

Sharon Marra-Brown | Director

Sharon specialises in evaluation across the suicide prevention and mental health sectors, drawing on nearly two decades of policy and systems reform experience. She leads reviews and evidence scans, examining how policy, funding, governance and people's experiences intersect, and interpreting complex and often competing evidence to provide advice that informs better decisions about the policies and services that shape people's lives. Her work is grounded in ethical and inclusive practice, engaging people who face barriers to accessing supports and services through co-design and other participatory methods, where appropriate, to strengthen systems that matter to the people who rely on them.



People use policies and programs to save and shape their lives. We focus on strengthening the systems that help make that possible.

Education and awards:

- Winner Public Sector Evaluation Award 2025, Australian Evaluation Society for Evaluation of Towards Zero Suicides Initiatives
 - Masters Applied Science, Development Studies, Lincoln University, 2008
 - Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, University of Canterbury, 2006
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Project experience: Designing performance and evaluation frameworks

Sharon leads the development of performance, monitoring and evaluation frameworks at organisational, policy and service levels. She supports agencies and organisations to clarify the strategic purpose of their M&E activities, identify key information needs and design feasible ways to monitor and measure change over time.

- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (Emerging Minds, 2025–2026)
 - Organisational Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (Family Life, 2023–2024)
 - Evaluation Framework and Sharing Guidelines – National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreements (Department of Health and Aging (DHDA), 2023)
 - Safety and Quality Curriculum Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Clinical Excellence Commission NSW, 2021)
 - Organisational Outcome and Improvement Framework (Flourish Australia, 2020–2021)
 - Organisational Performance and Evaluation Framework (NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, 2020)
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Sector experience: Suicide prevention and mental health

Sharon selects evaluation approaches that are tailored to purpose, context and information needs, ensuring agencies and organisations gain the insights they require.

- Evaluation of the National Suicide Prevention Initiatives (DHDA, 2024–2026)
- Primary Care Psychiatry Liaison Service Evaluation (Flourish Australia, 2024–2025)
- Suicide Prevention Australia Standards and Accreditation Evaluation (Suicide Prevention Australia, 2024)
- Review of Mental Health Emergency Care Services in Emergency Departments (NSW Health, 2023–2024)

- Evaluation of Towards Zero Suicides Initiatives (NSW Health, 2020–2024)
- Implementation and Outcomes Evaluation of the Child and Youth HOPE Program (Victorian Department of Health, 2022–2025)
- NSW Suicide Prevention Framework Evaluation – Year 1 (NSW Mental Health Commission, 2023)
- Older People’s Suicide Prevention Pathway Evaluation (NSW Health, 2022–2023)
- Fifth Independent Evaluation of Beyond Blue (Beyond Blue, 2021–2023)

Sector experience: Health

Sharon designs and delivers large-scale evaluations in the health sector.

- Trans and Gender Diverse in Community Health Evaluation (Your Community Health, 2023–2024)
- Maternal Transfers Redesign Formative Evaluation (NSW Ministry of Health, 2021)
- Leadership and Management Development for Health Professionals – snapshot review (Health Education and Training Institute, 2020)
- NSW Health Service Planners Strategy Evaluation (NSW Ministry of Health, 2020)

Sector experience: Other projects

Sharon’s commitment to people is evident in her portfolio of work.

- Development of a Social Licence Framework for Data Practices (Australian Centre for Disease Control, 2024–2025)
- Literature and Desktop Review into Suicide-Related Deaths of LGBTIQ+ Children and Young People (NSW Ombudsman, 2025)
- Australian Eating Disorder Research & Translation Strategy 2021–2030 – monitoring, reporting and implementation plan and advocacy and investment plan (InsideOut Institute, University of Sydney, 2023)
- Lived and living Experience Workforce Data Project (Victorian Department of Health, 2022– 2023)

Presentations

- National Suicide Prevention Conference
 - Lessons learnt from evaluating youth aftercare services in Australia (2025)
 - Introducing a National Evaluation Framework for mental health and suicide prevention initiatives (2025)
 - Collaborating with people with lived experience in research and evaluation: a practical framework and perspectives (2023)
- Australian Evaluation Conference
 - Engaging children and young people in evaluation (2024)
 - Queering data collection: gathering data with the fabulous folx in the LGBTQIA+ community (2023)
 - The marathon, not the sprint: Building an evaluation career that lasts – half day workshop (2023)
 - Working with lived experience researchers: a practical framework (2022)

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