



THE CRANLANA PROGRAMME

Canberra Public Service Colloquium 2012

Designed for Commonwealth Senior Executives

OVERVIEW

The Cranlana Programme is delighted to offer two custom-designed seminars in 2012 specifically tailored for senior executives in the Commonwealth public service.

Sunday 18 March – Friday 23 March 2012
Closing date for registration and payment, 3 February

Sunday 25 November – Friday 30 November 2012
Closing date for registration and payment, 12 October

Based on the highly successful Colloquium model offered in Melbourne and Perth, the Canberra Public Sector Colloquium has been running since 2009.

INTRODUCTION

We do place special responsibility with the public leaders charged with protecting our financial system, those entrusted to run our regulatory agencies, and the chief executives of companies whose failures drove us to crisis. These individuals sought and accepted positions of significant responsibility and obligation. Tone at the top does matter and, in this instance, we were let down. No one said “no.”
Angelides P., Thomas B., et al. The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, The Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, United States of America (2011)

Public sector leaders are increasingly called upon to make decisions in complex environments, where competing perspectives and seemingly incompatible values are at play. Decisions are often made under pressure and in highly politicised settings. These judgments can have significant long-term moral and ethical ramifications.

The Cranlana Programme can help better equip public sector leaders with a set of value-based frameworks for making difficult decisions where there may not always be a clear choice between right and wrong, and where tensions exist between social, economic and environmental forces, and indeed, public expectations and national interest.

Through moderated roundtable discussions drawing upon the ideas from influential texts, participants can broaden their perspectives and strengthen decision-making capability. They will be challenged to consider the underlying values, principles and assumptions that determine their actions. The Colloquium gives participants the time to reflect on matters of public responsibility and ethical behaviour in an independent and confidential environment.

ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

The Cranlana Programme (TCP) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organisation, initiated by The Myer Foundation in 1993. The broad objective of TCP is to cultivate wisdom in leadership. It offers people with senior responsibilities the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the philosophical, ethical and social issues central to creating a just, prosperous and sustainable society in Australia.

Since its inception in 1993, the organisation has run some 60 high-level colloquia, 30 two-day symposia on topics such as justice and society, power and ethics, the value of democracy and

business and ethics, plus a number of issue-specific seminars, lectures and roundtable policy dialogues. More than 1900 senior-level public servants in the federal and state governments, business and community leaders have participated in our seminars.

Since 2005, the organisation has also conducted quarterly Colloquium tailored to the needs of the Victorian public service, which has a proven track record of delivering a challenging and rewarding leadership experience to participants.

Over the past few years, The Cranlana Programme has offered a high quality professional development experience to Australia's senior public servants in Canberra. This programme provides an engaging environment for active reflection, informed discussion and respectful debate on matters of public responsibility and ethical behaviour.

OBJECTIVES

Providing a rare opportunity for senior executives in the Commonwealth public service to examine their roles and responsibilities, the broad objectives of the Canberra Public Sector Colloquium are to:

- Critically reflect on the role of leadership and ethics in a confidential and respectful environment
- Consider the values and principles underpinning Australia's liberal democracy and the practical application of these in a public policy context
- Examine the tensions and trade-offs between notions of community, prosperity, liberty, equality and sustainability in decision-making
- Enhance the capability of public sector leaders to exercise informed, ethical and effective judgement

METHODOLOGY

The Canberra Public Sector Colloquium will be led by expert moderators, who are highly conversant both with TCP's method of structured roundtable discussion and with the concerns of federal public sector leaders. It is designed for 20 participants (maximum) at the Band 1 and 2 level.

Each participant will receive a set of selected readings which provides common ground for discussion and consideration. These are taken from a number of influential texts that have shaped the foundations of Australian society, from classical philosophers to contemporary 21st century writers. Participants are able to consider the practical application of ideas canvassed in the readings to their own departmental and policy context. The method is not prescriptive or training based but designed to encourage shared enquiry among peers to stimulate new and adaptive thinking.

BENEFITS

This is an opportunity to invest in the leadership capability of the Commonwealth public service. The Colloquium provides an environment for critical reflection, inquiry and knowledge building in order to further refine the decision-making capability of our senior public servants. It is specifically designed to assist those in positions of responsibility to respond to challenges that require careful deliberation and management of competing tensions.

The Canberra Public Service Colloquium is part of an ongoing program to meet the professional learning and development needs of Australia's most senior public servants. It offers them an opportunity to engage with peers in considering common policy challenges, to revisit the underlying values and principles of Australian society, and to establish a clear vision for ethical and responsible public leadership.

DETAILS FOR REGISTRATION

The colloquium is non-residential and is conducted at Old Parliament House in Parkes.

Positions are limited so early booking is recommended.

Queries regarding the colloquia can be directed to:

Ms Helenka King, General Manager, The Cranlana Programme
Email: helenka@cranlana.org.au
Tel: (03) 9827 2660

To submit a registration form or for queries about the application process please contact:

Ms Lara Sucharov, Seminar Administrator, The Cranlana Programme
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QUOTES FROM PAST PARTICIPANTS OF THE CANBERRA COLLOQUIA

- 'The Colloquium was extremely beneficial in providing an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the dilemmas faced in both work and life. It provided a framework for undertaking thinking about complex issues that can often be dealt with in a routine way rather than tackled at a more fundamental level.'
- 'A rare and wonderful opportunity to stimulate and challenge our values and the way we think.'
- 'It is relevant to almost all aspects of public sector work and development of ethical and public interest standards. It is highly useful in providing a framework to the daily decisions we make on policy development.'
- 'It is an extremely useful opportunity to take a step back from day-to-day work to reflect on the ethical and philosophical underpinnings of our personal and collective approach to problems and policies.'