

## **THE AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY**

Invites you to its next Lunch Time Seminar  
1pm Friday 8 August 2008

*Dr Rick Cummings and Vicki Williams*

speaking on

**Evaluating the WA Aboriginal Justice Agreement: Who's doing what and how do we measure it?**

Rick Cummings holds an academic position in evaluation and institutional research at Murdoch University. Rick is the immediate past President of the Australasian Evaluation Society and has extensive experience in conducting evaluation studies of public programs. He was contracted to assist the Department of the Attorney General to develop an evaluation framework for the Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

Vicki Williams works in the Policy Directorate of the Department of the Attorney General as a Research and Evaluation Officer. Previously Vicki worked in a similar position with the Department of Corrective Services so has built up a strong knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice system. This links with her keen interest in social justice and the role that Government plays in listening to and providing for all of its citizens.

It is both possible and necessary for Government to work more collaboratively with individuals and the communities they comprise. That was one impetus for the development of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement. The Agreement was developed jointly by the key justice related portfolio agencies together with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) and the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia in March 2004.

The stated aim of the Agreement is to provide a framework for improving justice-related outcomes for Aboriginal people. Here we have a multi-agency Agreement being implemented by one of the signatory agencies who had been funded primarily to bring people (agencies and communities) together to work out ways to deliver on a set of ambitious and inter-generational outcomes.

Rick and Vicki have recently worked with the AJA Project Team to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Agreement. Not surprisingly, developing the Evaluation Framework presented some contextual and conceptual difficulties not least being the confusion about what exactly would need to be measured and how to measure it.

This seminar will describe the background and environmental context to the Agreement, highlight the challenges encountered in developing the Evaluation Framework and summarise reflections on the impact of the framework on stakeholders and future evaluation activity.

*The Seminar will be held at  
The Atrium Theatre, Level 4 168 St Georges Terrace  
1:00 – 2:00 pm, Friday 8 August 2008*

This seminar is free of charge and open to all who are interested.

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