

Gretchen Ennis

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy - 2012

Thesis title: Neighbourhood Networking: A Critical Social Work Approach to 'Creating Community' in a Culturally Diverse Setting
Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Northern Territory

Graduate Degree - Social Work (1st class honours) 2002

La Trobe University Bendigo, Victoria

Bachelor of Arts - 1991

The University of Sydney, New South Wales.

Employment

Social Research & Evaluation Consultant (2020 – current time)

Useful Projects

In 2020 I established a social research, evaluation and community development consultancy, Useful Projects. This involves working with a wide range of clients, from non-government community and health services, arts organisations and Indigenous groups, through to local and Northern Territory Government. Useful Projects embraces a capacity building approach to community-based, multi-stakeholder program planning, monitoring and evaluation. For further information please see the [Useful Projects website](#)

Associate Professor, Social Work (2018 – 2020)

College of Health & Human Sciences, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory

A leadership position encompassing social work course planning, development, coordination, and all aspects of teaching and learning within a professionally accredited social work program. Research, administration, and community engagement activities featured in this role. This includes the coordination of a range of research and evaluation projects, supervision of PhD, Masters and Honours students and supporting the research community across the university. Research interests include Northern Territory community work for social change, program evaluation, and arts & health.

Senior Lecturer, Social Work & Community Studies (2016 - 2018)

College of Health & Human Sciences, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (2013 – 2015)

Research Centre for Health and Wellbeing, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory.

This position built upon PhD research and involved the development and implementation of a range of research and evaluation projects. These projects were concerned with how

communities thrive and grow and how they may be eroded or threatened, with a focus on community development, evaluation, and the social impacts of resource development on Darwin communities.

Social Work Lecturer (2007 -2015)

Social Work and Community Studies Theme, School of Health, Charles Darwin University.

As a social work lecturer I undertook a range of teaching and research roles within the Social Work and Community Studies Theme, initially as a casual employee (from 2007), then full time member of staff (from 2011). This work involved developing and delivering lectures, seminars and workshops; face to face and on-line. I have been responsible for development, teaching and assessment a wide range of units including:

- Working With and Developing Communities
- Introduction to Research Methods
- Dynamics of Group Work
- Social Work Honours Program
- Health Sociology

Rehabilitation Consultant – Social Work (2004 – 2007)

Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services (CRS) Australia, Darwin and Palmerston Units, Northern Territory

This Australian Government position involved providing vocational rehabilitation services to clients experiencing long-term illness, injury or disability. Case management and group work approaches were used to assist clients in overcoming barriers to employment. Various brief-therapy models such as narrative, cognitive behavioural and task-centred approaches were utilised to work with a wide range of clients. The role also involved a significant component of administration, report writing and liaison with medical and allied health practitioners, insurance agencies, government departments and other rehabilitation providers.

Research and Evaluation Project Worker (2002-2004)

St. Luke's Anglicare, Bendigo, Victoria

At St. Luke's I worked in collaboration with the Youth Services Team to design and implement a variety of social research projects and program evaluations, involving collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders such as schools, government, welfare agencies and training organisations.

Community Development Worker (2002-2004)

Bendigo Neighbourhood House, Bendigo, Victoria

The position involved the development, delivery and evaluation of a range of community projects. Organisational responsibilities included assisting in the formulation of strategic and business plans, undertaking policy analysis and development. Other activities included group work, advocacy and sourcing project funding (via various grant programs, philanthropic trusts and fundraising activities) for Neighbourhood House activities.

Student Placement Officer and Research Assistant (1998 – 2001)

Northern Territory General Practice Education and Research Unit, Darwin, Northern Territory
Assisting general practitioners, registrars, cross-cultural educators and undergraduate

medical students to organise placements in remote and rural settings across the top end of the Northern Territory. This position also involved maintaining a web-site and acting as a research assistant to general practitioners on a range of projects.

Casual Trainer - Certificate II and III Contemporary Music (1997-2000)

Northern Territory University, Darwin, Northern Territory.

As a vocational educator I participated in development and delivery of units in the Certificate in Contemporary Music (II and III) Courses.

Professional Memberships

- Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) 2002 to current time
- Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) 2012 to current time
- Australian Performance Rights Association (APRA) 1995 to current time

Publications

Ralaingita, M., Ennis, G., Russel-Smith, J., Sangha, K., Razanakato, T. (submitted, under revision). Community resilience, a “mobilizing metaphor”: The case of the Kere in Southern Madagascar. *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Ralaingita, M., Ennis, G., Russel-Smith, J., Sangha, K., Razanakato, T. (in press). The Kere of Madagascar; A qualitative exploration of community experiences and perspectives. *Ecology & Society*.

Gorman, J. T., G. Ennis, P. Wurm, M. Bentivoglio and C. Brady (submitted, under revision). Exploring Aboriginal community views in wildlife-based enterprise development. *Community Development Journal*

Gorman, J. T. and G. Ennis (submitted, under revision). Community engagement in Aboriginal enterprise development – Kakadu plum as a case analysis. *Journal of Rural Studies*

Ennis, G. & Tofa, M. (2020) Collective Impact: A Review of the Peer-reviewed Research, *Australian Social Work*, 73:1, 32-47, DOI: [10.1080/0312407X.2019.1602662](https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X.2019.1602662)

Ennis, G., Kirshbaum, M. & Waheed, N. (2019) The energy-enhancing potential of participatory performance-based arts activities in the care of people with a diagnosis of cancer: an integrative review, *Arts & Health*, 11:2, 87-103, DOI: [10.1080/17533015.2018.1443951](https://doi.org/10.1080/17533015.2018.1443951)

