

# John Christopher Guenther

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Qualifications and education

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

Title: VET as a Tool for Regional Planning and Management: Case Studies from Australian Tropical 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 seven 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*

Project management and reporting: Projects include: Evaluation of the Northern Territory Differential Response Framework (2008-2009); Evaluation of Family Violence Partnership Program projects (2006-2008); Evaluation of the Akeyulerre Healing Centre (2009-2010); NCVER Role of VET in Welfare to work (2006-2007); NCVER VET/ACE Connections in Northern Australia (2005-2007); Evaluation of the Northern Territory Targeted Family Support Service (2010-2012). 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 (2008-2011); Evaluation of the Desert Peoples Centre's TrainingPlus program (2009-2010); and Evaluation of Centacare's (NW Tasmania) Weathering Family Separation Program (2010-2012); Review of Teacher Accommodation in NW Tasmania for the Department of Education (2010-2011). For more see [www.catconatus.com.au/res.html](http://www.catconatus.com.au/res.html)

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

John has an ongoing relationship with the University Department of Rural Health and works with the team there as required, developing proposals and conducting focused research and analysis. Recent projects include: Evaluation of 'Safe from the Start' (2008) and Evaluation of 'Breakfree' Crime Prevention Program for teenage girls (2009-2010). 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 a sessional lecturer at the Cradle Coast Campus in Burnie.

### Professional membership

John is a member of the **Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association** (AVETRA) and the **Australasian Evaluation Society** (AES).

## Journal articles

- Guenther, J., Castle, K., Raymond, N. and Berschl, K. 2010. "Training for employment outcomes in Indigenous contexts: Straddling the space between cultures." *VOCAL, The Australian Journal of Vocational Education & Training in Schools*, 8(2010-2011): 86-94
- Guenther, J. 2010. "Vocational learning in the frame of a developing identity". *Learning Communities: International Journal of Learning in Social Contexts*, 1(2010), 44-56.
- 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.

## Books/chapters

- Guenther, J. and Arvier, M. 2010. Mobile Family Resource Service ofr Parents and Young Children. *Rural Child Health: International Aspects*. E. a. M. Bell, J. New York, Nova Biomedical Books: 125-134.
- 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

- Williams, E., Guenther, J. and Arnott, A. 2011. *Traditional healing: a literature review*. Working paper series 2: Evaluation and policy. No. 2, Covaluator Network, Retrieved March 2011 from [http://www.covaluator.net/docs/S2.2\\_traditional\\_healing\\_lit\\_review.pdf](http://www.covaluator.net/docs/S2.2_traditional_healing_lit_review.pdf).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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., Williams, E. and Arnott, A. 2010. *The politics of evaluation: evidence-based policy or policy-based evidence*. NARU public seminar series, Darwin. 30 November 2010, Retrieved January 2011 from [http://covaluator.net/docs/S2.1\\_the\\_politics\\_of\\_evaluation.pdf](http://covaluator.net/docs/S2.1_the_politics_of_evaluation.pdf).

- Guenther, J., Arnott, A., Bartjen-Westerman, C., Haynes, L., Howard, R., Kalender, L. and Watkinson, J. 2010. Working with non-government organisations: dropping the defences and building bridges. Australasian Evaluation Society: Reflecting on Evaluation, Wellington, NZ. 1-3 September 2010, Retrieved September 2010 from [http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100824\\_paper\\_aes\\_working\\_with\\_ngos.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100824_paper_aes_working_with_ngos.pdf)
- Guenther, J. and Langworthy, A. 2010. *Building social capital among students in preparation programs-lessons from the UTAS University Preparation Program*. AUCEA 2010 National Conference, University of Tasmania Launceston Campus. 5-7 July 2010, Retrieved July 2010 from [http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100703\\_AUCEA\\_Building social capital among students in preparation programs.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100703_AUCEA_Building_social_capital_among_students_in_preparation_programs.pdf)
- Guenther, J. and Johnson, P. 2010. *Engaging pre-tertiary students with low English literacy using online technologies*. AUCEA 2010 National Conference, University of Tasmania Launceston Campus. 5-7 July 2010, Retrieved July 2010 from [http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100704\\_AUCEA\\_engaging\\_online\\_learners\\_guenther\\_johnson.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100704_AUCEA_engaging_online_learners_guenther_johnson.pdf)
- Guenther, J., Davis, V., Foster, D. and Arnott, A. 2010. *Two knowledges working together*. AUCEA 2010, 7th Annual Conference, Launceston. 5-7 July 2010, Australian University Community Engagement Alliance, Retrieved July 2010 from [http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100702\\_AUCEA\\_paper\\_working\\_together\\_final.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100702_AUCEA_paper_working_together_final.pdf).
- Guenther, J. 2010. Measuring the unmeasurable: *Dealing with complex and complicated evaluations*. AES Tasmania Seminar Series, University of Tasmania, Hobart. 16 July 2010, Retrieved July 2010 from [http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100716\\_AES\\_measuring\\_unmeasurable.pdf](http://www.catconatus.com.au/docs/100716_AES_measuring_unmeasurable.pdf)
- Guenther, J., Gurruiwiwi, G. and Donohoe, A. 2010. *Training for life... in two worlds*. AVETRA 13th Annual Conference, Holiday Inn, Gold Coast, Retrieved April 2010 from [http://www.covaluator.net/docs/S3.1\\_training\\_for\\_life\\_two\\_worlds.pdf](http://www.covaluator.net/docs/S3.1_training_for_life_two_worlds.pdf).
- 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, 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.

## Referees

Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Director Pro Vice Chancellor (Rural and Regional), Deakin University, (03) 5563 3138, [pvcrr@deakin.edu.au](mailto:pvcrr@deakin.edu.au)

Professor Ian Falk, Chair of Rural and Remote Education, Charles Darwin University, (08) 8946 6051 [ian.falk@cdu.edu.au](mailto:ian.falk@cdu.edu.au)

Doctor Allan Arnott, Senior Lecturer, Charles Darwin University, 0448 686 953, [allan.arnott@cdu.edu.au](mailto:allan.arnott@cdu.edu.au)

## Contact details

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