

# Michelle Wheeler

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## Career and Work Objectives

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Seeking opportunities to use extensive experience in social policy research in challenging and diverse workplaces.

## Skills

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Understanding of underpinning principles and program approaches in government, with particular focus on education and skills development for disadvantaged groups

Knowledge and experience of performance reporting in government against national and international performance indicators

Experience working at all levels of government and with community organisations, with special expertise in consultation and coordination

Knowledge and understanding of the field of international education

Project management skills of a high order

Capacity to write high quality reports in English

Research skills – both quantitative and qualitative

General administrative and management skills

## Experience

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### COAG Reform Council, Australian Government

2009-2014

Director, Education responsible for performance monitoring and public reporting on the performance of governments in achieving the outcomes and performance benchmarks specified in national agreements. Specific responsibilities for school education, skills development, Indigenous education and training.

Responsibilities include:

- managing a team of analysts researching and drafting annual performance reports
- providing specialist advice on education policy issues
- quantitative analysis required for reporting on education indicators
- management of projects undertaken by researchers and liaison with subject specific experts
- representing the council in public fora such as workshops, conferences
- supporting communication activities with written presentations and speeches.



### **Consultant – private practice**

**1997-2008**

Consultant to government departments and peak non-government organisations working in the education, vocational training, health and community sectors. Consultancy services included research, strategic planning, quality standards development, program evaluation and policy development. A primary focus has been the needs of disadvantaged groups and the establishment of equity in service delivery and service outcomes.

As a policy and research consultant, I led teams and worked independently across a range of public policy areas, drawing on experience in the portfolios of health, education and training, and community services.

### **Senior Executive, NSW Government**

**1990-1997**

Director, Policy, NSW Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs – 3 years  
Director, Equity Policy, Department of Education and Training – 4 years

Responsible for managing a team of policy advisers working across the education and training agenda of government. Major reforms were undertaken during this time requiring consultation and promotion among large numbers of peak bodies, community groups, educational providers and the general public

### **Policy adviser and researcher – various NSW government departments**

**1979-1990**

Manager, Human Resources Policy, NSW Premiers Department –

1989 – 1990

Manager, Health Service Development, Sydney Health Service –  
Senior Planning Officer, NSW Health,  
Various roles, NSW Health

1987-1988

1981-1987

1979-1981

### **Australian Public Service**

**1975-1979**

Graduate Trainee program, various positions Department of Social Security

## **Education and awards**

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### **Churchill Fellow 2012**

Awarded a Churchill fellowship to study international approaches to performance reporting in education

### **University**

Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Hons), University of New South Wales

Master in Health Planning, University of NSW

Graduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution, University of Western Sydney

### **Other**

Accredited mediator – dispute resolution service – 2007 to 2009

Workplace training courses – computing including Excel, Word; Plain English course; media training

French language skills – 6 years high school, 2 years university study and short courses with Alliance Francaise