Ennis, G. & Tonkin, J. (2018) 'It's like exercise for your soul': how participation in youth arts activities contributes to young people's wellbeing, *Journal of Youth Studies*, 21:3, 340-359, DOI: [10.1080/13676261.2017.1380302](https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2017.1380302)

[Moss, S.](#), [Ennis, G.](#), [Zander, K.](#), [Bartram, T.](#) and [Hedley, D.](#) (2018), "Can workplaces foster an openness to diversity surreptitiously?", *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion*, Vol. 37 No. 8, pp. 750-762. <https://doi.org/10.1108/EDI-11-2017-0260>

Patil, T. & Ennis, G. (2018) Critically Reflecting on the Australian Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics: Learning from a Social Work Field Placement, *The British Journal of Social Work*, Volume 48, Issue 5, July, Pages 1370–1387, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcx101>

Ennis, G, Kirshbaum, M, Waheed, N. (2018) The beneficial attributes of visual art-making in cancer care: An integrative review. *Eur J Cancer Care*. 27:e12663. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecc.12663>

Kirshbaum, M., Ennis, G., Waheed, N. & Carter, F. (2017) Art in Cancer Care: Exploring the Role of Visual Art-Making Programs Within an Energy Restoration Framework. *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*. Vol 29. pp.71-78. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejon.2017.05.003

Moss, S., Ennis, G., Zander, K., Davis, M., Wilson, S. & Alexi, N. (2016) How to Inspire, Rather than Instruct, Recruiters to Select Diverse Ethnicities. *Hellenic Journal of Psychology*. Vol 13 pp116-130.

Patil, T., & Ennis, G. (2016) Silence as a Discourse in the Public Sphere: Media Representations of Australians 'Joining the Fight' in Syria. *Social Alternatives*. Vol 35 (1).

Ennis, G., Tofa, M., Finlayson, M. & U'ren, J. (2016) A Boom for Whom? Exploring the Impacts of a Rapid Increase in Male Population upon Women's Services in Darwin, Northern Territory. *Violence Against Women*. Vol 23 (5). DOI: 10.1177/1077801216644994

Ennis, G., Clark, H. & Corfield, F. (2014) Adventure Territory: An Action Evaluation of an Outback Australian Performance Project. *Youth Theatre Journal*. Vol. 28 (2) pp 115-129.

Ennis, G. (2014) Creative Forms for Creating Community. *International Journal of Community Diversity*. Vol. 13 (1) pp 13-26.

Ennis, G., & Finlayson, M. (2014) Alcohol, Violence and a Fast-Growing Male Population: Exploring a Risky Mix in 'Boomtown' Darwin. *Social Work in Public Health*. Published on-line 6 Nov. DOI 10.1080/19371918.2014.938392

Ennis, G., Tofa, M. & Finlayson, M. (2014) Open for Business But at What Cost? Housing Issues in 'Boomtown' Darwin. *Australian Geographer*. Vol. 45(4) pp 447-464.

Ennis, G. & West, D. (2014) Community development and umbrella bodies: Networking for neighbourhood change. *British Journal of Social Work*. Vol. 44 (6) pp 1582-1601

Ennis, G., Finlayson, M. & Speering, G. (2013) Expecting a boomtown? Exploring potential housing-related impacts of large scale resource development in Darwin. *Human Geographies*, Vol. 7 (1) pp 33-42.

Ennis, G. & West, D. (2013) Using social network analysis in community development practice and research: A case study. *Community Development Journal*, Vol. 48 (1) pp 40-57.

Ennis, G. & West, D. (2010) Exploring the potential of social network analysis in asset-based community development practice and research. *Australian Social Work*, Vol. 63 (4) pp. 404-417.

West, D., Ennis, G., & Heath, D. (2009) A human service learning community: At work in the Northern Territory. *Practice Reflections*, Vol. 4 (1), pp.3-15.

West, D., Heath, D., & Ennis, G. (2009) Northern Territory Social Work: Views and Approaches. *Australian Social Work*, Vol. 62 (1), pp. 77-89.

Conference Presentations (selected)

Ennis, G. (2016) *Dramatic tableaux as data collection method*. ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference. Sydney, July 19-22nd.

Ennis, G. & Johnson, K. (2015) *Bagot Community 'Families for School Attendance' developmental evaluation project*. Paper presented at the W.A. Early Childhood Education and Care Conference. Perth, 7-8 August.

Ennis, G. & Tonkin, J. (2015) *Youth arts and mental health: Exploring connection in the Top End*. Paper presented at the 13th National Rural Health Conference. Darwin. 24-27 May.

Ennis, G. (2014) *Boomtowns and Diversity: Exploring the rapidly changing identity of the City of Darwin, Northern Territory*. Paper presented at the 14th International Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations Conference. Vienna, Austria 9-11 July.

Carter, F., Robertson, E. & Ennis, G. (2014) *'Heart': Arts in cancer care pilot project*. Paper presented at the Art of Good Health and Wellbeing 6th Annual International Arts and Health Conference. Melbourne. 11-14 November.

Ennis, G. & Tonkin, J. (2014) *Using Social Network Analysis in Community Arts Evaluation*. Paper presented at the Spectres of Evaluation Conference, Melbourne. February 6-7.

Ennis, G. (2013) *Unintended consequences: Exploring the complexity of processes and outcomes in community arts for health and wellbeing*. Paper presented at the Art of Good Health and Wellbeing 5th Annual International Arts and Health Conference. Sydney, New South Wales, 12-14 November.

Ennis, G. (2013) *Creative forms for creating community*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations, Darwin, Northern Territory, June 26-28.

Ennis, G. (2012) *Using network analysis in community development evaluation: Potential and Pitfalls*. Paper presented at the Australasian Evaluation Society Conference, Adelaide, South Australia, August 29-31.

References

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