



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

Lessons from the evaluation of community health interventions in Papua New Guinea

Dr Helen Ashwell

Wednesday 23 November 2011: starts *promptly* 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Venue: All Ords Room
Ground floor, Executive Annexe, 102 George Street, Brisbane

Security arrangements at this venue require Queensland Government staff to wear ID tags; others must carry photo ID and register at the security desk. Please allow time for this.

AES members and non-members are welcome at this **free seminar**, and to stay on afterwards for informal discussion. Tea and coffee will be provided. To minimise use of disposable cups, please consider bringing your own mug for tea or coffee. You are welcome to bring your lunch.

As a courtesy to the presenter, please ensure you are seated by 12.30 sharp.

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Community development and health promotion interventions delivered under the AusAID funded Women and Children's Health Project (1998-2004) aimed to increase community support for the health of women and children in Papua New Guinea. The long-term impact of these interventions was evaluated in 2006 using a multi-methods approach across 93 communities. This included the use of both qualitative and quantitative sampling frames for validity and reliability of data. The rapid assessment, response and evaluation (RARE) methodological approach is pragmatic, highly adaptable and inexpensive. This methodology allows the researcher to gain a holistic understanding of local context, and to learn from people as opposed to 'studying' people. This presentation will review the rationale for using these methods in this context, reflecting on the appropriateness and lessons learned about the transferability of this approach to other groups from similar backgrounds. The evaluation confirmed that project interventions improved interaction between the community and health system and influenced improved use of maternal child health services. This suggests that sustainable self-reliance in health in the development context can be achieved through community led and maintained activity.

PRESENTER PROFILE

Dr Helen Ashwell is a Health Promoter, Educator and Evaluator with particular interest in participatory approaches to development and evaluation. She has a Masters in Public Health (Sydney) and Doctorate of Philosophy in Community Health in developing countries (CDU). She has 32 years experience working in developing countries - Ghana, Indonesia, China and Papua New Guinea. Dr Ashwell has been involved in evaluation, health promotion, community development, training of rural health workers, and the development and evaluation of teaching materials. She has monitored and evaluated the quality and delivery of health worker training and capacity building at all levels of health.

Please register your interest by e-mail to Helena Upritchard at aesqld.admin@datatogether.com

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