

# John Christopher Guenther

## Curriculum Vitae

### Qualifications and Education

2006 Doctor of Philosophy **Charles Darwin University**, Darwin, NT.

Title: VET as a tool for regional planning and management in savanna communities

2003 Certificate IV in assessment and workplace training, **NGT Tasmania**

1996 Diploma of Theology (Missiology) [ACT/BCV], **BCV Victoria**, Lilydale, Vic.

1984 Bachelor of Applied Science (Applied Chemistry) **TCAE**, Launceston, Tas.

### Recent experience in research and evaluation

John's research and evaluation interests stem from a body of work over a number of years that has progressed from adult learning, social capital and community well-being to a more focused interest in complex issues relating to families and children (including family violence and child protection). In the last six years, he has more intentionally researched these issues in the context of remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Recently completed evaluation projects include a three year evaluation of Communities for Children projects in East Arnhem (for Anglicare-Northern Territory) and Palmerston/Tiwi Islands (for Red Cross), a two year evaluation of Family Violence Partnership Program (FVPP) projects across the Northern Territory, an evaluation of a *Differential Response Framework* trial (relating to child protection services for DHF) and a community-led traditional healing centre, based in Alice Springs.

John has a particular interest in developing data collection systems and tools. He uses a variety of research and evaluation approaches to fit the context. These include use of program logic, participatory and action learning evaluation methods, and mixed methods, utilisation focused approaches. He is adept at analysing both qualitative and quantitative data.

As a consultant he partners collaboratively with research and industry organisations nationally. His business operates from bases in Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

2002 - present **Charles Darwin University**, Darwin: *Research and evaluation consultant*

Assisting with data analysis and reporting: Projects include: Evaluation of the Northern Territory Differential Response Framework (2008-2009); Evaluation of Family Violence Partnership Program projects (2006-2008); NCVER Role of VET in Welfare to work (2006-2007); NCVER VET/ACE Connections in Northern Australia (2005-2007); Professional Learning Communities (2005); NTCOSS Effective Pathways to employment and training for employment disadvantaged (2004). He has acted as a local evaluator for CDU evaluations of Communities for Children projects in East Arnhem and Palmerston/Tiwi and an Invest to Grow evaluation based in central Australia (2005-2009).

1997 - present **Cat Conatus**, Ulverstone: *Research and evaluation consultancy*

Contracting to educational institutions, businesses and government agencies across Tasmania and nationally with an extensive range of evaluation and consultancy services. Consultancy projects include: Evaluation of Department of Education Flexible Provision Program, North West Tasmania (2009); Development of evaluation tools for FAST in remote Northern Territory communities (2008-2009); Centacare (NW Tas) Survey of clients and organisations (2008); and Evaluation of Napranum 'Parents and Learning' (PaL) (2008).

1998 - present **University of Tasmania**, Launceston: *Research Consultant/Associate/Lecturer*

Assisting in a range of research related activities from research design to literature review and data analysis. John has an ongoing relationship with the University Department of Rural Health and continues to work with the team there as required, developing proposals and conducting focused research and analysis. Recent projects include: Evaluation of 'Safe from the Start' (2008). He has acted as a local evaluator for UDRH evaluations of Communities for Children projects in Burnie and South East Tasmania. He is also currently engaged as an adult learning practitioner at the Cradle Coast Campus in Burnie.

### Journal articles

Guenther, J and Arvier, M, 2009, "Assessing the impact of a mobile family resource service for parents and young children." *International Journal of Child Health and Human Development* 2(2), 135-141.

Young, M and Guenther, J 2008, "The shape of Aboriginal learning and work opportunities in desert regions." *The Rangeland Journal* 30: 177-186.

- Guenther, J and Falk, I 2007, "Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence policy and practice: engagement through evaluation." *The Australasian Journal of Community Engagement* 2(1): 157-165.
- Kilpatrick, S & Guenther, J 2003, 'Successful VET partnerships in Australia'. *International Journal of Training Research*, Vol 1.
- Guenther, J. & Falk, I. 2002, What makes 'good' literacy and numeracy provision? Findings from Australian research, *Literacy Today*. Sep 2002.

## Books/chapters

- Falk, I. and Guenther, J. 2002, *Literacy and numeracy for the new world of un/employment - Implications of a fully literate Australia*. ALNARC. Language Australia.

