LEGITIMACY, POSITIONING & PARADIGM: BEHIND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY’S WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO SUICIDE PREVENTION

Presented by Megan Lawrance, Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin.

Date: Tuesday 26 June, 2012

Time: 12:30 pm-1:30pm

Venue: Room 405A,
Melbourne School of Population Health.
Level 4. 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

The social determinants of health underline the need for health to be a concern not just of the health departments but also a broad range of government agencies outside of the health sector. Working in this joint manner is known as the whole of Government approach. Megan’s PhD research is a single case study of adopting a whole of government approach for suicide prevention in the NT. It draws on extensive qualitative data including observation over more than three years of the intersectorial committee as well as semi-structured interviews with individual participants. While the study provides a rich description of the processes of joint working in government it also explores the different purposes for which joint working was implemented. The differing meanings of the participants attributed to their involvement in the committee demonstrate that government outputs are not always substantive but can be expressive of beliefs and values.

The findings of Megan’s PhD research relate not just to suicide prevention policy but speak more broadly about the pressures on government agencies and the function of committees and policy documents in this setting. If you have ever thought it would be good for government agencies to collaborate then this will be a stimulating seminar for you.

These Seminars are free of charge. Visitors are most welcome to attend. A light luncheon will be served at 12 noon outside room 405A.

For more information please contact The Centre for Health Policy, Programs & Economics Ph: (03) 8344 9111