

## **AFTER THE BUDGET: FIGHT BACK WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING (ADVICE TO STUDENTS, ALUMNI AND RELATED OTHERS)**

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank Street Glebe, [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

### **SUPPORT REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC PLANNING BEFORE COLLEGIATE CULTURES IN AN OPEN MULTICULTURAL APPROACH BASED ON GLOBAL AND NATIONAL DIRECTIONS**

Student and industrial matters at Sydney University are here addressed as models in related global, regional and local planning and development contexts. From the government and community perspectives, including students and those looking **for work, learning, exercise or entertainment**, this advice may be thought of as being about how to save huge amounts of common anxiety and money, by preferring broadly informed, clear and open communication to dealing with a multiplicity of legal, financial, academic, bureaucratic and other professional closed shops. This is the context in which regional and strategic plans, such as that of Sydney Uni, must now align to fix the comparative lack of regional planning focus, by greater cooperative openness to achieve planning aims and better practice.

*(You shoot yourself in the foot if you go down this road with lawyers, as I said to the man with disability at the demo. Others become frightened to take you on. We need planning.)*

One learns from a recent edition of the student newspaper 'Honi Soit', in an article entitled 'Students should pay more, earn less: Commission of Audit', that the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Sydney University has offered to write a related opinion piece for Honi Soit. One hopes he wants to promote the strategic plan to readers. This may be seen as the key alternative to Joe Hockey's **prosecution** (sic.) of his recent budget. Students should support it.

Sydney Uni. should grow the business broadly and primarily through the strategic plan, by forging related links far beyond the commonly driving professional and academic placement silos, globally and regionally. Students should also demand much cheaper, better education that is better administered and more widely available. This is discussed later.

I taught at Sydney University for eleven years. As a former public servant and active member of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) I tried to develop a teaching approach to assist the university to develop this United Nations (UN), national and regional planning direction, to which Australian governments have been committed through legislation and via the enterprise bargain. The NTEU would not recognize or assist this, but wanted to drive everybody in a one size fits all agreement. Theirs is losing direction. One wonders what it is. See global and national planning ideal on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) This is ideally put into practice in regional planning and projects for earning and learning.

Hillary Clinton thinks there is a giant right wing conspiracy and I believe it's global. (Bring in the Jews?) The Australian Leader of the Opposition appears right in seeing the Treasurer's recent budget as based on systematic and wilful lies akin to right-wing US direction, although the Treasurer denies it. There remain, however, many 19<sup>th</sup> century British drivers as well. The Business Council of Australia (BCA) is worried families and young people trying

to work could be hit too heavily by changes to health and social security arrangements in the budget. The Canberra-based National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM), as well as ANU public policy experts Peter Whiteford and Daniel Nethery, plus the polling analysis by both sides of politics, appear to support this BCA concern, according to the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) and the Australian Financial Review (AFR). Fix it.

Youth fight back is vitally necessary. However, the collegiate cultures and the NTEU appear to share related interests, which often appear unfriendly to youth and to cheap and good education. (Believe me, I worked in the Faculty of Health Sciences.) However, young people also never knew how far we have come in how short a time in the provision of the welfare state since 1975. Today it is important to avoid incentives to entrench the sick roles which appear essentially related to avoidance of anxiety and stress and which may easily lead to further breakdown combined with excessively high fat, high sugar diets and lack of exercise. At Sydney Uni. students should demand cheaper, more openly available subjects and back the Strategic Plan direction as their union focus. Related directions are addressed later.

From honest development and democratic perspectives, reliable information is a pearl beyond price. (Think of mother love.) However, market and collegiate cultures appear committed to the view that the ideal competitive way is comparatively closed and up, rather than reaching out broadly first. This increases financial instability, cost-shifting, inequality and budget cost without reducing the effects of these key global problems.

In its Action Plan for Enduring Prosperity the BCA states *over the next 20 years the rate at which supply of water and land is added globally would have to increase by 140 percent and 250 percent respectively, compared to the past 20 years* (p. 34). Support broader planning to prevent competition designed in the interests of financial and professional elites through associations which also bring environment degradation for all. (Gun culture is an obvious example. Try breeding rare natives that are not human instead in related parks or gardens.)

From the ideal post war UN and Australian perspectives, ideal welfare directions are reflected in new conventions or laws that are related to equal treatment of certain groups and to expected minimum standards of living or quality of life for all. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights began this regional planning approach after World War 2.

