



Marita Merlene

Evaluation Consultant



Marita is an experienced social researcher with professional skills in both quantitative and qualitative methods. She is skilled in interviewing and case study methods with schools, public sector agencies and community organisations. She designs and analyses surveys and develops databases for monitoring systems.

Since joining ARTD in 2001 she has worked across many fields, including projects for NSW Treasury, Family and Community Services, NSW Health, the NSW Attorney General's Department, Department of Housing and Department of Education. She has experience working sensitively with Indigenous communities, and people from diverse cultural backgrounds

Marita combines qualifications in mathematics and computer science with the humanities, and was a doctoral candidate in English Literature at the University of Sydney.

Bachelor of Arts
Honours I, English
University of Newcastle (1994)
Bachelor of Science,
Mathematics,
Computer Science
Murdoch University (1986)
Graduate Diploma
of Education
Murdoch University (1986)
Member, Australasian
Evaluation Society

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Major Projects

- **Evaluation of two pilot programs: Intensive English Program for Refugees (primary students) and The Refugee Transition Program (secondary schools)** – Management of data collection, analysis and reporting of programs across fourteen schools. NSW Department of Education and Training (2008)
- **Road Safety Education Program for under 5 year olds** - Marita managed the recent evaluation of over 3,000 child care centres in NSW including the data collection, analysis and reporting (NSW Roads & Traffic Authority, (2008, 2004)
- **Evaluation of the MoU between DoCS and DADHC on Children and Young Persons with a Disability**, Marita designed data collection instruments and provided analysis of results. NSW DADHC (2008)
- **Evaluation of Supported Play Groups** –Management of quantitative and qualitative research involving surveys, case studies, data analysis and report writing. Department of Community Services, (2007)
- **Evaluation of NSW Youth Partnership Pacific Communities** – Marita undertook field work, case studies, surveys and data analysis of this complex NSW whole-of-Government initiative. She played a key role in managing the Department of Education component involving multiple projects in over 70 schools with enrolments of students from Pacific backgrounds (2005-2007)
- **Reconnect (National Youth Homelessness Program)** – As a key member of the ARTD team, Marita assessed 18 community-based services around Australia between since 2001 and 2005, and specialized in culturally appropriate assessment for Indigenous services, (Commonwealth Department of Family & Community Services)
- **Turnaround** - evaluation of an intensive program to provide integrated Government services and peer support for young people at risk - data management, analysis and reporting (ACT Family Services, 2005)
- **Workplace climate surveys, NSW Treasury** data analysis and reporting, and facilitation of focus groups on issues arising from the survey, presentation of results. Office of State Revenue (2005), Office of Financial Management (2007)
- **Sober Driver** - education program for drivers convicted of multiple drink driving offences - Marita managed a large database to track progress on this large and complex project, interviewed participants and stakeholders and audited the delivery of courses (NSW Roads & Traffic Authority, 2004/05)
- **Green Corps** - evaluating the national program for young people targeting youth development, employment and environmental projects - design, administer and analyse surveys for 4 major groups (team leaders, delivery agencies, partner agencies and participants), and conducted site visits for case studies (Commonwealth Department of Family & Community Services, 2004).