

# Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis

## Special Issue (2006-2007)

### *Building Policy Capability in the Public Sector*

#### **Guest Co-editors**

Claudia Scott, Victoria University of Wellington and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government

John Wanna, Australian National University and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government

#### *Invitation*

The Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis is preparing a special issue on "Building Policy Capability in the Public Sector." Advisory systems in many countries are modifying existing policy practices as they respond to new governance arrangements and other changes to the policy environment. Governments have responded with new methods, approaches and strategies and raised issues as to the comparative advantage which public sector advisers can bring to their role, relative to others.

The editors invite you to submit a paper for this special issue which will be reviewed according to the Journals' normal blind fold procedures. Papers should be no more than 6,000 words. Priority will be given to articles which report on practices in two or more jurisdictions or address theories and experiences which are globally applicable.

Accepted proposals will be presented and discussed at the **3rd ICPA-Forum Workshop** at the Australian National University. The Workshop will take place on November 28-29, 2006. It is hoped that this will facilitate the subsequent reviewing process and publication of the special issue.

#### **Deadlines**

July 15, 2006 - 250 word abstract

September 15, 2006 - Submission of paper

PLEASE SEND YOUR contributions and any inquiries TO BOTH **Claudia Scott** AND **John Wanna**

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# 3rd ICPA-Forum Workshop

## *Building Policy Capability in the Public Sector*

The topic, "Building Policy Capability in the Public Sector," is one which lends itself to comparative policy analysis and also to the discussion of issues which are shared across many countries. Many government leaders complain openly about declining capability and capacity in the public sector, though there is limited information and analysis to understand the nature of and solutions to real or perceived problems. Issues surrounding policy capability relate to the features of quality policy analysis and advice and to the way in which advisers can enhance the quality of decisionmaking.

It is more difficult for governments to impose top-down solutions and to ignore the demand for tailored community solutions. New frameworks and approaches reflect a focus on outcomes; the use of programme/intervention logic and systems frameworks; greater attention to international evidence and experiences as guides to policy development; and the pursuit of more complex policy goals and objectives involving partnership models with the private and community sectors.

The **3rd JCPA/ICPA-Forum Workshop** will be held in Canberra at the Australian National University on Tuesday November 28, 2006 to workshop the papers. An open discussion and meeting of the JCPA editorial board will be held on Wednesday, November 29. Contributors for the **JCPA/ICPA-Forum Workshop** are likely to come forward from several countries including Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, UK and the US. The workshop is sponsored by the Australian National University, University of Wellington, ANZSOG, Routledge/Francis and Taylor, and the ICPA-Forum Sponsorship Program.

The Australia and New Zealand School of Government will provide some financial support for a limited number of contributors (4-5) to travel to the JCPA/ICPA-Forum Workshop and for accommodation.

The organizing committee will comprise the editors - Professors Claudia Scott and John Wanna, as well as Professor Evert Lindquist from the University of Victoria and Professor Iris Geva-May of Simon Fraser University, Vancouver.

Professor John Wanna has invited participants to attend a 3 day GovNet international research conference immediately following the symposium. Professor Claudia Scott is exploring the possibility of a conference in New Zealand covering a wider agenda surrounding policy capability issues, which will precede the conferences. The JCPA/ICPA-Forum will sponsor a core discussion symposia promoting a dialogue between government officials and scholars in the field. Accommodation will be provided by the guest institutions to contributors.