



Margaret Thomas



Senior Consultant

Margaret is an experienced research and evaluation professional who designs and conducts quantitative and qualitative research and evaluation projects. She has built a strong professional practice in designing evaluation strategies and frameworks for organisations.

Margaret is a trained facilitator who is experienced in strategic planning and review within and across agencies.

Since joining ARTD in 2005 she has applied her expertise to projects in the health, social and environmental fields. Margaret worked in senior positions in research and evaluation in the public sector for 13 years. She has also worked with and for non-government organisations including the Heart Foundation and Diabetes Australia.

She is currently completing a Doctor of Public Health degree at the University of Sydney and is a casual lecturer and tutor with the School of Public Health.

Master of Public Health
University of Sydney (1993)

Grad Diploma of
Occupational Therapy
Cumberland College of Health
Sciences (1979)

Bachelor of Science
(Psychology and Anatomy)
University of NSW (1978)

Member, Australasian
Evaluation Society

Member, Australian
Public Health Association

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Program Evaluation

Margaret is the lead consultant in designing evaluation strategies and frameworks for ARTD clients in the health, human service and environmental sectors. Recent projects have been with the Cancer Institute NSW (evaluation frameworks across the Institute's programs), The Cancer Council NSW (evaluation strategy for a program working with community welfare organizations to reduce tobacco use among clients), Workcover NSW (evaluation framework for the Small Business Plan) and NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (evaluation framework for the 'On Your Bike' cycling initiative).

She has utilised her extensive evaluation knowledge and experience in the design and management of a range of evaluation studies for ARTD including:

- Evaluation of the NSW Aboriginal Otitis Media Screening Program (NSW Health 2008)
- Evaluation of MetroACTIVE, a project to increase integrated planning for physical activity in six metropolitan Councils in Melbourne (VicHealth, 2006/2007)
- Clinical Cancer Registry Pilot Evaluation (Cancer Institute 2006)
- Hotpots Fire Management Project (NSW Nature Conservation Council, 2005-2007)

Margaret is currently ARTD's lead consultant in the evaluation of the VicHealth Participation in Community Sport and Active Recreation (PICSAR) Program in partnership with Department of Health Sciences, Monash University. PICSAR is a three year project which aims to increase participation by disadvantaged groups in sport and active recreation through funding to sporting and community groups.

Prior to joining ARTD Margaret consulted on and conducted numerous program evaluations for NSW Health and regional health services in the areas of tobacco control, nutrition, physical activity, injury prevention, sun protection and domestic violence.

Research

Margaret has specialist qualifications and experience in public health research and has been a senior team member on significant public health research projects conducted in both academic and public sector environments. Between 2000 and 2005 she developed and coordinated a large research program for the NSW Department of Health that continues to fund innovative health promotion research projects (Health Promotion Demonstration Research Grants Scheme).

Strategy

Margaret works with organizations to develop strategic plans across a range of policy issues. She has previously developed plans such as the National Diabetes Action Plan (1992), a national obesity strategy for the Australasian Society for the Study of Obesity (1995), a strategic plan for physical activity for Central Sydney Area Health Service (1996), and managed the development of a best practice document for sun protection initiatives while at NSW Health.

More recently Margaret worked with ARTD colleagues to develop a new state-wide Strategic Plan for Skin Cancer Prevention (2007) for a partnership group comprising NSW Department of Health, The Cancer Council NSW and Cancer Institute NSW.