Openly related rural and urban planning directions appear a necessary part of more stable development in the developing and developed regions. Treat desertification and water problems first because they are central to the management of populations and borders. In the article 'How Australia can benefit from Asian momentum', Changyong Rhee, head of the International Monetary Fund's Asia and Pacific Department said (AFR 1.5.14, p. 53):

We are poised to benefit from increased demand by Asia's emerging middle class for **higher education, tourism, business services, health care, and financial services.**

In the Asian century, Australians should also take most seriously the words of Premier Li Keqiang in the article 'People's Express' (AFR 2.5.14, 5R). He said:

The key is to reap a reform dividend. We need to make public finances more transparent, liberalise interest rates, cut wasteful government spending and allow

small businesses to flourish. Reform will hurt vested interests but the interests of the vast population are the top priority of the government. I am ready to cut through the vested interests to carry out the much needed changes.

When key men in suits say things like this it is only sense to take them seriously and help. Land, construction and property management are key supporting drivers. (In the Asian Century I am also tipping Marx and Freud will come back as supports for Mao and Dylan.)

In Australia, potentially related aspects of the Hockey budget appear to present a partial vision of regional planning, **communications** and competition. Hockey invites rebuttal and is getting it first from state premiers. Australians must grasp and ground this to assist people in the private and public sectors to work more effectively and fairly in the broader public interest, rather than separately and against each other, or in secret collusions which may or may not be corrupt. Perfect information is necessary for perfect competition. Competition on price alone led to the global financial crisis of 2008 and will again. Universities can openly pivot the society on good strategic plans but not on closed collegiate cultures (e.g. law and the multiple brethren). Students, alumni and others should meet vice-chancellors to demand this and a much better, cheaper education discussed later.

#### **THE BUDGET DEMANDS BROADER REGIONAL UNDERSTANDING FOR GOOD RESPONSES**

The Hockey budget may be understood as a blindly partial strategic case for regional and organizational planning, to which other affected states should respond with modifying strategic plans, the more openly, broadly and flexibly developed the better. This budget also seems an ambit part of the broader regional way to combat problems of vertical fiscal imbalance. This is where Commonwealth, state and local governments and related public, private or voluntary organizations may drive their funded functions in any shared region comparatively blindly and narrowly with much ensuing red tape across and inside borders.

The importance of supporting university and related strategic planning direction, rather than professional and related collegiate cultures, is addressed in relation to the budget and to education, health care and aboriginal services later, using Sydney University as a model site.

The Hockey budget champions deregulation of university fees and cuts government subsidy. Besides offering loans to university students, it extends loan funding for technical and further education in government or private colleges, and for sub-bachelor degrees, at a projected cost of \$820 million. Related funds appear to be potential competitive drivers for regional state planning and related services, with the aim of broader industry and job development, lower student fees and costs, and for generally more stable, cost-effective development and risk management. Ideally this occurs through shared planning and funding direction, as Hilmer and the states intended in national competition policy. They saw competition as designed for social and environment objects, not just commercial ones.

These social and financial regional fund directions were begun in Australian industry and government plans in rehabilitation and workers compensation insurance, in health care and in non-profit industry superannuation funds in the 1980s. Their public and personal benefits and differences from the many other government, investment, commercial, or related

charitable and collegiate funding structures and interests must be grasped. One wonders in this context how any money in the budget for education will be tapped. I guess it should mainly occur in clearly related regional and strategic planning contexts; in matching bequests such as those made by Westpac at Sydney University and in open funds earmarked for related projects. This is discussed again later, using Sydney Uni. as an example.

It is more difficult to provide services designed in the interests of service consumers as individuals and taxpayers, rather than as service providers. However, services need to be clearly defined in place and person based contexts to vary and compare their outcomes in ways consistent with democratic rights and scientific development. Health care provision led a UN and Australian regional planning direction discussed later. In the Australian Financial Review (AFR), one notes warnings of the chair of the strategic review of health and medical research in 2012, and of significant others, that while they welcomed the Medical Research Future fund announced in the budget there is plenty of detail to thrash out.

The budget promised this new \$20 billion medical research fund. Whether it should come from a \$5 contribution by patients when visiting the doctor, with each visit costing the health care consumer \$7 with the other \$2 going to the doctor remains a moot question. The states will respond to this. What can the general practitioner do, one wonders, for the person suffering the accumulated bodily stresses of age, generalised anxiety, bad diet, smoking and lack of exercise, other than prescribe drugs or visits to more complex diagnostic specialists? The answer appears to lie mainly in adoption of better organized regional help towards more appropriate **work and exercise combinations in related travel, education, entertainment and built or natural environment services**. The promise of information technology is ideally to make this possible in organized ways beyond the social media. Is a medical record central?

When I began working in the Department of Industrial Relations and Employment under the Wran government, hardly anybody knew what anybody in the organization was doing, even on that bit of the building floor directly serving the minister and the court. We need to know what current government and related key functions are undertaken, in order to integrate them and their funding more rationally and effectively into regional and strategic planning.

