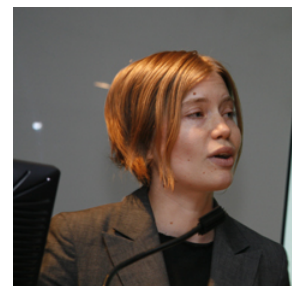


Miriam Lyons is Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Development (CPD), a think tank dedicated to injecting new ideas into Australia's public debate.



Background

Formerly the Policy Coordinator of NewMatilda.com, Miriam has a long history of bringing policy ideas and debate to new audiences.

While studying politics and international relations at the University of New South Wales, Miriam co-founded Nexus, a non-partisan network dedicated to bridging the gap between young people and the democratic process, and was involved in setting up Vibewire.Net, a national youth website.

Areas of expertise

The reinvention of public services: we are fast approaching the 'tipping point' to two-tier systems in health and education – it's time to reclaim universalism, without returning to the top-down services of the past

Australia's 'great risk shift': the last few decades have seen the transfer of risk from governments and businesses to households and individuals

Adaptive policy making: Australia needs to move from top-down, short-term, ad-hoc 'reforms' to long-term, systemic change based on consistent principles, widespread citizen participation and a realistic understanding of how we live now

The future of progressive Australia: the 'think tank market' in Australia, youth participation in politics, the rise of 'framing' and real-world economics

The politics of balance: the big versus small government debate is over. The real questions are: how do we increase the effectiveness of regulation while decreasing its complexity? How do we reward businesses that are ahead of the market on CSR and carbon cuts? How can we rebalance the relationship between markets, government, society and the environment?

Upon graduating, she founded and directed the [Interface Festival of Ideas](#) in Sydney. She then worked in East Timor for a year as a media development consultant, assisting the local media sector to lobby for media law reform and co-writing a report on media freedom in East Timor for ARTICLE19.

On returning to Australia Miriam directed a sell-out [Ideas Program](#) for the Straight out of Brisbane Festival. This was followed by positions at Australia's aid and trade watchdog AID/WATCH and at the Australian Human Rights Centre. With UWS academic James Arvanitakis she founded Plus20, a network dedicated to long-term planning for social change (and organiser of the popular Sydney social event 'Beers without Borders').

Miriam was a delegate to the 2020 Ideas Summit in 2008 and is currently 'thinker in residence' for Brisbane Girls Grammar. She has been profiled in the *Courier Mail*, *Channel Stu*, *Frank Magazine* and the *Sun Herald*. Miriam is currently on the steering committee of [Project Australia](#), the advisory committee of the [Adelaide Festival of Ideas](#) and the steering committee of Sydney's Festival of Dangerous Ideas.

She is part-way through her MA at the University of Technology, Sydney, and has written for several publications, including Griffith Review, the Sydney Morning Herald, New Matilda and Online Opinion. She is currently writing a book with CPD fellow Ben Eltham and Get Up's Ed Coper and Brett Solomon.

Miriam is 29 and lives in a share-house in Marrickville.

Links

- ❖ ['Safe Choice for a Change'](#), *Sydney Morning Herald*, June 8 2007
- ❖ [Launch speech](#), *Centre for Policy Development*, May 23 2007
- ❖ (with Emma Dawson) ['Ideas for an Australian media policy'](#), *Centre for Policy Development*, December 9 2006
- ❖ ['Not just any job'](#), *Griffith Review*, August 2006