

GROUP TECHNIQUES FOR BUILDING CONSENSUS

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Full day	All levels
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Morning — Delphi and Nominal Group Techniques

Afternoon — Ideawriting

The purpose of this whole-day workshop is to introduce participants to more unusual ways of collecting and working on data that can lead to agreed upon solutions or ideas generated by the group itself in a very short time. The workshop contains two discrete sections so it can be attended as two half-day sessions

The three techniques to be covered are: Delphi and Nominal Groups techniques (morning) and Ideawriting (afternoon). The first two require the generation of responses by participants to one or a few questions, and responses are refined until (near) consensus is reached. Delphi is usually run by email while the NGT is carried out face-to-face in medium sized groups. Similarly, Ideawriting is a group activity but is interesting as it involves independent, small group and plenary session work. It also requires writing in response to a stimulus question and then discussing responses until agreement is reached.

These techniques are particularly useful for forms of evaluation such as Needs Assessment, Empowerment Evaluation and other participatory or collaborative exercises.

The main objective of the day will be to ensure that all those attending have been able to take part in practice sessions and to feel that they are able to run such sessions competently out in the field.

BIO

Associate Professor Rosalind Hurworth is Director of the Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne. In addition, she has undertaken extended periods as a Visiting Fellow at the Universities of Warwick and Leicester in the UK. Within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, Assoc. Ros is currently teaching face-to-face and on-line within the Master of Evaluation and has particular expertise in Qualitative Methods. She is in great demand as a workshop presenter and has run many courses and workshops for groups such as AES, ACSPRI, NSW Health and the Association for Qualitative Research. Furthermore, she has led over a 100 local, state and national evaluations, especially in education and health. As a result of such involvement, Dr Hurworth now has over 150 publications to her credit including: *Teaching Qualitative Research* (Amsterdam Sense Publisher, 2008) and is just completing a book on Group Techniques in Research and Evaluation.

Ros is also a Past President of the Association of Qualitative Research, is Editor of the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* and sits on the Evaluation Working Group of the National Prescribing Service in Sydney. In 2006 she was recipient of the prestigious Australasian Evaluation Society's: *Evaluation Training and Service Award*.