

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/research

John's research interests stem from several years of experience as a training and assessment consultant. Much of the research that he has been involved with relates to education and learning issues as they apply to a variety of contexts. These include regional and rural communities, Indigenous peoples and a broad spectrum of industries. His PhD explored the linkages between education and training and capacity building at a community level as it applies to community contexts in the Australian tropical savannas. As such this research (and much of his past research) is interested in the relationship between well-being (health, employment, leisure, economic, environmental, social, safety) and learning. John is competent working with both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and frequently combines the two in mixed deductive/inductive approaches. As a consultant he partners collaboratively with research and industry organisations nationally.

The connections between well-being, health and learning are of particular interest in a number of local evaluations of Communities for Children and Invest to Grow programs, that John is involved with both in the Northern Territory and Tasmania. He has also participated in evaluations relating to Domestic and Family Violence and research that explores pathways to employment and training for Indigenous people in the desert region of Central Australia and employment disadvantaged people generally in 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 acts 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).

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

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.

Guenther, J 2005, *Learnline at Charles Darwin University: Usage and staff evaluation*, Report for CDU Academic Development Unit, Darwin.

Guenther, J & Millar, P 2005, *Building self-reliance and well-being*, Oakleigh redevelopment and community linkages project, Stage C consultancy report, for The Salvation Army Tasmania Property Trust. Cat Conatus, Ulverstone.

Guenther, J & Dwyer, I 2005, *Evaluation of the Information Technology Training Project*, Report for the Office of Post Compulsory Education and Training, Hobart, Available online: http://www.catcom.com.au/pdf/ITTP_evaluation_final_report.pdf [Accessed April 2006]

Guenther, J Young, M Boyle, A Schaber, E & Richardson, J 2005, *Growing the desert: Effective educational pathways for remote Indigenous peoples*, Desert Knowledge CRC and National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide.

Guenther, J & Millar, P 2004, *Evaluation of the Break O'Day Volunteer Resource Centre*, Cat Conatus, Ulverstone.

NTCOSS 2004, *Creating effective pathways to employment and training for the employment disadvantaged in the Northern Territory*. Charles Darwin University Learning Research group, Northern Territory Council of Social Service, Darwin. (co-author and report editor)

Kilpatrick, S and Guenther, J. 2003, *FarmBis Annual Industry survey - final report for Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia*. Research and Learning in Regional Australia, University of Tasmania, Launceston.

Conference and seminar presentations

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*. OctoberVET, 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.
- Falk, I & Guenther, J 2006, *Generalising from qualitative research: case studies from VET in contexts*, Paper presented at 15th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference: July 2006, Mooloolaba, Australia.
- Guenther, J Millar, P & Falk, I 2006, *Characteristics of Communities of Practice: Would the real Community of Practice please stand up!* Paper for presentation at AVETRA conference April 2006, Wollongong.
- Guenther, J & Falk, I 2006, *Partners in practice: Does the national VET rhetoric connect with community reality?* Paper for presentation at AVETRA conference April 2006, Wollongong.
- Guenther, J 2005, *Identity formation in effective vocational education and training programs*, Paper presented to NCVER conference, Wodonga, July 2005
- Guenther, J 2005, *Pathways to effective training outcomes: lessons from northern Australia*, Paper presented to AVETRA conference, Brisbane, April 2005
- Guenther, J 2005, *What makes vocational education and training outcomes effective in tropical savanna communities? With special reference to tourism and hospitality*, Paper presented to CAUTHE conference, Alice Springs, February 2005.

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

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