



## **Evaluation readiness: How do we know stakeholders are ready to engage in evaluation?**

**Presenter:** Associate Professor Janet Clinton, Centre for Program Evaluation, University of Melbourne

**Date and Time:** Wednesday 15th June, 2011 5.30 - 7.00 pm

**Venue:** VicHealth Seminar Room, Ground Floor, 15-31 Pelham Street, Carlton South

A stakeholder's *Evaluation Readiness*, or their capacity to conduct and the willingness to engage in program evaluation, has often been shown to positively correlate with successful program outcomes and contribute to program sustainability (Clinton 2003). Similarly, recent work by Preskill et al., (2008) has demonstrated that increasing evaluation capacity amongst providers is related to positive organisational change. While these results demonstrate that engagement in program evaluation activities is worthwhile, the specific mechanisms of this relationship are not clear. The aim of this seminar is to stimulate discussion and debate to explore this relationship as well as the validity of evaluation readiness as a construct and finally, demonstrate a practical means of measuring it.

Examples from a number of evaluations of community health promotion programs across multiple sites are used to demonstrate how a measure of evaluation readiness was developed. The procedure involved synthesizing a number of data sources such as program documentation and interview data, and subsequently using these sources to score evaluation readiness against a set of indicators. This procedure provided an accurate view of the stakeholders' evaluation readiness through the process of triangulating and integrating evaluation information. Using this technique we have been able to measure stakeholders' evaluation readiness and ultimately examine the role and worth of stakeholders evaluation engagement. The seminar aims to be interactive and will be useful for those practicing evaluation as we explore as it not only the worth of evaluation readiness but also demonstrate a useful technique for measurement generally. Given the challenges involved in measuring evaluation engagement it is hoped lively debate with ensue

**Presenter:**

Associate Professor Janet Clinton (PhD) has recently been appointed as Director, Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne. She was previously the senior academic in Program Evaluation and the Academic Director for the School of Population Health at the University of Auckland. She has wide national and international experience as an evaluator, psychologist, and educator. Janet has worked in Australia, New Zealand and the USA and has been a principal investigator on many large complex evaluations and research projects such as the National Board for Professional Teachers, Smart Start and Paidea in North Carolina, US and the Healthy Housing Program, Let's Beat Diabetes and Alleviating the Burden of Chronic disease in New Zealand. As well as program evaluation her main research interests are health in schools, adolescent psychology and measurement in applied setting. Janet has taught several post-graduate courses in evaluation and research methods.

Please **RSVP** to Corrina Bertram on [cjbertram@kpmg.com.au](mailto:cjbertram@kpmg.com.au) by 14th June 2011.