In 2000, Australia began a coordinated health and disability management process with the development of regional health plans based on population profiles, including socio-economic indicators and a focus on the needs of the aged. This is a health service context in which all related service provision, (e.g. for crime prevention) may be addressed. Coordinated place management, community housing and crime prevention strategies are ideally implemented to achieve planning direction. Shared regional funds must be administered effectively in place and person based contexts. Dispute management and insurance ideally support this.

From national and regional planning perspectives, Queensland legislation appears likely to have the more inclusive and therefore the more efficient, equitable and comparable definition of 'health services', according to the Australian Health and Medical Advisory Committee consultation paper on the proposed terms of the National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers. It captures Queensland services for 'maintaining, improving, restoring, and managing people's wellbeing' (p. 36). This usefully supports the World Health

Organization (WHO 1946) definition of health as *'a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity'*. The broadest possible open reach is desirable in the context of global and related regional planning, research and insurance for improved and flexible treatments, to meet individual and community need and choice. Taxation and investments are ideally addressed in related regional contexts.

The budget provides an interesting possibility in regard to the open design of a regional rather than race based approach, in regard to aboriginal affairs, where more than 150 programs will be consolidated into 5, to be run out of the Prime Minister's Office. Total spending of \$4.8 billion will focus on the streamlined areas of jobs, land and the economy, children and school, safety and wellbeing, culture and capability and remote Australian strategies (SMH, 14.5.14). The construction of regional operations ideally requires openly multicultural approaches to fund management and related service delivery. Who are the potential service providers and how are they likely to be best used in regional rather than purely collegiate delivery contexts?

With the proposal to deregulate university fees, the Hockey budget appears likely to see continuation of the bulk **of** the Student Services Amenities Fee (SSAF) spent on sport for comparatively wealthy males at expensive colleges. Fight back with the Sydney University strategic plan against the rich, closed collegiate cultures this Commonwealth budget will represent unless sharply redirected by as many students and other communities as possible.

To improve job, housing, transport, entertainment and exercise through practice, and so serve students and related communities better, there should be better integration of student union information services and those of Sydney University. This is necessary to make better use of the SSAF and other funds, so as to openly serve regional planning and related strategic direction more effectively and flexibly. A key aim is to attract broader ranges of students and potential employers by facilitating the production of more transparent and useful work and learning outcomes, as a result of opening the student assessment and related product and research to a wider range of work and learning placements, for the benefit of all concerned.

One wonders what those in charitable organizations could add to this regional planning direction and ideally pose the related question to sporting, religious, political and other clubs and societies on campus and beyond. Commonwealth, state and local plans are now ideally managed more openly and cooperatively with related strategic plans grounded in places and in related universities and elsewhere. This is primarily a **place and person** rather than a **race and profession** based approach to development. It is ideally conducted with many associations that are encouraged to be more openly and thus more honestly competitive. Taxation, insurance and superannuation planning are ideally undertaken in related place, industry, community, fund and risk management contexts to meet goals which are social, environmental and economic. This is in contrast to the closed professional, collegiate or related market races.

The alternative is to be driven blindly by the exclusively financial and professional price interest that has repeatedly driven financial instability and cost; regional social inequality; environment destruction and related species loss. The World Health Organization (WHO), UN, Australian government and charitable directions try vainly to address this against the earlier colonial, professional and related government, market and military or tribal odds. Health care,

aboriginal and education services ideally appear as drivers of change to serve the **budget key stakeholders** better. These are the current Australian populations and future generations in which the local community and the typical and unique individual are also represented. University strategic plans ideally bear open pivotal relationships to earning and learning.

### **STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND OTHERS SHOULD DEMAND CHEAPER, BETTER EDUCATION THROUGH UNIVERSITY RESTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT STRATEGIC AND REGIONAL PLANS**

Students, alumni and related community interests should seek deregulation of collegiate and professional closed shops in many universities and in related educational and research institutions, with the aim of seeing more open educational product made available more broadly and delivered far more cheaply and flexibly. This product is ideally constructed more clearly and openly in the service of the university strategic plan and related strategic plans in global, regional and local arenas. Collegiate cultures resist this because it brings the potential for cross border judgment and debate when they prefer to feed more heavily and narrowly in shadow. It is also offensive to construct aid programs for people reproducing in the desert like rabbits, while poaching the top end to make their futures abroad, whether or not via the old traditional networks of bums on incredibly and unnecessarily expensive seats. (See later letter to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie about Nigeria before Boko Haram.)

