

Dr. Melinda Chiment, Senior Consultant

Overview of Expertise

Melinda's personal and professional mission is to connect communities with tools, data and resources to promote social good and inspire change. Melinda is trained in quantitative and qualitative research methods having received her PhD from the University of Queensland and has a range of diverse community-based evaluation experience in Australia and overseas. She is experienced in NGO management having held leadership positions at youth and arts-based organisations in the United States.

Qualifications & Training

- 2014 Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, The University of Queensland.
- 2011 SPSS training, The University of Queensland.
- 2010 NVIVO training, The University of Queensland.
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts in Community Studies, University of California at Santa Cruz.

Leadership Experience

Strategic design, organisational leadership, and capacity building

- Strategic Planning and Evaluation services to non-profit organisations throughout California as Lead Consultant with NP Strategies, a US-based consulting firm. Clients included those in the health, education, environmental, social justice, and arts sector.
- Provided organisational leadership within several youth and arts-based organisations in California. Duties included organisational direction-setting, fundraising, partnership development, operations, and finance.
- Lead project management on several Australia and US-based research and service-delivery initiatives

Sample Evaluation Projects

- **Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans:** trained and managed community-based researchers from diverse backgrounds to co-design and deliver a city-wide evaluation exploring the experiences of newly arrived refugee communities in San Diego, California
- **San Diego State University, Department of Environmental Sciences:** led evaluation of University Department to ensure accessibility, and measure impact of newly developed bi-national program.
- **Australian Research Council:** trained and managed community-based researchers to deliver a nation-wide evaluation investigating use of formal and informal networks by migrant and refugee youth in Australia.
- **Project Concern International:** designed, implemented, and managed PCI Liberia's Women Empowered Initiative and associated USAID research agenda.
- **Kid Spark Education:** lead evaluation and dissemination of findings of nationwide afterschool STEM program in the United States

- **The AjA Project:** created organisational evaluation strategy, designed tools and developed analytical framework to support ongoing organisational and program impact strategy
- **Independent School Diversity and Equity Evaluations:** lead diversity and equity evaluations of 6 independent schools based in the United States.

Sample Facilitation and Trainings

- **The Salvation Army:** lead strategic planning sessions with staff and stakeholders across the organisations, from Board of Trustees to front-line staff to inform mission refinement, theory of change, strategic plan, and key initiatives.
- **San Jose State University:** delivered training series to staff on participatory research methods and participatory arts as a part of large-scale evaluation on first generation University students.
- **The Ronald McDonald House of Southern California:** lead strategic planning sessions across a range of community stakeholders (funders, participants, volunteers) to inform organisational strategic initiatives, goals, and tracking metrics.
- **Kid Spark Education:** lead evaluation and data collection training to all US-based staff.
- **The Wooden Floor:** facilitated a series of focus groups and strategic planning workshops with organisational stakeholders to support refinement of organisational strategic priorities and development of theory of change.
- **Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans:** facilitated a series of staff, participants, and stakeholder working sessions to understand experiences of newly arrived refugees in California and define priority areas for service and policy.

Recent Positions held

2021	Senior Consultant, Clear Horizon
2018-2021	Lead Consultant, NP Strategies (San Diego)
2015-2018	Executive Director, The AjA Project (San Diego)
2013-2015	Program Director, The AjA Project (San Diego)
2013	Research Program Coordinator, Project Concern International
2009-2013	Research Program Coordinator, The University of Queensland

Select Academic Publications and Policy Reports

Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (2020) "Refugees Experience Report"

Australian Research Council (2015) Migrant Youth, Social Networks, and Belonging (Report)

Skrbis, Z., Mansouri, F. and Chiment, M. (2014) "Migrant Youth in Australia: Social networks, belonging and active citizenship. University Press. (Book)

Skrbis, Z. and Chiment, M. (2012) "The veil and the limits of legislative intervention". In Mansouri, F. and Marotta, V. (eds) Muslim Diaspora, University of Melbourne Press.

Select Invited Lectures

California State University, San Marcos “Family, Community, and Creative Interventions” (2017).

The International Rescue Committee “Refugee Youth and Asset-based Interventions” (2017).

Community Action for a Multicultural Society, “Social Networks, Active Citizenship and Belonging” (2011).