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## **MAKING M.E.R.I. WORKSHOP - A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO PROGRAM PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNITY BASED PRACTICE**

Category: Communities/Community Development

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**Introduction:** As health professionals, increasingly we need to demonstrate how we make a difference to the health and wellbeing of the people and communities with whom we work.

The ***Making MERI methodology*** has been developed over years as a participatory approach that integrates planning, Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting and Improvement processes to show how interventions contribute to agreed outcomes and impact on the lives of individuals, families and communities. It takes account of complex sociocultural, economic and environmental factors that characterize community-based programs that aim to address health inequalities and disadvantage.

**Objectives:** This workshop will present a clear, staged conceptual model and practical strategies for the development of a MERI framework. The framework identifies expected results, performance indicators, key evaluation questions and the means to answer these through routine monitoring and periodic evaluation, and generates evidence to support decision-making, contribution to goals, reporting and program refinement based on lessons learned.

Specifically, participants will:

- Build understanding of the role and purpose of MERI
- Consider key MERI concepts, steps and implications for program design and implementation
- Explore a range of practical tools and techniques to use in a variety of situations
- Discuss implementation barriers and strategies for addressing these
- Develop beginning level skills to plan and implement a MERI process.

**Method:** Through a participatory action-learning, small group work approach, the use of three case scenarios (disaster response, children with disability, and aged care) will enable participants an opportunity to share insights, discuss and apply learning. Supported by PowerPoint and handout material. Half-day. 15-30 Participants.

