



AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY

Canberra Chapter

HOT ISSUES BREAKFAST

The Canberra chapter is trialling a new approach to encourage networking between members. The format will be to have monthly round-table discussion on issues of general concern to evaluators.

Each breakfast will have a topic for initial discussion. These could include:

- Who owns an evaluation: the sponsor, the evaluator, the stakeholders or the general community?
- What standards should we apply to evaluation? Should these be tested and certificated?
- What does independence of an evaluator mean? How does this affect the conduct of the practice of evaluation in both in-house and contracted evaluations?

However, wide-ranging discussion 'off-topic' of issues of concern will be welcome.

Cost will be free, except you buy your own breakfast.

The first meeting is proposed for

- 7:30 -9:00 a.m., Thursday March 4
- Parvaiz Café, Minter-Ellison Building, corner of National Circuit and Sydney Avenue, Forrest (outside in the tent)
<http://www.parvaiz.com.au/contact.html>
- Topic: Evaluation Standards and Certification

About the topic

Currently, the AES has established 'Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluation', which are incorporated into the AES Code of Ethics which applies to all members. As the names imply, these refer to behaving ethically; they refer to competence only in saying that practitioners should fairly represent their competence. The AES has explicitly decided not to consider any certification of evaluators.

The Canadian Evaluation Society has taken a different view and now offers what it calls 'credentialing'. See

<http://evaluationcanada.ca/site.cgi?s=5&ss=6&lang=EN> for further information.

A key issue is: are we a profession, like the dentists or lawyers, where certification would be expected; or are we a line of intellectual inquiry, where it would not?

About the chair

The chair for this session will be Graham Smith, a long-term performance auditor and some-time evaluator, who has among other things been chair of the Canberra chapter and on the executive of the AES. As an auditor he is certified, and as an evaluator he is undecided on the virtue of adopting stronger standards or certification.

RSVP

Please RSVP to Graham at 6286 3387 or grahamsmith@bigblue.net.au by COB Tuesday March 2, as table space will be limited.

Future Meetings

Any suggestions for future topics, or expressions of interest to chair them, will be welcome. Chairs get a free breakfast! Please pass suggestions to Graham or to the chair of the Canberra Chapter, Susan Garner, at susangarner@grosvenor.com.au