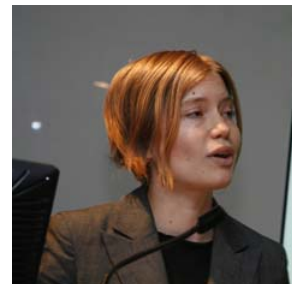


**Miriam Lyons** is Director of the Centre for Policy Development (CPD), a think tank dedicated to injecting new ideas into Australia's public debate.

As Director, Miriam commissions, edits and promotes the Centre's policy and discussion papers, organizes CPD events, edits the online magazine InSight, and works with CPD fellows to promote their research.



## Background

Formerly the Policy Coordinator of [NewMatilda.com](http://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 speaks at far too many functions, most recently appearing in conversation with Robyn Williams at the launch of his new book 'Future Perfect'. She has been profiled in the *Courier Mail*, *Channel Stu* and *Frank Magazine*. Miriam is currently on the steering committee of [Project Australia](#) and the advisory committee of the [Adelaide Festival of Ideas](#).

She is part-way through a Masters degree in journalism at the University of Technology, Sydney, and has written for several publications, including Griffith Review, the Sydney Morning Herald, New Matilda and Online Opinion.

Miriam is 27, lives in a share-house in Marrickville, and is getting used to being the youngest policy geek in the room.

## 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