

**Keynote presentation by Sandra Nutley**

**MAKING AND DEMONSTRATING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IMPACT IN AN ERA OF AUSTERITY**

Several commentators have argued that research and evaluation becomes more important to guide policy and practice in an era of austerity than one of affluence. In addition, changes to various accountability systems mean that there is now an increased need to demonstrate that research and evaluation studies are making a difference. Taken together, these two observations might suggest that now is a good time to make and demonstrate research and evaluation impact. This keynote presentation will discuss whether this is the case. In doing so, it will consider the challenges of making an impact in an era of austerity, and what researchers and evaluators can do to increase the influence of their work and demonstrate its impact.

**Keynote Presentation by Stewart I. Donaldson**

**THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION'S INFLUENCE ON DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING SOCIETIES**

The transdiscipline and profession of evaluation have experienced tremendous growth during the past two decades. This growth has led to significant increases in the number of professional societies and evaluators worldwide, and has enhanced evaluation's ability to be a substantial positive influence in developed and developing societies. In this presentation, I will summarize research and perspectives on the growth of the evaluation profession and mechanisms of evaluation influence. Perhaps more importantly, I will provide a new vision and strategies for how evaluation can play a much larger role in improving societies of the future

**Keynote Presentation by Penny Hawe**

**RULE-BREAKING, GAME-CHANGING AND FLIGHT FROM PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

This is a "tales from the frontline" narrative about evidence-based policy and practice striving to maintain a place in the face of pressures from politically conservative government and "venture philanthropy". It challenges taken-for-granted assumptions that evidence-based public policy is universally welcome. The account is based on 10 years in the health and university sector in Canada's most politically conservative province. But all is not dark. Across Canada today an imaginative change process is now being driven by a combination of bureaucrats, practitioners, funding agencies and researchers. It is called the Population Health Intervention Research Initiative for Canada. It sets out to honour the intellectual foundations made by Canadian scholars (and others) into the social determinants of health and to translate that scholarship into health and equity gains for people.

## **Keynote Presentation by Ian Anderson**

### **CLOSING THE INDIGENOUS HEALTH GAP AND EVALUATION**

In 2008 the Prime Minister, the leader of the Federal Opposition and the leadership of the Australian health sector signed a Statement of Intent that committed to close the Indigenous health gap. The policy agenda that has developed in response to this has renewed and reinvigorated the landscape for Indigenous health. Much has been done over the last couple of decades to reshape approaches to the evaluation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services and programs. What does this mean in this new policy environment? How should we be responding strategically to the new investment in policy and resources to the challenges posed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequalities?

## **Keynote Presentation by Peter Shergold**

### **THE EVALUATION OF PUBLIC AND SOCIAL INNOVATION**

Governments look for more effective ways of delivering policy at a time of rising pressure on public expenditure. Business corporations seek to better assess the 'shared value' of their commitment to corporate social responsibility and sustainability. Not-for-profit organisations, as they develop as social enterprises, wish to measure the full beneficial impact of their interventions. Socially responsible investors want to know the financial and social returns on their capital. Do we have the capacity to evaluate the outcomes of cross-sectoral social innovation?

## **Keynote Presentation by Patricia Rogers**

### **EVALUATION'S INFLUENCE- THE DREAM, THE NIGHTMARE, AND THE WAKING THOUGHT**

Evaluation is widely promoted as a force for good, but its influence is not always positive. A long history of examples demonstrates that evaluation can have harmful effects on quality and accountability. This paper explores the various ways that the good idea of evaluation can go horribly wrong. It sets out some strategies for reducing the risk of causing harm through evaluation, and for increasing its likely utility, especially in situations of uncertainty and complexity.