At Sydney Uni. for example, ***students should demand their education be clearly related to the strategic plan and administratively treated to make it far cheaper, more conveniently available and better quality, by also being open to the theoretical and practical judgment of all.*** Students should demand education be ***made much cheaper through better delivery of its product (lessons, books, articles and related assessment and research, entertainment or exercise products).*** This should occur in better organized administrative contexts than collegiate ones, using more flexible, open teaching methods (press, websites, films, TV etc.) (Consider the history of the British Open University, radio, TV and tutors in the community.)

Before retiring at 60, after attending a meeting of students in the School of Geosciences who were angry because subjects they wanted to do were suddenly cut, I realized student choice should be maximized in regard to subjects they are allowed to gain credit for across the organization and beyond. Students are paying for a particular qualification, supposedly related to a professional registration of competence, yet their future working life appears unknown and likely to be below their expectations. (When I left high school at 14 anybody could get a job and change it at will.) Students should at least be able to do the subjects that they or another person who pays for them wants them to do. This would be better conducted broadly and openly under the strategic planning direction, rather than having multiple academic or professional interests ruling closed shops and lengthening queues.

If the university can't be administered better than it is, to bring down the costs of collegiate driven education to students, while also improving it mightily, I'll eat my hat. Also eliminate many truly stupid multiple choice tests and related assessment practices which students may or may not hate but staff love as it quickly gets them back to research. This is not even to start on the virtues of more open, accessible and flexible product for making things better

and cheaper through the related encouragement of more broadly learned debate. Construction, for example, hosts ranges of men. Test and place more of them in practice.

In typically closed professional shops, student assessments appear increasingly likely to be theoretical and marked by computers as this saves so much of the teachers' time and students can't argue with a number. As I pointed out in response to the 'Vocational Education and Training (VET) Workforce' report of the Productivity Commission (PC), Instead of requiring Certificate IV in Training and Assessment for the VET workforce, certify the capacity to openly demonstrate specified industry skills and related key quality and risk management requirements of law and contract. Current review of the Australian Government Building and Construction occupational health and safety accreditation scheme should examine options such as 'recognition' and 'provisional accreditation', with a related view of measures to improve access to Commonwealth-funded projects for all relevant producers and their workers.

A quick instructional film to be picked up for free with a national newspaper, might also have seen deaths and fires avoided during the government funded roof insulation scheme after the global financial crisis of late 2008. My experienced guess is that key trades and trainers would have resisted this obvious approach to worker and public safety. The closed shop which hides or cannot express its knowledge clearly is dangerous to many. What is true in the case of tradesmen is true for lawyers, financial advisers and their mates in spades. If it can't be put openly in plain English cut them out of the picture. Intelligent open operation saves money as people know roughly what they are doing, which is fitting into the strategic planning direction, or something else they may openly justify as useful. Colonization of many professional arenas by psychologists contributes too much to trust. Give history, literature, real statisticians and the movies a chance or we will all go blind.

There is a common need to improve information and related communication and administrative flows to benefit university alumni, staff, post-graduate students, undergraduate students and related communities through their community offices, such as those of the City of Sydney Council, in government departments and in communities beyond.

Regional and strategic planning ideally incorporate work and compliance openly as aspects of communications, development, learning and research, in line with achieving the ideal aims of competition which are social and environmental as well as commercial. In this context, the NSW Office of Fair Trading Home Building Contract seems a clear and helpful product which could be used more broadly. It must be completed properly for quality management. Clause 11 of the contract is the prime cost items schedule. When completed it should clearly display the required inputs and amounts related to the step by step achievement of the key conditions which led to the contract agreement and its expected production outcomes. Clause 12 provides the progress payments schedule, related to the staged and approved completion of work. This may relate also to the schedule for inspections. This ideally ensures work quality, the resulting periodic payment and any related accreditation of skills development on the job.

Film is great. Like the Student Assembly at Sydney Uni, I have often wondered what the library and administrative staff can do to obtain the greatest value for the institution from the historical product of the staff, students, alumni, and others. They appear historically bound by

multiple poorly expressed scholarly interests, so that rather than helping the strategic planning direction, they are keeping their riches locked up. Academics traditionally operate like collegiate knights round many tables, wrongly assuming the expression of their individual interests reflects the interests of all. They are ideally included democratically instead, with reference to their particular strengths and weaknesses. Make better use of the old discarded like myself who are prepared to offer information services free. See [www.Caroldonnell.com.au](http://www.Caroldonnell.com.au) Mothers take a related view of a lot of key waste. (Zero waste my foot. Help us understand it.)

