



PERSONAL

E rachel.aston@artd.com.au
T 02 9373 9930



EDUCATION

Postgraduate Certificate,
Publishing and Editing,
University of Melbourne (2011)
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology,
University of Auckland (2010)
Member, Australasian Evaluation Society



RACHEL ASTON

SENIOR CONSULTANT



An expert in qualitative and mixed-methods research, and evaluation methodology, Rachel holds eight years' experience conducting research and evaluation for government, NGOs and in the higher education sector. With a background in anthropology and social research, she constructs and manages evaluations that are responsive to client needs and optimise stakeholder engagement. Rachel is skilled in translating and communicating evaluation findings to a wide audience to ensure that they are used to inform decision-making, design and implementation.



The dynamic work that we do across so many different sectors is a continuing source of motivation. I am particularly interested in the use of participatory and empowerment evaluation approaches to increase the accuracy and utilisation of evaluation findings.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

- » **Drug and Alcohol Programs** (Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, 2019): Managing the evaluation of eight Drug and Alcohol Programs to understand both their individual impact and their common elements collectively to inform around changes to future funding structures.
- » **Evaluation of the Mental Health Stepped Care Model** (Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, 2018–20): Managing the two-year evaluation which is being conducted in partnership with the University of Melbourne to examine the staged implementation and impact of the Mental Health Stepped Care Model across Eastern Melbourne.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

- » **Evaluation of State Schools Relief programs:** Affordable School Uniforms and Glasses for Kids (Department of Education and Training Victoria, 2019): Rachel managed the lapsing program evaluation to provide high-level strategic evaluation advice to inform assessment of the implementation, impact and value for money for the two initiatives.
- » **Richmond Veterans Accommodation Project** (Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2019): Managed the evaluation to understand the impact and outcomes of the supported living accommodation for Veterans in Victoria.
- » **Evaluation of the Number Plate Theft Reduction Trial** (Department of Justice and Regulation Victoria, 2018): Managed the data collection and analysis for this project, with the aim of identifying the facilitating factors for the initiative and determining its overall effectiveness.
- » **Evaluation of the Implementation of the Australia Professional Standards for Teachers** (Department of Education and Training Victoria, 2015–16): Conducted a thematic analysis of 90 policymaker and education stakeholder interviews; assisted in writing and editing 53 school and organisation case studies;

STRATEGIC REVIEWS AND SYSTEMS

- » **Strategic Review of the NSW Ombudsman Office** (NSW Ombudsman, 2018): Rachel conducted extensive consultations with internal and external stakeholders to develop recommendations around a functional organisational structure and distribution of business units.
- » **Organisational Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** (Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, 2019–20): Managing the development of an organisation-wide monitoring and evaluation framework integrating and embedding the framework through all levels of the organisation in partnership with the University of Melbourne.