

Peter Ellis

Basics

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Key skills

15+ years as a leader, manager, change agent...

- Econometric and statistical analysis, inference and data visualisation
- Organisational planning, performance monitoring and finance
- Business and process improvement
- Programme policy and management
- Evaluation, research and knowledge management
- International government relations
- Computing (expert): R, Shiny
- Computing (competent): SQL, LaTeX, Git, CSS, HTML, JavaScript, SAS, Python

Education

- Master of Applied Statistics (Australian National University, 2002)
- Master of Arts in Development Studies (Murdoch University, 1997)
- Bachelor of Music (WA Conservatorium of Music, 1992)

Employment history

Apr 2013 –

Manager Sector Performance / Sector Trends, MBIE

- Establish and manage team of twelve staff and \$4.5 million

Key achievements

- *Quickly established team and its reputation as a leader in the public sector for analytics results with modern techniques including innovative approaches to databases, version control, and data visualisation*

Apr 2011 – Apr 2013

Manager Tourism Research and Evaluation, MED

- Manage team of seven staff and \$4 million through time of change

Key achievements

- *Tourism Data Improvement Programme including strategic procurement repositioning; redevelopment of the International Visitors Survey; creation of the Regional Tourism Indicators; and transition to modern database and statistical tools*
- *Initiated and implemented a step change increase in team statistical and data visualisation capability*

- Jun 2010 - Feb 2011* **Acting Deputy Director Process, Planning and Performance**, MFAT
- Manage the team reforming New Zealand Aid Programme operational policy and processes
- Key achievements*
- *Successfully managed the complex “Changing the way we manage aid” project with process, IT and staff skills change management elements*
- May 2007 – Jun 2010* **Senior Advisor - Monitoring and Results**, MFAT
(equivalent to Principal Advisor at MBIE)
- Advise on monitoring and evaluation frameworks for aid projects and programmes and for partner countries, particularly in the Pacific
- Key achievements*
- *New performance reporting framework including strengthened systems for planning, monitoring and reporting on programmes and activities*
 - *New programme planning and reporting cycle*
 - *New activity quality framework*
- Sep 2006 – Apr 2007* **Director** (one of several), AusAID Office of Development Effectiveness
- Support overhaul of AusAID’s quality and performance systems
- Key achievements*
- *Improved processes for activity completion reporting*
- Jul 2004 – Jul 2006* **Counsellor, Development Cooperation** (AusAID: Australian Embassy, Dili, Timor Leste)
- Implementation of Australia’s A\$42 million per year development cooperation program with Timor Leste
 - Manage team of 14 staff (managing managers, with four direct reports); oversight of over 100 in-country aid workers
- Key achievements*
- *Transfer of program management from Canberra to Dili*
 - *Significant program development particularly in water and sanitation, civil service capacity building, and health sectors*
 - *Restructure of the AusAID office in the Embassy and ongoing capacity development of local staff*

- Aug 2002 – Jun 2004* **Director Program Evaluation** (AusAID)
- Manage AusAID's centralised evaluation function, budget and staff
 - Undertake high profile and sensitive reviews
- Key achievements*
- *Significant reforms of AusAID's evaluation and quality assurance systems – including independent completion reports and mandatory minimum ex-post evaluations*
 - *New system of peer review of the quality of proposed activities*
- Jul 2001 – Apr 2002* **Manager Performance Information** (AusAID)
- Manage unit responsible for maintaining, reviewing and improving AusAID's performance information systems and external reporting
- Key achievements*
- *New processes and IT system for knowledge management*
- Jul 2000 – Jun 2001* **Research Assistant** and **tutor** (Curtin and Murdoch Universities) while on leave without pay (personal reasons) from AusAID
- Cutting edge statistical analysis; literature research and writing
 - Tutoring and guest lecturing on Global Environmental Issues
- Key achievements*
- *Publication of statistical political analysis in international journals*
- May 1999 – Jun 2000* **Manager Economics and Coordination Unit** (Pacific Branch, AusAID) / economics specialist
- Manage a team of three to four staff and the A\$12m Pacific regional economics governance program
- Key achievements*
- *Successful management of complex inter-country programmes in areas ranging from customs administration to fiscal reform*
- Sep 1998 - May 1999* **Budget officer**, Corporate Planning and Budget Section (AusAID).
- Key achievements*
- *Successful transition of the aid budget from program-basis and cash accounting to accrual appropriation and outcomes and outputs basis, and devolution of responsibility from Department of Finance to AusAID*

Papers, reports and publications (selected; * indicates academic peer reviewed)

- I publish a blog on statistics at <http://ellis.github.io>
- Peter Ellis (2015), "Organisation capability from automated data collection into a highly abstracted flexible database with an open source analytical layer", *Australasian Enterprise Datawarehousing and Business Intelligence Conference*
- Ian Westbrooke and Peter Ellis (2014), "Training to develop modern statistics in the workplace using R and R Commander – experiences from the New Zealand government sector", *9th International Conference on Teaching Statistics*
- Peter Ellis and Rebecca Burson (2014), "Using electronic card transaction data to measure and monitor regional tourism in New Zealand", *13th Global Forum on Tourism Statistics*
- Peter Ellis (2010), "The ethics of taking sides" in Horton and Roche (eds) *Ethical Questions and International NGOs*, Springer*
- Peter Ellis (2008) "Review of Completed Assistance for Statistics in the Pacific", NZAID Evaluation and Review Resource Collection
- Peter Ellis (2007), "NGOs - programs, advocacy, politics and ethics" *Ethical issues for development NGOs* (conference paper)
- Peter Ellis (2006), "Impact Evaluation", *Office of Development Effectiveness Briefing note*
- Peter Ellis (2004), "Ten points for better monitoring and evaluation", *Development Bulletin*
- Peter Ellis (2004), "Evaluating the Australian development cooperation program – a third generation in program evaluation?", *Canberra Bulletin of Public Administration*
- David Charnock and Peter Ellis (2004) "Postmaterialism and Postmodernization in Australian Electoral Politics", *Electoral Studies**
- David Charnock and Peter Ellis (2003) "The Structure of the Australian Party System and its Strategic Consequences", *Australian Journal of Political Science**
- Peter Ellis and Cameron Hill (2003), "Review of Incentives and the Australian Aid Program", *Evaluation and Review Series No. 32*, Canberra: AusAID
- David Charnock and Peter Ellis (2002, 2003) – various conference papers on electoral politics
- Peter Ellis and Brad Pettitt (1999) "'Broom or Mop?' Oxfam Community Aid Abroad - challenges for the new millennium" (OCAA national conference paper)
- Peter Ellis (1997) "Alleviation or eradication of poverty: the changing role of aid" *Development Bulletin* vol. 40

Other achievements

- Winner inaugural Conservatorium of Western Australia Chamber Music Competition (1991)
- Joint winner of inaugural Town and Country Scholarship for students entering fourth year at the WA Academy of Performing Arts (1991)
- Dux of Perth Modern School; and Year 12 Physics and Chemistry award (1988)

Voluntary and professional associations

- Chair (Sep 2011 - 2013) of the *42collective*, the governing organisation of the Conscious Consumers project which won the Ministry for the Environment's 2011 Green Ribbon Award for an outstanding contribution to "Minimising our Waste"
- President (2010), Vice President (2009), Treasurer (2008/2009), Executive Committee member (2008 –), *New Zealand Foreign Service Association*. Stepped down from President role to avoid conflict of interest with leadership role in the MFAT change programme
- Current member: *New Zealand Statistical Association*; *US Backgammon Federation*