In the absence of a related strategic planning direction, academics will be pushed in more secret production driven by sectional interests, like government or markets. The institution also seems doomed to be captured by professional and academic interests so that closed and expensive academic journals dominated by US institutions send our students piles of harmful ideology and practice by associates who must first champion the practices that led to the last global financial crisis. Yet these expensively closed US academic publications are usually also cheaper than the English language rest, as a result of the international economies of scale that such collegiate and related interests command through their duchessing power. Go open as the Australian democratic development trajectory is demonstrably a key strength to promote.

To improve job, housing, transport, entertainment and exercise through practice, and so serve students and communities better, there should be better integration of student union information services and those of Sydney University. This is necessary to make better use of the SSAF and other funds, so as to openly serve regional planning and related strategic direction more effectively and flexibly. A key aim is to attract broader ranges of students by facilitating the production of more transparent and useful work and learning outcomes, as a result of opening the student assessment and related product and research to a wider range of work and learning placements, for the benefit of all concerned. One wonders what those in charitable organizations could add to this regional planning direction and ideally pose the related question to sporting, religious, political and other clubs and societies on campus.

In general, the budget claims the need to deregulate student fees but ignores the need to deregulate the professional, academic and student silos hiding the value of their wares from any judgment beside those they have lured to the outer fringes of their particular, expensive, theoretically closed clubs. Open operation and justification is the best and cheapest protection of funds as well as the best motor of learning. Any individual or group could offer it.

Universities are in powerful positions to help others fix many of the problems which account for the increasing inequality between rich and poor communities; for the degradation of the earth; and which brought us our latest global financial crisis. However, they do comparatively little to tackle these problems as they serve as the traditional nests of powerful, secretive, professional and research interests who often pretend many of the comparatively obvious remedies and practical skills that solutions may rest on are beneath their notice. Adopt strategic planning direction to reduce these problems.

### **OPERATE COMMON FUNDS OPENLY WITH CLEARLY RELATED CONTRACTS**

Open operation and justification are the best and cheapest protections and educational strategies. In this context, the Westpac Banking Corporation establishment of a \$100 million

education fund to give 100 university scholarships each year in perpetuity appears a welcome initiative, following a bequest of \$20 million to the University of Sydney by former Worley Parsons chief, John Grill, and others. The Westpac Bicentennial Foundation is described (AFR 3.4.14, p.1) as the largest private education scholarship program in Australia's history. This appears to be a design to lead the rest to the strategic plan and should be openly followed by others. The \$100 million will be placed in a charitable trust.

The regional environment, work, health and insurances are ideally addressed in related place and service categories, (paid work or not) according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC). Ideally this system enables better planning and data gathering for work and related land, community development and risk management purposes globally and locally. This state direction was designed in workers' compensation insurance and in related injury, rehabilitation, maintenance and re-employment systems. It is also logically addressed in Medicare and related health and industry superannuation plans.

Currently in NSW the environment direction is now also being addressed in Crown Lands and in other lands and housing, as well as in related regional plans. Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, keynote speaker at the last Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), pointed out reform of local government must begin with the recognition that the 'three Rs' of *roads, rates, and rubbish* are a limited aspect of the fundamental council role *which is about creating attractive, prosperous, healthy and safe communities; places where people want to live, work and do business*'. Relationships between urban and rural planning are ideally seen in openly related global, regional and local planning contexts.

Since the 1960's, the development of the Australian national reserve system has been based on the biodiversity related principles of comprehensiveness, adequateness and representativeness (CAR). In 1992 the UN Rio Declaration on Environment committed governments to producing healthier environments. Its first principle is that humans are at the centre of concern for sustainable development and entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. More openly stable investments and related markets are ideally constructed in this global context. These international scientific principles are directly related to the development of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalization of Australia (IBRA) system which divides Australia into 85 distinct biogeographic regions and 403 sub-regions. IBRA provides a scientific land planning framework and tool to aid regional development and related research practice consistent with the realization of the CAR biodiversity principles.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UN 1992) described the ecosystem approach as 'a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way'. This requires planning and the 'whole-of-ecosystem' approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity is ideally addressed in strategic planning contexts. The Convention goals are to:

- Maintain viable populations of all native species in situ
- Represent, within protected areas, all native ecosystem types across their natural range of variation
- Maintain evolutionary and ecological processes

- Manage over periods of time long enough to maintain the evolutionary potential of species
- ***Accommodate human use and occupancy within these constraints***

The profit motive underwriting public or private funds alone, has been linked with increasingly ignorant, costly and high risk practices for all related businesses, in comparison with more open and stable fund designs. For good insurance, instead of paying an insurance premium to an insurance company; which then owns this money and thus underwrites the risk; with the purely financial interests of its shareholders primarily in view; the premium is ideally paid into a jointly owned government and industry fund. Organizations are then contracted to invest the fund on behalf of those who own the fund, and to meet related aims of the fund for its ideal beneficiaries (key stakeholders), outlined in legislation and contract.

