Receive \$500 off registration if you register and pay by 10 February 2012 Note: Course materials, refreshments & lunches are included. Travel and accommodation are NOT included. Registration Options are per person only.					
TOTAL incl GST <input style="width: 100px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> All Prices listed in Australian Dollars					
Group Discounts Available: 4+ people 10% off Standard Rate Conditions: Group Discounts apply to 3 Day bookings, made simultaneously and on one invoice only. Only one discount applies. Group discounts apply to standard rates only. Group discounts are not applicable to Super Saver and Early Bird rates. Super Saver Discounts are not applicable to 2 Days or 1 Day bookings.					
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