

PROGRAM THEORY FOR DESIGNING AND EVALUATING AID PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES

Jessica Dart¹

¹*Clear Horizon Consulting PTY LTD, Melbourne, Australia*

Full day	Beginner to intermediate levels
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This workshop offers a practical and participatory approach to using program theory to design, monitor and evaluate programs in the aid sector. Within the context of multiple donors and unique country contexts, aid agencies need to be able to identify points where aid can realistically contribute to the achievement of shared development outcomes. Program theory is a great thinking tool to deliberate on the most appropriate aid activities to contribute to development as well as provide a basis from which to develop meaningful monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

With practical steps, and a simplified case study, participants will be invited to develop a program theory model using adult learning techniques. While participants are expected to have a basic understanding of the aid sector, all participants are welcome and the topic may be relevant to other sectors with complex programs and multiple funders.

Participants will gain insights from the presenter's recent experiences of using program theory in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Cambodia and Indonesia as well as with cross-cutting policies. It is a practical approach that offers new insights in how to evaluate complex programs that operate in crowded spaces.

Jess Dart is a highly engaging workshop presenter who uses her wealth of experience and expertise to easily demonstrate the key learnings to participants.

BIO

Receiving the 2006 National Evaluation Development Award, Dr Jessica Dart is a recognized leader in evaluation with 20 years of involvement in evaluating programs in Australia and overseas. She specializes in the evaluation of projects with complex, intangible outcomes. She has a PhD in program evaluation, an MSc in Sustainable Agriculture, and an honours degree in Botany. As part of her PhD Jessica developed an innovative approach to monitoring named the 'Most Significant Change Technique (MSC)' alongside Rick Daves. MSC is now used in hundreds of organizations worldwide.

In 2005 Jessica founded 'Clear Horizon Consulting PTY LTD' a niche consultancy company specializing in program evaluation and design. Clear Horizon's clients are from the Australian public sector and international development organizations. The latest technique to come from Clear Horizon is Collaborative Outcomes Reporting which has been developed over the last five years and was influenced by John Mayne's seminal work on Contribution Analysis. Jessica works mainly in aid effectiveness, community development and natural resource management.