From any perspective, the type of professional indemnity or other insurance required; who pays the premium to whom and for what; may depend on whether the worker is a subcontractor, employee or engaged in some mixed or other type of practice. Competition should be designed, as Hilmer (1993) and governments intended, to drive better quality of life for all. This often seems to involve more broadly realistic assessments of what the individual seeks most from an environment, and what appears possible under the circumstances, to try to gain it. In the absence of clear approaches to delivering services, medical forces are often driving. Although these are more open and impartial than lawyers there are related risks. In the AFR article, 'AMP Chairman calls for tight scrutiny of medical fund', AMP chairman Simon McKeon joined the country's leading scientists to question how the fund is ideally scrutinized and spent. It is easier to see how to protect the fund than allocate it more effectively.

The first NSW Government Strata and Community Title Law Reform Position Paper, 'Strata Title Law Reform' appears to offer good direction but is untested. The NSW Fair Trading pamphlet dated November 2013: Responsibilities of the owners' corporation in a strata scheme', states the insurances the scheme should now have are: **Building insurance; Public liability insurance; workers' compensation insurance; Voluntary workers insurance**. This appears to be a new and good development for regional planning and quality management of projects. However, it is still unclear how this or the national disability insurance scheme will be delivered.

Although the National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers appears to give good guidance in many professional indemnity insurance related areas, this is not so in relation to **point 3: *Appropriate conduct in relation to treatment advice*** where it states (2) *A health care worker must not attempt to dissuade a client from seeking or continuing medical treatment*. It should state: (2) *A health care worker must not UNREASONABLY attempt to dissuade a client from seeking or continuing medical treatment*. This is not a small point but goes to the heart of the commonly unequal relationship between two people for very good reason.

The current statement under the Code is an invitation to abrogation of the personal responsibility which appears central to the open and honest practice of any person, let alone of one who appears to be comparatively knowledgeable, skilled and experienced in the treatment of a particular health problem apparently being felt by another individual. They have or haven't

seen it all before. (I make this point because the conduct recommended in the code is typical of many occupational practitioners and wrong. They don't care if you fall on your face?)

The realization that the client has a right to make their own decisions about their own life, does not mean that the facts of life should not be clearly put to them by anybody with reason to think they may have a better handle on them. (Surely any parent of teenagers would be able to tell you this. Get a life.) I was greatly impressed, for example, when Westpac Head Office put big red warning stickers on parts of a contract sent to me by property managers, their lawyers and a regional office of Westpac in Queensland. Head Office pointed out the linked trailing commissions. Since the global crisis of 2008 the sheer decency of this atypical behaviour has come back repeatedly to my memory. How did people running big banks get to be so nice?

### **HOW ARE REGIONAL PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND PROJECTS BEST ACCESSED AND DELIVERED?**

The aging of the population is highly related to increasing disability. Clarify the ideal aims and design of insurances applied to the home, its environment and to any related services provided to particular persons located in particular places, which may also be logically grouped for research, service and policy development. The ideal is for clearly related and equitable service designs to meet individual and community need as effectively as possible. This is a place based approach rather than a race based approach. It is also multicultural rather than collegiate.

The society should beware of having reproductive, medical and pension incentives reinforcing each other through housing availability, drug manufacture and related specialist payments, if anxiety, poor diet and sedentary behaviour appear to be the key drivers of disability problems. To go to the US, in my experience, is to be horrified by how much bad food people eat and the advertisements and related rubbish they watch on TV on every channel, no matter how many channels there are, which is heaps. To accompany this consumer culture race to the bottom with obsessions about the need to go into big debt to go to college, creates more bad financial news. Collegiate cultures are increasingly strongly defined in such commercial associations. Develop more openly managed jointly owned regional funds invested in planned direction.

Australians should adopt more openly related international and regional directions for place-based service delivery and competition. 'Sustainable Sydney 2030, for example, is a plan produced as a result of consultation since 2004 which involves *'the full range of economic, social and environmental issues confronting us'*. Implementation requires actors working more openly together, using competition to achieve common and individual goals more broadly. Stop narrowing, lengthening and multiplying closed occupational fields while also encouraging higher debts for those waiting to get in the door to some mythical higher employment.

Health care, education and other service provision for regional and data driven approaches to improving the quality of life, also depend on strategically addressing the nature of an environment, and of the persons, institutions, risks and services related to it openly, to improve them. These essential place and person based services, administrative processes and records are ideally related to future policy and planning within global and regional contexts.