## Other publications and reports

- Guenther, J., Arnott, A. and Williams, E. 2009. *Evaluation of the Northern Territory Differential Response Pilot Project*. Charles Darwin University, Social Partnerships in Learning (SPiL) Consortium. Darwin, 31 August 2009.
- Guenther, J. 2009. *Evaluation of ARDS Communities for Children activities*. Charles Darwin University Social Partnerships in Learning (SPiL) Consortium. Darwin, 4 June 2009, Report for Anglicare-NT Communities for Children East Arnhem site.
- Arnott, A, Guenther, J, Tumminello, R and Murakami-Gold, L, 2009, *Findings from the evaluation of the Behaviour Change Program*. Charles Darwin University, Social Partnerships in Learning Consortium, 6 March 2009, Darwin.
- Arnott, A, Guenther, J and Williams, E, 2009, *Towards an investment framework to reduce family violence in the Northern Territory* Social Partnerships in Learning consortium, Charles Darwin University, Darwin.
- Guenther, J and Millar, P, 2009, *Evaluation Report for Communities for Children, Burnie*, Prepared for Centacare (Tasmania). University of Tasmania, University Department of Rural Health, May 2009, Launceston.
- Guenther, J, Arnott, A, Murakami-Gold, L and Tumminello, R, 2008, *Findings from the evaluation of the Indigenous Family Violence Offender Program*. Charles Darwin University, Social Partnerships in Learning Consortium, 2 October 2008
- Guenther, J and Bell, E, 2008, *'Safe From The Start' Evaluation Report*. Cat Conatus and University of Tasmania University Department of Rural Health, Ulverstone and Hobart.
- Wearne, G, Guenther, J, Arnott, A and Tumminello, R, 2008, *Findings from the evaluation of the Raypirri Rom project*. Charles Darwin University, Social Partnerships in Learning Consortium, 23 December 2008, Darwin.
- Guenther, J, Falk, I, Arnott, A, 2008, *The role of VET in Welfare to Work*, National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide.
- Guenther, J Falk, I Arnott, A Lucardie, D and Spiers, H, 2008, *Examining learning partnerships in northern Australia*. National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide.
- Guenther, J 2007, *Learnline at Charles Darwin University: Student evaluation*, Report for CDU Academic Development Unit and Support and Equity Services, Darwin.
- Guenther, J and Millar, P 2007, *Promoting successful collaboration in the Communities for Children context*, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, Perth.
- Learning Research Group and officers from The Department of Chief Minister 2007, *Evaluation of the Northern Territory Government Domestic and Family Violence Strategies*, Charles Darwin University, Darwin.
- Millar, P & Guenther, J 2007, *Supporting and capacity building for our partners*, Topical Paper No. 5, University Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania for the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth.
- Falk, I Guenther, J Lambert, T & Johnstone, K 2006, *Role of evaluation in assessing and developing communication and governance processes in an evidence-based policy development/implementation environment*, Paper presented to the AES International Conference – Darwin, 4-7 September, 2006.
- Young, M Guenther, J & Boyle, A 2007, *Growing the Desert: Educational pathways for remote Indigenous peoples*, NCVER, Adelaide and Desert Knowledge CRC, Alice Springs.

## Conference and seminar presentations

- Guenther, J. and Boonstra, M. 2009. *Adapting Evaluation Materials for Remote Indigenous Communities and Low-Literacy Participants*. 12th Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Perth, Western Australia, 15-

18 November 2009, Retrieved January 2010, from  
[http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/091117\\_APCCAN\\_FAST.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/091117_APCCAN_FAST.pdf).

- Guenther, J., Arnott, A. and Williams, E. 2009. *Measuring the unmeasurable: Complex evaluations in the Northern Territory*. NARU Seminar Series, Darwin, 8 October 2009, Retrieved January 2010, from  
[http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/091008\\_NARU\\_measuring\\_unmeasurable.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/091008_NARU_measuring_unmeasurable.pdf).
- Guenther, J, 2008, *The role of the evaluator in remote contexts*. Public Seminar, Centre for Remote Health, 21 October 2008, Alice Springs.
- Guenther, J, 2008, *Vocational Learning in the Frame of a Developing Identity*. October VET, Charles Darwin University, 20 October 2008, Darwin.
- Guenther, J Tams, H and Legge, L, 2008, *From Welfare to Work in the Tamar Valley: Building skills into employment programs for disadvantaged job seekers*, 17th NCVER No Frills Conference, University of Tasmania, Newnham Campus, Launceston, 9-11 July 2008.
- Guenther, J and Tayler, C, 2008, *Indigenous Training And Development Project: Using technology innovatively for low literacy learner*, 17th NCVER No Frills Conference, University of Tasmania, Newnham Campus, Launceston, 9-11 July 2008.
- Guenther, J 2008, *The role of the evaluator in remote contexts*, North Australia Research Unit. Public Seminar Series. Darwin, 27 March, 2008.
- Guenther, J and Falk, I 2007, *The roles of the evaluator as objective observer and active participant. Are they mutually exclusive?*, AES International Conference, Melbourne, 3-7 September, 2007.
- Guenther, J and Falk, I 2007, *Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence Policy and Practice: engagement through evaluation*, The scholarship of community engagement: Australia's way forward, 4th Annual AUCEA Conference. Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs, The Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA). 2-4 July, 2007.
- Guenther, J, Falk, I, Borgelt, K, Tyrell, A, Arnott, A, Churchill, J, Gunn, J and Black, S 2007, *VET in welfare to work: Does it work well?*, EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION OR STATUS QUO? The new context for VET, AVETRA 2007 - 10th Annual Conference, Victoria University, Footscray Park, April 11-13th 2007.
- Falk, I and Guenther, J 2007, *Generalising from Qualitative Research: Case studies from VET in Contexts*, EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION OR STATUS QUO? The new context for VET, AVETRA 2007 - 10th Annual Conference, Victoria University, Footscray Park, April 11-13, 2007.
- Guenther, J, Young, M and Boyle, A 2007, *Learning for livelihoods: Lessons from training in diverse desert contexts*, EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION OR STATUS QUO? The new context for VET, AVETRA 2007 - 10th Annual Conference, Victoria University, Footscray Park, April 11-13, 2007.
- Falk, I Guenther, J Lambert, T & Johnstone, K 2006, *Role of evaluation in assessing and developing communication and governance processes in an evidence-based policy development/implementation environment*, Paper presented to AES International Conference, 4-7 September, 2006, Darwin.

## Referees

Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Director Pro Vice Chancellor (Rural and Regional), Deakin University, (03) 5563 3138

Professor Ian Falk, Chair of Rural and Remote Education, Charles Darwin University, (08) 8946 6051.

## Contact details

Dr John Guenther

Mail: PO Box 469, Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315  
Main office: 13 Hamilton St, Ulverstone, Tasmania 7315  
Mobile: 0412 125 661  
Ulverstone: 03 6425 9016  
Email: [john@catconatus.com.au](mailto:john@catconatus.com.au)  
Web: <http://www.catconatus.com.au>

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