



Effective Use of Theory of Change for Social Services (6 March 2025)

Course Description:

This course on theory of change introduces participants to the theory-driven family of evaluation approaches and highlights the importance of making explicit the theory underlying any policy, programme or intervention as a basis for planning, implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation. A theory of change explains how the activities undertaken by a policy, a programme or an intervention contribute to a chain of action that leads to the intended outcomes. A theory of change is also a diagrammatic representation of a programme blueprint – it makes explicit the inputs, the activities, the outputs and the outcomes, and the links between them. Through this approach, the precise link between activities and the achievement of outcomes are more fully understood. With a detailed understanding of how change take places, the theory of change can potentially provide analytical insights into programme design at the planning stage. It can be useful for studying programme processes or implementation, as well as for identifying programme outputs and outcomes for monitoring and evaluation.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the role of theory underlying policies, programmes and/or interventions
- Understand the key concepts of theory of change and the analytical insights it can potentially provide to programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Learn how to develop and appraise theories of change through the use of case studies

Topics Covered Include:

- Theory-driven approach for programme planning and design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Key concepts of theory of change
- Applications of theory of change through the use of case studies

Course Schedule:

- 6 March 2025, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

The workshop will be conducted in-person at the NUS Kent Ridge Campus (The Shaw Foundation Building, Block AS7). Participants will be informed of the venue after their registration is confirmed.

Pre-requisites:

Participants are required to have at least a Degree in any discipline, with preference given to social science and community health disciplines and at least 2 years of working experience in the social service sector.

Who Should Attend:

The workshop targets policymakers, programme managers and practitioners, and seeks to equip them with the relevant knowledge and skills to develop theories of change for policies, programmes or interventions, for the purpose of programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Trainer:

Dr Robyn Tan is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies, LKYSPP, NUS. Her research interests include studying the implementation of programmes, policies and interventions in real world policy and service settings. She has a keen interest in theory-driven evaluations, specifically, applying realist research to understand what works, for whom, under what conditions, and why. Robyn is an adjunct faculty with the Geriatric Education and Research Institute (GERI) where she is involved in implementation research of healthcare interventions, to facilitate their translation into practice.

Course Fees:

This course is SSG-approved. Participants who are **Singaporeans or Singaporean Permanent Residents** will be eligible for 70% of the course fees, excluding GST. **Singaporean participants who are aged 40 years old** and above will be eligible for higher subsidies of up to 90% of course fees. **Corporate-sponsored participants from SMEs** will be eligible for higher subsidies of up to 90% of course fees. Participants must pass all assessment components, to be eligible for SSG funding. The table below shows the breakdown of the course fee payable.

	International Participants	Singapore Citizens			Singapore PRs	
		non-SME		SME (ETSS)	non-SME	SME (ETSS)
		39 years old or younger	40 years old or older (MCES)			
Full Programme Fee	\$ 850.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00
Less: SSG Grant Amount	\$ -	\$595.00	\$595.00	\$595.00	\$ 595.00	\$ 595.00
Nett Programme Fee	\$ 850.00	\$255.00	\$255.00	\$255.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 255.00
9% GST on Nett Programme Fee	\$ 76.50	\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95
Total Nett Programme Fee Payable, Including GST	\$ 926.50	\$277.95	\$277.95	\$277.95	\$ 277.95	\$ 277.95
Less: Additional Funding if Eligible	\$ -	\$ -	\$170.00	\$170.00	\$ -	\$ 170.00
Total Nett Programme Fee Payable, Including GST, after additional funding from the various funding schemes	\$ 926.50	\$ 277.95	\$ 107.95	\$ 107.95	\$ 277.95	\$ 107.95

*To be eligible for ETSS, course fees have to be fully paid for by the employer.

Registration:

You may register online through the [NUS L3AP Portal](#).

Registration closes on 24 January 2025.