

12.00, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011

The Mabo Room, AIATSIS, Lawson Crescent, Canberra ACT 2601

This seminar will be webcast at [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)

Seminars are free and open to the public. Free parking is available

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## **Homelessness: local and national perspectives**

### **Anne Jenkins**

#### **Abstract**

##### **Homelessness in the ACT: A profile of clients of ACT's homelessness central access point, August 2011.**

The assessment data collected by ACT's central access point for homelessness services, First Point, provides a unique opportunity to understand demand for these services and allows us to profile the population of those experiencing homelessness. Following Census night 2011, calls were made to all First Point clients to record their living arrangements and other circumstances on that night. The majority of those interviewed were in circumstances in which they would be unlikely to be identified as homeless through information recorded in the Australian Census. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients were more likely to be in primary homelessness, showed a greater degree of instability in their place of residence, and were less likely to have participated in the Census. Administrative data provided by services such as First Point provide a rich source of information to tailor service delivery and program development to best meet local needs.

**Anne Jenkins** Anne Jenkins has worked in the area of welfare statistics and research since completing her doctorate at the Australian National University on the psychological factors affecting the compliance of nursing homes with quality of care standards. During her time as Head of the Aged Care Unit at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, she published a number of reports on topics such as the incorporation of consumer feedback in quality measures for community care services, reports examining access to aged care services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and projections of the future supply of carers. Anne has worked in the ACT Government's Community Services Directorate for the last eight years as manager of Data and Research, and has recently joined the Housing and Community Services area of this Directorate where her most recent work is a survey of the circumstances of clients of registered with the ACT's central access point for homelessness services.

### **Leon Donovan**

#### **Abstract**

##### **Indigenous Homelessness in Australia.**

What are the unique characteristics of Indigenous homelessness and how demographic changes make this an ongoing challenge for policy development and program management?

What are the current government responses to Indigenous homelessness and how does this fit within the broader homelessness reform agenda.

**Leon Donovan** Leon Donovan is a Gumbanyngirr man from Macksville on the North Coast of NSW.

Leon has been in the Australian Public Service since 1989. During this time he has held both mainstream and identified positions and has been working in the field of Indigenous Affairs for the past 12 years. Like a lot of Indigenous people, Leon possess a wealth of life experience and over the years in both his personal and professional life he has come face to face with the disadvantage and also the success of Indigenous People. His professional career has seen him progress to become a Senior Indigenous Staff member in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and he now has national responsibility for Homelessness. Leon is in the processes of completing an Executive Masters in Public Administration through the Australian New Zealand School of Governments. He is also a member of the National Indigenous Rugby League Council and who were instrumental in supporting the inaugural All Stars Game on the Gold Coast.