

*The Australasian Evaluation Society (AES)*  
*Lunchtime seminar*

**“Evaluation in an Aboriginal Context”**  
**Panel: Dawn Bessarab**  
**Pat Dudgeon**

*Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009*  
*12.00 – 1.30pm*

*Tom Dadour Community Centre*  
*363 Bagot Road, Subiaco*

The AES WA Branch is pleased to invite members and other interested persons to this panel presentation on how evaluators and others can work sensitively and effectively within an Aboriginal context. The presenters will provide tips and techniques for successfully engaging and working with Aboriginal individuals, groups and communities. There will be opportunity to ask questions of the panel and seek their advice on current or past issues that have arisen in conducting evaluations of services and program within an Aboriginal context.

**Presenters:**

**Associate Professor Dawn Bessarab:** Dawn is an Indigenous woman of Bardi (West Kimberley) and Indjarbandi (Pilbara) descent who is a social worker with a background in Aboriginal child protection, family violence and community development. During her career Dawn has worked at the local community level as well as in a variety of public sector settings in the area of Indigenous issues. In 2007 Dawn was awarded her PhD titled 'The meanings of gender for Aboriginal people in urban (Perth) and regional (Broome) settings and in 2008 commenced working as an early career researcher with the Centre for International Health at Curtin. She is currently a member of a team of chief investigators (CI's) on a NHMRC Early Start to Life parenting trial "Too Solid" at the Telethon Institute of Child Health Research. Other research projects that Dawn is involved with are a collaborative research partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations in an urban and regional location.

**Dr Pat Dudgeon:** Pat is descended from Bardi people of the Kimberley. Pat came to Perth to study psychology and afterwards joined the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University of Technology as a lecturer in 1987. Appointed Head in 1990, she led the Centre into being a nationally acclaimed provider of Indigenous tertiary education. Her recently awarded PhD is titled 'Mothers of Sin: Indigenous Women's Perceptions of Identity and Sexuality'. Dr Dudgeon is currently an adjunct Associate Professor at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia.

Parking is not available at the venue but is available at the nearby Theatre Gardens (adjacent to Subiaco Arts Centre). Entry to the Theatre Gardens car park is just before the Tom Dadour Centre, off Bagot Rd. It can also be accessed off Hamersley Road.

The Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) is a professional organisation for people involved in evaluation.

Please RSVP to [helenl@subiaco.wa.gov.au](mailto:helenl@subiaco.wa.gov.au) by October 26<sup>th</sup>.