



## PERSONAL

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## EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Economics),  
USYD. Bachelor of Business, Eco-  
nomics (Hons I w/University Medal),  
UTS.



Steve has led on the evaluation of a variety of high-profile, politically sensitive programs and legislative changes. He can work with program managers on the ground to understand how their programs work, clean and analyse large datasets to identify simple relationships and communicate complex information to diverse audiences.



*I enjoy breaking complex systems into a small set of cause-effect relationships. This gives us clarity around how a system works, how it can be improved and whether it can be scaled.*

## STEVE YEONG MANAGER



### RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Prior to joining ARTD, Steve worked as a Principal Program Evaluator at the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, and an Economics Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney. This, in addition to his consulting work at ARTD, has given him experience in a diverse array of domains. He has, for example, conducted (published, peer reviewed) research using the latest available methods in applied statistics and econometrics, conducted interviews with front-line staff and vulnerable people affected by a given intervention, and provided strategic advice to senior executives (e.g., the NSW Police Commissioner and the Secretary of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice). Listed below are some of his favorite pieces of work. Feel free to get in touch if you want to know more!

### SELECTED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PROJECTS

- » **Sylvan Review funding model for financial counsellors** (Department of Social Services, 2021 - 2022): Financial Counsellors provide free advice and advocacy to those experiencing financial distress. Steve assisted in the development of a funding model for financial counsellors, working with his team to develop a method to determine: the demand for financial counsellors (and thus the total funding required); the fraction of demand can be attributed to specific sectors (e.g., buy-now-pay-later firms vs. gambling); and a way to use these to split the funding of financial counsellors between participating firms and government.
- » **Institute of Applied Technology Evaluation** (NSW Department of Education, 2023 - present): TAFE NSW has partnered with Microsoft, the University of Technology Sydney and others to establish a new educational body. The purpose of this body is to co-design and co-deliver courses that can be used to rapidly upskill existing workers in an effort to increase the supply of skilled labour in NSW.
- » **Evaluation of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's Bushfire Management Program** (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2021 - 2022): This evaluation involved a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the effectiveness of the bushfire management in NSW, and resulted in a piece of work that continues to inform the NPWS's current approach to bushfire management.

### PROJECTS PRIOR TO JOINING ARTD

- » **Circle Sentencing evaluation**: This evaluation examined whether Circle Sentencing - an alternative sentencing option for Aboriginal offenders - is more effective than a traditional court in reducing recidivism and incarceration. It led to a business case that has resulted in a significant expansion of the program. The (peer-reviewed) study can be found on the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's website.
- » **NSW Drug Court evaluation**: This evaluation investigated whether the specialist court - providing an alternative to prison for drug dependent offenders - reduced long-term rates of reoffending. Based on this study, and other evidence submitted to the NSW ICE Inquiry, the NSW Drug Court was expanded. The (peer-reviewed) study can be found on the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's website.
- » **Domestic Violence Evidence-in-Chief reforms evaluation**: In 2015, the NSW government became the first jurisdiction in Australia to allow victims of domestic violence to provide testimony through a pre-recorded video statement with police. The purpose of this study was to determine whether this policy change improved the conviction rate in cases of domestic violence.