

## MANAGING THE POLITICAL CONTEXT TO EVALUATION

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Full day	Beginner to intermediate levels
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The workshop addresses the challenges faced by program evaluators in their interaction with clients and key stakeholders (including the commissioner of the evaluation). It will cover negotiating credibility, independence and objectivity, and the skills required to respond effectively to these challenges. The 'soft skills' of communication, negotiation and problem solving are as important to the success of an evaluation as the technical skills in data collection and analysis.

The workshop introduces a model of negotiation for working with multiple stakeholders in evaluations – how to engage them and how to resolve the differences, problems and conflicts that emerge along the way. This highly interactive workshop presents a model of negotiation that responds to the politically challenging context and multi-stakeholder environment in which program evaluation takes place. It should equip participants with greater confidence and skills to apply negotiation theory to their evaluation work.

There will be a focus on issue identification and constructive problem solving through negotiation. The workshop will present negotiation principles, use simulated scenarios, and discuss real scenarios emanating from the practice of participants.

Anne Markiewicz has presented this workshop to previous AES conferences.

### BIO

Anne Markiewicz and Associates is a consultancy company that has been operational for 15 years. Anne Markiewicz has extensive experience responding to and managing the political context that surrounds the conduct of evaluation. From this experience base, Anne Markiewicz has developed a model of negotiation in evaluation based on constructive and open problem identification and problem solving. Anne Markiewicz has developed and delivered professional training on the topic of the political context to evaluation in the United Kingdom and in most Australian states and territories. Anne Markiewicz has also published on this topic in AES Journal, the 'Evaluation Journal of Australasia'.