

Title: **Evaluating the impact of community arts on health**

Presenter's Name **A/Prof Margaret Kelahe**

**Date:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009  
**Time:** 12.30 to 1.30 pm  
**Venue:** Melbourne School of Population Health  
Room 405A, Level 4  
207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

**The seminar will cover:**

Reviews of community arts and health programs have highlighted the need to develop a theoretical framework that reconciles the focus on evidence based practice in health and the more experience based nature of arts practice. We report on the development and application of such a framework to the evaluation of Vichealth's Community Arts Development Scheme. The theoretical underpinnings of the framework resonated strongly with the themes of empowerment and personal transformation that emerged from both the qualitative and quantitative data. Overall the methods developed successfully captured the mental health benefits of the arts programs and the supportive nature of the climate provided by the arts organisations.

**Presenter**

Associate Professor Margaret Kelahe is a social epidemiologist who has chosen a unique focus in her work by bringing evidence and intervention based approach to understanding complex social issues. Her work has been at the forefront of the development of methodologies for understanding complex social interventions and their impacts.

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These seminars are free of charge. Visitors are most welcome to attend  
Sandwiches will be served at 12 noon.

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