

The Public Practice

Making sense of the Census



Colin Menzies

Colin Menzies is a strategic planner able to design and implement innovative approaches to complex issues where multi-disciplinary skills are needed.

- Experienced in the management and assessment of organisations, programs and projects; and designing and implementing new directions and strategies.
- Adept at consultation, participation and facilitation processes.
- Skilled in use of statistics and development of Excel™ tools.
- Experienced urban planner who specialises in social planning
- Completed over 100 consultancy projects for government, community and private clients across a range of policy fields.
- Qualifications: B.Sc., B.Eng. (Hons I), M.T.C.P (Sydney University)

1986 on PUBLIC POLICY AND STRATEGY CONSULTANT

Colin has undertaken a wide variety of studies in strategic and social planning, public policy and evaluation in fields including new enterprise development, community services, training, program development, housing, management reviews, evaluation, survey design and implementation. Highlights included:

- ***Securing the Truth***, the NSW Government Submission to HREOC Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal Children from their Families.
- ***Sydney Harbour Federation Trust*** – consultation manager, responsible for the successful introduction of the Trust to the community of Sydney Harbour.
- ***Towards Better Service***, an evaluation manual for district offices of the Dept of Community Services, developed ways of getting better outcomes from services.
- ***Inner West HACC Plan*** -- demonstrating new ways to prepare a strategic needs-based service plan
- ***Guidelines for Social Planning*** published by the Local Government Association of Queensland, and the earlier ***GroundRules - a Social Planning Handbook*** for NSW Local Government and Shires Assoc, the basis of NSW Local Government Regulations.
- The ***Woollahra Social Plan*** and the earlier ***Tamworth Community Plans***
- ***National Consultation On Health Goals And Targets*** for the Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health – achieving a common national position through consultation
- ***A Call for Recognition*** -- this report on South Sea Islanders for the Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission had all recommendations supported by all political parties in Federal Parliament.
- ***Fairfield's Community Plan*** – a framework for collaborative participatory planning
- ***Greening Australia (NSW)*** – drafting and implementing a strategy *Trees By The Million* that started a growth path from one staff to hundreds, and planted millions of trees

1983 - 1986 SECRETARY GENERAL, ACOSS

I managed the principal national organisation representing welfare interests, responsible to an honorary Board, with a staff of up to 14 persons. Duties included financial management, supervision of two regular journals, representation with senior government, business and trade union officials, design and implementation of strategies, policy development, organisation of consultations and negotiations. Principal achievements at ACOSS were:

- Design and organisation of a national consultation with pensioner groups on the Assets Test, which led within seven days to the government announcing a review of the proposal.
- Representation on the Economic Planning Advisory Council chaired by the Prime Minister, and at the National Taxation Summit.
- Organisation of a "tax cuts versus welfare" campaign that contributed to increases in Social Security payments of around \$500 million in the subsequent Budget.
- Preparation of a discussion paper on tax reform; design and organisation of a national consultation on that paper including a national tax seminar that produced an agreed tax reform paper taken to the Tax Summit. Particular reforms achieved were increases in payments for children and increased earning capacity for pensioners and beneficiaries.
- Reduction of overhead costs through computerisation and other efficiency measures, resulting in increased output with half the support staff.

1983 A/ CORP. PLANNING MANAGER, NSW LAND COMMISSION

Responsible for increasing integration between the land purchase, production and sales divisions. This involved preparation of production schedules in consultation with the divisional managers, and designing revised outputs for the computerised information system so that managers would use it, rather than scorn or ignore it.

1981 - 1982 SPECIALIST, NSW DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING

Responsible to the Director, Central Policy Division, for the extension of the Urban Development Program into an integrated multi-departmental planning and budgeting program.

- Initiated the Human Services Committee to coordinate five human services departments.
- Initiated the Rental Housing Task Force reporting to the Housing C'ttee of Cabinet.
- Designed an innovative Community Housing Trust to provide no-subsidy home ownership assistance to low-income families.
- Drafted original S.94 guidelines for community facilities.
- Advised on level of development contributions, urban consolidation policies and statutory planning matters.

1978 - 1979 COORDINATOR, VIC. FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM.

Responsible to Director for successful introduction of this regional social planning program:

- development of policy and procedures
- design of allocation methods, eligibility criteria, and budgeting for three sub-programs
- coordination and training of 45 regional staff
- organisation of successful conference to end the initial phase of program

1975 - 1976 EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Managed a regional social planning organisation with a community elected board, with supervision over seven staff. Responsible for budgeting, program design, policy development particularly in the fields of housing, urban issues, transport, and welfare.