



SEMINAR

Maximising Value of Consultants and Evaluations: A Consultant's View on the Project Lifecycle

By Byron Pakula

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Overview

At the 2007 Australian Evaluation Society conference, Roberts Evaluation submitted an interactive poster titled *Getting The Most From Your Consultant* incorporating perspectives from consultants and clients. The key to an effective relationship was shown to be having clearly defined goals, proper resourcing, commitment from the client and the consultant, alternative approaches and solutions, and participatory approaches to recommendations. In 2008, Byron Pakula presented on maximising the value of consultants. The purpose of this presentation was to recognise that as consultants, all too often we are called in at the end-game to evaluate what has already taken place and restricted in what can be changed. If the consultant can be involved from the beginning of the project cycle, then the value of an evaluation can be increased.

This presentation will use examples from evaluations to highlight how evaluations and evaluators can value add to the client's projects, as well as how clients can better utilise evaluators throughout their project cycle. A checklist of tips and tools for evaluators and commissioners of evaluators provides an ideal reference tool and a practical method for improving the value of consultants. This research is based upon real world applications of evaluation-utilisation theory, using a 'whole of project' perspective rather than the traditional 'whole of evaluation' perspective.



Who should attend:

Anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of evaluation would find this presentation useful, in particular, Government and Non-government Groups who regularly contract consultants to conduct evaluations would find this presentation very useful.

About the Presenter:

Byron is an environmental economist with a wide range of experience in the field of natural resource management and evaluation. Byron has broad experience in evaluation and has worked on a range of projects domestically and internationally in Sri Lanka. His work has involved the preparation, review and implementation of monitoring & evaluation systems, provision of policy advice, impact assessments, stakeholder analysis and the production of key documents such as strategy papers and reports. Byron holds a Masters in International Development and Environmental Analysis from Monash University, a Postgraduate Certificate of International Environmental Law from Macquarie University, and a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours in Economics from the University of Melbourne.

When: Wed 20 April 2011 **Time:** 1230 - 1330 hr

Where: Rural Development Service, 4/29 Elizabeth St Hobart (above Dome Cafe in the all).

RSVP: By 18th April for seating arrangements to Alice.Doyle@ruraldevelopmentservices.com or on 6231 9033. Admission is free. Please feel free to bring your lunch with you, tea and coffee available.