



Michael Brooks
Director & Principal Consultant

Michael leads major projects involving public policy development and review, facilitation of intersectoral partnerships, and the design and review of performance and risk frameworks.

Michael helps clients tackle challenging policy and management issues, particularly at the interface between government and their business and community sector partners. As a Director of ARTD since 1990, Michael has led projects in a range of policy areas such as housing, utilities, community services, education, disability and youth affairs.

Before joining ARTD, Michael worked in the higher education and research sector, both in the physical sciences (University of Sydney; University of NSW) and in research methods (University of Technology, Sydney).

Drawing on this experience, Michael brings a strong analytical, problem solving focus to ARTD projects, combined with a genuine commitment to understanding client's objectives and constraints.

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Public policy development and review

- **coordinated action to address domestic violence** – facilitation of the cross agency review to develop a coordinated NSW Government action to respond to domestic violence (NSW Human Services CEOs Forum, 2007).
- **Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement** - high-level review of the national partnership between jurisdictions to provide housing assistance with over \$4 billion of Australian government funding (FaCSIA, 2006)
- **contracting for infrastructure projects** - evaluation of the relative effectiveness of alliance contracts as a procurement and delivery strategy on major water and wastewater infrastructure projects compared to more traditional design and construction contracts (Sydney Water 2003-2007).
- **evidence-based policy development** - ARTD's evaluation of the Prime Minister's Youth Homelessness Pilot Program played a pivotal role in testing and refining family-relations based interventions for homeless and at-risk young people - now being implemented through the Commonwealth's Reconnect program.
- **stakeholder relationship management** - biannual research of external and internal stakeholders' perceptions of NSW Treasury's organisational performance, to inform corporate planning priorities.

Performance frameworks

- **whole-of-government program frameworks** - to streamline and improve performance information in funding arrangements for Australian government Indigenous programs, including options for standardising data collection tools (FAHCSIA 2008)
- **performance-linked contract incentives** - facilitation of the development of performance frameworks linked to contractor risk-reward payments on major Sydney Water infrastructure projects including the Priority Sewerage Program, Bondi Sewerage Treatment Plant Renewal and Lower SWSOOS rehabilitation scheme.
- **innovations in public housing** - development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for a suite of new products and initiatives introduced to improve public housing property and tenancy management in NSW.

Intersectoral partnerships

- **affordable housing services** delivered in partnership with the NSW Department of Housing - design and development of a performance-based registration system for regulating non-government social housing providers (2004).
- **employment assistance for people with disabilities** - Evaluation of the pilot (2000) and implementation (2004) of a new quality assurance system for disability employment assistance services funded by the Department of Family and Community Services.
- **whole-of-government approaches** to delivering improved services to Aboriginal people - facilitation of a review of cluster groups of government agencies and Aboriginal peak bodies formed to address priority areas identified in *Two Ways Together* - NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan 2003-2012.