

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 explores 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 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. In Tasmania, he has consulted for organisations such as the Salvation Army exploring the linkages between homelessness, mental health and learning.

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

Assisting with data analysis and reporting: Projects include NCVER Role of VET in Welfare to work (2006); NCVER VET/ACE Connections in Northern Australia (2005); Professional Learning Communities (2005); NTCOSS Effective Pathways to employment and training for employment disadvantaged (2004), NT Government's Review of Secondary Education (2003) and Analysis of NT Student Flows (2002-2003)

1997 - present **Cat Conatus**, Ulverstone: *Consultancy, assessment and training*

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 Learnline at CDU (2005 and 2006), NCVER DKCRC/CDU/CAT Growing the desert—effective pathways for Indigenous desert peoples (2005), Evaluation of the OPCET Information Technology Training Project (2005), The Salvation Army's Oakleigh House Redevelopment project (2005); Evaluation of Break O' Day Volunteer Resource Centre (2004). Further details at <http://www.catcom.com.au>

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. He is also currently engaged as an adult learning practitioner at the Cradle Coast Campus in Burnie.

Papers and publications

Learning Research Group and officers from The Department of Chief Minister 2006, *Evaluation of the Northern Territory Government Domestic and Family Violence Strategies*, Charles Darwin University, Darwin.

Millar, P & Guenther, J (forthcoming), *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 (forthcoming) *Growing the Desert: Educational pathways for remote Indigenous peoples*, NCVER, Adelaide.
- Guenther, J Falk, I Arnott, A Lucardie, D & Spiers, H (2006) *How can VET/ACE partnerships improve industry, community and individual socio-economic well-being?* NCVER, Adelaide.
- 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.
- Kilpatrick, S & Guenther, J 2003, 'Successful VET partnerships in Australia'. *International Journal of Training Research*, Vol 1.
- CTLDEC, 2003, *Student flows – a review of trends in education and training in the Northern Territory, 1986-2002*. Centre for Teaching and Learning in Diverse Educational Contexts, NTU, Darwin.
- Kilpatrick, S & Guenther, J 2003. Survey of computers, Internet and broadband in the Kentish Municipality, Centre for Research and Learning in Regional Australia, Launceston.
- 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.
- Guenther, J. & Falk, I. 2002, What makes 'good' literacy and numeracy provision? Findings from Australian research, *Literacy Today*. Sep 2002.
- CRLRA 2001, *Learning communities in education and training*. Vol 1 and 2. Report on the Role of VET in Regional Australia project for ANTA. October.
- Guenther, J and Falk, I. 2000, *Measuring trust and community capacity - social capital for the common good in Discussion Paper Series - Centre for Research and Learning in Regional Australia.*, February.
- Kilpatrick, S and Guenther, J. 2000, *Parent perceptions of VET in schools programs*. Launceston Workplace Learning - CRLRA, Jan 2000.

Conference presentations

- 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

Associate Professor Sue Kilpatrick, Director, University Department of Rural Health, University of Tasmania. (03) 6324 4011.

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

Current at December 2006