SHORT COURSE

SOCIAL PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A five-day program includes theory, data, tools, case studies, practical exercise and workshops to strengthen the role and practice of social planning in local government

2015
Why Undertake This Program?

Social Planning is all about change and how we manage it effectively – changing populations; changing expectations; how change is resisted or embraced. Local governments are uniquely placed to respond positively to change through strong social planning processes. Councils have a responsibility to their communities to continually scan the broad socio-political arena (which includes all spheres of government and the community) to identify and respond to social issues and opportunities.

This program includes theory, data, tools, case studies, practical exercise and workshops to strengthen the role and practice of social planning in local government. It will encourage use of systemic thinking and processes; development of defensible, evidence-based plans and strategies and refreshment of current practice methodologies. Participants will be presented with an overview of the purpose and potential of social planning and community development for Councils in driving and managing change. Current social planning practice areas will also be described and analysed through interactive sessions and workshops. Social planning tools will similarly be tested. A number of council case studies will incorporate a wide range of experiences and knowledge relevant to local government practice.

The program will be of value to social planning and community development professionals seeking to reflect on their practice; others in local government who are seeking to better understand and address social planning and development issues, such as corporate planners, land use planners, health surveyors, place managers; as well as people from the non-government sector, government agencies or consultancy firms who work with local government. After completing this course, participants should have a clear understanding of:

> Concepts of social planning and community development in a context of change
> Current areas of social planning and development practice
> Determination, analysis and projection of community need
> Development of specific plans for target populations
> Effectively balancing and managing stakeholder interests
> Community engagement challenges and tools
> Social infrastructure assessment tools
> Social impact assessment guidance and tools
> Social and integrated planning synthesis, implementation, sustainability and review.

Presenters

The program will be presented by:

> Geraldine O’Connor- Senior Programs Officer for the UTS Centre, Course Coordinator, formerly a senior planner with over 20 years’ experience in local government with a particular interest in community development, completing a Master’s Degree in Social Ecology,
> Roberta Ryan- Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Local Government and the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government at
UTS, with 25 years’ experience in social planning, change management and community engagement

> Jackie Ohlin- an Associate with the UTS Centre, a former Director of Social Planning with Urbis and a practitioner in social planning and community development for over 25 years.

> Experienced local government practitioners and other professionals will also provide presentations, case studies and perspectives.

Program Content
The program is presented in two parts. The first part includes an overview of social planning’s role; obligations and opportunities as well as essential areas of practice for determining/projecting need and managing diverse community and stakeholder interests. The second part includes detailed consideration and application of various social planning and community development practice tools as well as a final session to apply robust techniques of synthesis and review.

Day One
- Course overview, change context - local, regional, state and national geo-political influences; statutory requirements; reviewing results-based assessment; headline issues; overview and workshop on social planning and community development values and principles.

Day Two
- Demographic and needs analysis and projections of changing communities using Census and other data bases; the place of social indicators. Stakeholder Analysis and Community Engagement theory and practice; exercises and workshops.

Day Three
- Consideration of community infrastructure including purpose, use patterns and current and projected need; sustainable management; planning for multipurpose facilities; applying benchmarks and standards; Social Plans for Target Populations or Issues (eg ageing, disability, Indigenous, children) as tools for maintaining diverse and sustainable communities; planning healthy communities; Cultural Planning; exploring case studies.

Day Four
- Steps for assessing potential negative social impacts of a proposed development or policy on a community; proposing mitigation measures; negotiating design changes with project teams or proponents; social impact hypothetical workshop. Understanding and applying CPTED principles to create, design or re-design safe communities; exercise and workshop

Day Five
- Applying systems thinking to the integration of social and other planning streams; understanding differing learning styles and collective learning potentials; effective negotiation and managing attitudes to change; achieving financial sustainability; assignments and course review.
Assessment and Certification
The program includes two optional assignments focused on practical application of course content in the council workplace. A Certificate of Successful Completion will be issued if the assignments are satisfactory. Alternatively, participants can receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Postgraduate Degree Opportunities
Successful completion of this program can count towards the UTS Graduate Diploma in Local Government Management and Master of Local Government. For further details, please contact the Centre on (02) 9514 1659