Australian governments see this but are constructed primarily as political forces rather than as effectively data driven servers of the whole population. Operating more openly and justifying

performance is the greatest and cheapest protection against ignorance and corruption. Good media of all kinds are priceless and should not be trashed in multiple races to the bottom, which also have bad consequences in building societies based on lies. On the other hand, the best ways to hand out regional funds to create services and jobs outside the norm of multiple government and departmental silos is far from clear to me. Any ideas? (I guess local elected politicians, big four banks, local councils, post offices, key retailers and real estate agents are central to development if they have well-grounded local information systems along with libraries, schools and higher education institutions, as well as general practitioners. )

From any ideal regional perspective the proof of the human pudding is ideally in its eating, not its certification, if it seems the latter may discriminate against better performers or particular taste unnecessarily. Quality management relates also to ideas of fairness which have been historically constructed whether we like it or not. In regional community contexts it is vital to consider the regulatory and business potential of government to help make all related business operation more effectively open and able to be utilized more broadly. The SBS Code of Practice (2014) provides an excellent guide for many related professions. It also notes, for example, that SBS Radio is the most linguistically diverse radio network in the world. Information and translation ideally perform vital global services also related to development. Universities and related communities appear placed to help a lot of regional service delivery via strategic plans.

#### **FINAL WORDS ON WHERE OPEN FUNDS COULD SAVE AND TACKLE KEY LIFE PROBLEMS**

The current budget cost trajectory appears to be the result of key problems which also appear ignored by the Treasurer. As a result of the same forces that brought the last global financial crisis, many people who have retired with superannuation will rapidly lose it as financial 'planners' take it away from us poor old souls who are completely unused to dealing with opaque, lying, twisting, rubbish advice, before falling back on the old age pension. I retired in 2007 after a working life spent mainly as an academic and public servant. I then experienced the sudden effect on my UniSuper retirement capital of the global financial crisis of 2008. I have only recently begun to learn about practices in the financial and strata title housing and related fund management sectors, although the government pretence is that pig ignorant consumers and owners like ourselves are able to be effectively in control of funds others may also think are theirs. This nonsense is going to be very expensive for government in future.

Australian government developments appear to offer the opportunity of far more stable and cheaper support for regional planning and related investment but require broader cooperative understanding. This is necessary to follow regional planning, insurance and taxation models pioneered in occupational health and safety, rehabilitation and in health care provision under Medicare. Recent government developments in regard to industry superannuation and strata title housing insurances; in regard to Crown lands; in recent Commonwealth and health care codes of practice and in related professional indemnity insurances appear encouraging. The administrative steps for related quality management should be understood by those shaping national and regional budgets. What are they? Those of us used to being seen as ignorant are frustrated because it seems we are always expected to guess, while others shut up or may lie.

It has been estimated that two thirds of the expenditure on health care throughout the life time occurs in the last two years of an old person's life. Keeping alive old people who want to die, instead of helping them die at a time of their own choosing, is not only dismissive of their democratic right of choice but hugely and unnecessarily expensive from an ideal Treasury view.

Government also firmly ignores the potential of the well managed death to make satisfying environmental and social contributions in choosing to be killed. This denial of human rights will ensure health care costs keep rising dramatically, with an ageing population captive of health professionals and governments who will not help them to die when they wish. Old people have a right to avoid pain and loss of control or burdening their family members and others. We have a right to help with problems of the end of life, including death. This is productive. The trouble with people like Hockey is that they are ideologues pretending to be otherwise.

Some nations have planned and delivered a broad welfare state. In most nations, however, the majority of souls are left to the mercies of the family in the dwindling lands of increasing numbers of former hunter gatherers and farmers. The city absorbs some in growing slums. In developed welfare states especially, it has seemed obvious to many families that one needs to have fewer children for a good start in life. To discourage contraception and family planning is to ask for related trouble from any government budget perspective. The only welfare state in many countries mainly serves the rich through hugely expensive legal and bureaucratic wages and related social support. As a result the world is full of millions of comparatively blameless people living in shit and trying to cross borders to get away from the conflict and desertification they may or may not have created with others or had forced upon them. One cannot understand the huge increase in global health and wealth in many areas but not in others since 1960, without understand the importance of a one child policy in the rise of China.

Develop commonly owned state and community funds which call for competitive services to the place in the interests of *key stakeholders* and others, so many service providers and advanced manufacturers may flourish as the extension of parks and improvement of lands and heritage are carried out. **Key stakeholders** are those who fund a project and for whose benefit it is intended. There is no good alternative to planning, with competition to assist it as openly and broadly as possible. We wish to move beyond a blaming culture, without being told to shut up. This has many implications for the improvement of related communication, development, research and fund management which should be better understood. New state views of insurances necessary for owners or managers of places where people live and work are ideally part of transitions to funding regional plans and schemes which are openly driven by people and related evidence, rather than designed in closed systems for profit.

