

**Dr Tim Reddel
presents 'Looking
back while
imagining the
future(s): designing
and implementing
contemporary place
based policies'**

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Fifteen years ago in reflecting on Australian place based policy approaches since the Second World War, I was attentive to broader public policy debates about the relationship between state and non-state institutions (especially civil society) in addressing various manifestations of what was badged as locational disadvantage. Contemporary (at the time) networked or 'new' governance models were promoted as both a bridge and more fundamentally a challenge to what I argued was the false differentiation of 'command and control' public statism, competitive based markets or community driven spatial policy interventions. This new paper aims to update my earlier work given contemporary societal, political and policy trends by exploring key issues, questions and conundrums such as:

- The dynamic (and uneven) effects of globalisation and economic restructuring including increasing economic inequality and decreasing social mobility for some people and places;
- Ongoing political instability in nation states globally, debates about the future of democratic capitalism, populism, social cohesion, citizen disengagement and plummeting levels of trust in political and social institutions;
- The impact of current and possible future technological disruptions relating to information and work with public policy thinking struggling to respond;
- Understanding the socio-economic geography and 'identity' of local communities and population groups; and
- Emerging challenges to traditional policy design and implementation models in the context of big data, greater focus on evidence and outcomes based evaluation, predictive analysis tools, social investment thinking and codesign with citizens and other stakeholders.

Dr Reddel has been the Group Manager of the Policy Office in the Department of Social Services (DSS) since July 2016, leading the Department's policy, research and evaluation strategies, policy evidence capacity and the implementation of the Priority Investment Approach to Welfare. Prior to this Dr Reddel was Group Manager of DSS's Program Office and was also the Deputy Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services.

THURSDAY 18TH MAY from 2pm – 3pm
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