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?

NSW councils have recently completed research to demonstrate they are ‘Fit for the Future’. Council staff will have a fresh appreciation of their social fabric and council’s value to the community. As a result of this work council’s will be more alert to available opportunities for collaboration with community organizations.

Local governments are uniquely placed to respond positively to opportunities through strong social planning processes that promote integration and collaboration firmly grounded in the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

In this subject students will gain a deeper understanding of the application of theory and practice of social planning and community development to their role and workplace. The tools and techniques that support practitioners to identify and respond to opportunities and challenges will be explored and new knowledge and skills applied to roles and workplaces.

This 5-day program will be of value to social planning and community development professionals seeking to reflect on their practice; local government staff seeking a better understanding of social planning and development issues, such as corporate planners, land use planners, health surveyors, place managers; as well as people from other sectors 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:

- **Ronald Woods** has 30 years’ Australian and international experience in social policy and the human services. He has extensive applied and theoretical knowledge and experience in the fields of service development and community engagement.

- **Jackie Ohlin** is 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.

- **Simone Schwarz** has strong and long commitment to social planning and community development in local government and a background in the community sector and as a femocrat in TAFE. Currently Director, Community Services at Marrickville Council, she co-authored *Raising Expectations? a review of NSW Social Plans and The Way Forward a review of Women in Local Government.*

- **Geraldine O’Connor** is Senior Programs Officer for the UTS Centre, Course Co-ordinator, 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.
• 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- Social Planning Principles
- The framework within which social planning operates and the language of social planning will be reviewed. Connections between urban planning, social, cultural, environmental and economic planning mapped. Dealing with ‘wicked-problems’ and driving transformational change will be considered.

Day Two- Social Planning Practice
- Explore social planners working with other practitioners to deliver outcomes through community engagement, utilising community indicators, Social impact Assessment and the value of research to inform practice.

Day Three- Social Planning and Local Government
- Apply the skills and knowledge from Day 1 & 2 to the local government issues and roles. Delivering on social justice principles and social plans through council documents will be explore. Planning for outcomes such as Social Infrastructure will be applied to local areas.

Day Four- Community Development Principles and Practice
- A broad overview of community development promoting and support wellbeing in local communities, approaches to working with communities, community governance and neighbourhood renewal initiates.

Day Five- Community Development Approaches
- Community safety, ways of working with target populations and examples, and how collective impact and place management support the delivery of social planning and community development outcomes.

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