You are invited to a

PUBLIC SEMINAR

hosted by the Social Justice Social Change Research Centre, UWS, Macarthur Community Forum, Western Sydney Community Forum & Illawarra Forum

The impact of government contracts & accountability requirements on local service provision

Thursday 4th December
9:30am – 4:30 pm
Building 5, Conference Room 7/8
UWS Campbelltown Campus
Narellan Road, Campbelltown

Lunch, morning & afternoon tea will be provided

RSVP: Eva Garcia (02) 9772 6482

The impact of government contracts & accountability requirements on local service provision

Locally based community organisations have traditionally had a significant role in community development in Greater Western Sydney, as in other urban regions. Concerns have been raised, in Australia and elsewhere, about the impact of ‘market driven’ funding arrangements, introduced in Australia in the mid-1990s. There has been a good deal of mostly critical commentary about their effect on organisations’ ability to engage in community development and policy debate. However, little data has been collected systematically on the actual impact on small organisations and their ability to meet local needs.

SJSC, together with Macarthur Community Forum, Western Sydney Community Forum & Illawarra Forum, report on a large-scale online survey of local community service providers in Greater Western Sydney, exploring the impact of government funding and contract requirements on non-government community service provider organisations. In particular this project examines the ability of community organisations to respond to local needs and their general involvement in policy debate. It also explores new areas of impact, such as governance and structure. This seminar will also report on other SJSC affiliated projects examining the impact of government contracts and associated accountability requirements on local service provision.

Program

9:30  Registration – (Coffee & Tea on arrival)
10:00  Welcome and introductions
10:10  The impact of government contracts & accountability requirements on local service provision - Michael Darcy (UWS)
Community sector discussant
11:10  Community management in the quasi market - Peri O’Shea (UWS)
Finding a common language for corporate and community sectors - Chris Roffey (UWS)
12:00  Lunch
12.45  Purchasing, partnerships & social contracts: Giving effect to Government-NGO relationships – Eric Sidoti (The Whitlam Institute)
Community sector discussant
1.45  Coffee/Tea Break
2.00  Results Based Accountability: Finding the positives
Mick Houlbrook (UWS) & Maria Losurdo (Family Worker Training + Development Programme Inc)
Lynne Keevers (University of Sydney)
3.00  Small group discussion of issues raised and of future research agenda & report back
3:45  Summary and close