



## SEMINAR

# Evaluating Ethics in evaluation practice

### Overview

The language of ethics is everywhere these days, and very often evaluation practice is itself seen as having an important ethical function, playing a role in ensuring accountability and transparency in a range of domains and practices. In the midst of an increasing focus on ethics, one of the major concerns in evaluation practice itself ought to be the ethical character of that practice. The Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations and the AES Code of Ethics aim to provide a framework to guide ethical practice in evaluation. Beginning with the ethical framework laid out in these documents, this seminar will provide both an introduction to the nature of ethics in evaluation practice and a critical perspective on evaluation practice as such. Not only with the essential character of ethics be explored – in terms that also connect it directly with everyday life and experience – but the question will also be put as to what extent contemporary evaluation practice, and its organisational context, is actually consistent with, or may even be in tension with, certain key ethical concepts. In this respect, one of the issues to be explored will be the relation between contemporary notions of accountability and transparency and the real practice of ethics to which these ideas are supposed to contribute. The emphasis of the session will be on engaging with ethics in a way that is immediately accessible to participants, and that involves a conception of ethics as at the heart of personal, organisational, and social well-being.

### Who should attend:

The seminar will not require any special knowledge other than an ability to reflect critically on oneself and one's situation. It will also be relevant to anyone who wishes to better understand the ethical context of human life and action in general or in relation to evaluation practice in particular.

### About the Presenter:

Jeff Malpas is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tasmania, and Distinguished Visiting Professor at LaTrobe University. He has been an active contributor to public discussions regarding ethics over many years, as well as having extensive experience as a teacher and a consultant, and has an international reputation for his work in ethics as well as other areas of contemporary philosophy.

**When:** Friday 18 February 2011; **Time:** 11.00 - 13.00 hr

**Where:** UniCentre 103 room.

**RSVP:** No need to RSVP. Admission is free. For more information, contact Dr. Jenny Kerrison via [jenny-rexkerrison@bigpond.com](mailto:jenny-rexkerrison@bigpond.com)