Go out there and knock them dead. Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, Rosebank St. Glebe.

See related letter below that I wrote to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie after seeing the movie 'Half of a Yellow Sun' and buying the book at Gleebooks in Glebe, Sydney, Australia.

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037

I guess my bottom line question is: **CAN YOU USE ANY OF THE TEACHING OR OTHER MATERIAL ON MY OPEN WEBSITE [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)?** (I have PhD; M.Ed. (Hons); B.A. and Dip.Ed. degrees and am a Marxist feminist and a retired academic and public servant with international publications) See related letter below:

Dear Chimamanda

I saw the wonderful movie 'Half of a Yellow Sun' and was vividly reminded of my past as a new Arts graduate teaching English at Government Boys College Kano for two years. I began in 1971 under the auspices of the Australian Volunteers Abroad program, after the Biafran war and the Peace Corps was thrown out of Nigeria. Boko Haram and much else was totally unknown to me then. I came from the Anti-Vietnam War and anti-imperialist new left, from Queensland University, in Oz. After Nigeria my husband and I broke up and I joined the Communist Party of Australia. In Australia the latter dissolved itself.

I found your book 'Half of a Yellow Sun' a truly great piece of work which I could hardly bear to put down and I admire it deeply. I loved Ugwu's dedication of his book 'The World Was Silent When we Died' – For Master, my good man'. I wrote on the inside cover that the book was about the childish and unprotected nature of faith, and laughed when I read your statement at the back that if you weren't a writer you would be a professor teaching whimsical, anecdote-filled, anti-establishment courses about which the university administration would have suspicions. I was an academic and public servant writing like that for most of my life before they sacked me again in 2007. I never made professor for obvious reasons. (See me at Govt. Boys College in Kano on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au))

'Half of a Yellow Sun' made me go back for the first time since 1974, to the first and only novel I've ever produced, which was rejected by every publisher who saw it at that time, probably as it is not good. It is called 'An Empty Gesture' and was a therapeutic novel about a volunteer teacher being thrown out of the country. Call it a wish fulfilment dream if you will. I ignored it since. What amazes me on reading it again, after your book, is that I evidently had little idea of how a lethargic work climate might be related to conflicting demands of military, colonial, Islamic and tribal cultures in which I became an increasingly unwilling volunteer, identifying distantly with an elite like Ugwu. I had 'followed' the Biafran War and had the volunteer sensitivity training but it had somehow never occurred to me that the locked school library I was opening up and buying for was locked for any reason unrelated to teacher lack of interest. Nobody pointed the obvious out. I couldn't see it.

As a result of seeing and reading 'Half of a Yellow Sun', I again experience the strong desire to bring historical and emotional truths to regional screens any way I can help, which would also be fun for me. If you ever want to read 'An Empty Gesture' for this purpose ask me to send it, warts and all. I fear I do not have the capacity to write a novel or film and am condemned to my constant bureaucratic and related academic forms of communication even though no longer paid to do it. This is real freedom. I recall introducing the Penguin African Writers series to the Govt. Boys College library and how popular they were with many students. It is sad to see so many wonderful second hand books apparently being burned today when many people like Ugwu across the world would

still read them or could set up a useful small business. I am pursuing this issue locally through all the usual closed shops.

In a more serious vein for me, in the Asian Century I predict Marx and Freud must also be coming back. **CAN YOU USE ANY OF THE TEACHING OR OTHER MATERIAL ON MY OPEN WEBSITE [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)? (I have PhD; M.Ed. (Hons); B.A. and Dip.Ed. degrees and am a Marxist feminist and a retired academic and public servant with international publications)**

I spent my youth in the Communist Party of Australia and became a university teacher before joining the NSW public service for ten years to implement government programs for women, followed by programs to support the Australian occupational health and safety, rehabilitation and related risk and fund management directions. I then taught in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Sydney University until I retired at the age of 60 in late 2007. Since then I have followed related interests.

When I retired from Sydney University I put all my subject outlines, lectures and assessments on [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) (under the side bar Learning) because they demonstrate the United Nations, World Health Organization and related regional project management directions for sustainable development, which Australian governments are increasingly attempting to follow.

If you have any interest in using any of the free information on this website in any way I'd be grateful to hear from you. I live close to the University of Sydney. Anything I can do to promote the regional planning, related project and risk management directions at [www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au) in more institutional or community settings would please me a lot. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any views or ideas. If you ever have business in Sydney feel free to stay at my place for the week.

Yours truly

Carol O'Donnell, St James Court, 10/11 Rosebank St., Glebe, Sydney 2037

