

Company profile

About Us

Morgan Disney & Associates is a Canberra based national public policy and governance consulting company. The two Principals of Morgan Disney are Elizabeth Morgan and Helen Disney; both have postgraduate qualifications: Elizabeth in social work and public policy, and Helen in social administration. The company was established in 1999 and built on three years of national consulting experience by Elizabeth Morgan. Both Principals have diverse experience in public policy with specialist social policy expertise and backgrounds. Their core areas of expertise are in evaluations and reviews, social research, policy development, governance, planning and management, analysis and research in policies, programs, communities, organisations, projects and service delivery in government and non-government organisations and policy contexts, facilitation and consultation, and capacity building.

They have demonstrated knowledge and experience in policies and programs with respect to:

- integrated and whole of government approaches
- mental health
- Indigenous policy and services
- family services
- child protection
- homelessness
- family and domestic violence
- child protection
- community services
- youth justice, youth services
- drug and alcohol services
- health and health promotion
- disaster recovery
- relationships between government and non-government agencies/sectors.
- income support.

They have wide experience working with Indigenous communities and organisations and a deep commitment to employing Indigenous consultants as peers. They also have an ongoing relationship with an consulting company with specialist expertise in economics and economic assessment and evaluations.

Elizabeth and Helen work from a strong ethical approach and knowledge of contemporary methods including strengths-based approaches, partnership models, cultural competence, action research, solution focused and community driven approaches.

Morgan Disney has a solid reputation in providing high quality consulting and research services across Australia to State/Territory and Australian Governments and to NGOs. Helen has worked in Afghanistan for Save the Children UK and Elizabeth in Fiji for the Fiji Law Reform Commission.

Both Principals are well known as skilled facilitators with extensive experience and national reputations. They have very high-level conceptual, analytical and

interpersonal skills. They are highly experienced in managing and being part of consortia teams for large projects and enjoy working collaboratively with other experienced and ethical consulting companies and NGOs. They have developed very innovative approaches to public and consumer consultation.

Principals

The two Principals of Morgan Disney are:



Helen Disney



Elizabeth Morgan

Helen has been a worker, manager and senior executive in a range of community service and social health settings with extensive experience as a senior executive: in large multi service NGOs at the state level, and in a national service delivery network and as a director in a Commonwealth department at the state level. She has been an office bearer in the governance bodies of national groups such as the Australian Council of Social Services, Volunteering Australia and the United Nations Association of Australia, and was the Founding President of the Asia Pacific Forum on Families (APFAM). Helen managed the development and delivery of an extensive range of innovative services for the Port Adelaide and Adelaide Central Missions and as National Director of Relationships Australia she led the development of a national network model for Relationships Australia. She recently worked in Afghanistan for Save the Children UK developing an in-country strategy for their work in Afghanistan. [Her CV is available here.](#)

Elizabeth has been a field worker and manager in the SA State Government's Department for Community Welfare, a senior executive manager with Unley City Council SA, a Director of two State/Territory Councils of Social Service in South Australia and the ACT, and Deputy Director of the national think tank The Australia Institute. She has extensive policy development experience, along with direct service delivery experience in metropolitan, rural and remote South Australian communities and in child protection and juvenile justice. She has lived and worked in remote and rural areas of SA including with Indigenous communities. Elizabeth is currently working with the Fiji Law Reform Commission on new mental health legislation to underpin reform to their mental health service system. [Her CV is available here.](#)

Both have considerable experience working in other cultural communities – Indigenous and non-English speaking. They have consulted extensively, to all levels of government, across a broad range of health and community services program areas as well as in the fields of arts and culture, and planning and employment related programs.

Elizabeth has specialist expertise in consumer participation, mental health and dual diagnosis services (co-morbidity of mental illness and drug and alcohol use), child protection, domestic and family violence, homelessness, volunteering. She was a member of the Australian Health Minister's National Mental Health Working group for 3 years until December 2001 and until early 2004 was a community representative on the Executive of the ACT Mental Health Service. In her senior management role at Unley Council, SA, with responsibility for several community facilities, including community centres and arts facilities; she managed the contract over a two year period for the social planning public consultations on the siting and redevelopment of the Unley shopping centre complex in metropolitan Adelaide. Elizabeth was a member of the Australian Government's Welfare Reform Reference Group and the Consultative Forum until March 2004. She was the Chair of the National Network of Community Ministerial Advisory Groups in Mental Health (ka NOAC) until late 2002.

Helen's specialist expertise is in program and project development, management and review, as well as community development and consumer participation. Specific service areas in which she has maintained expertise and experience are early intervention with families and children, youth services, domestic and family violence, family relationship services, services for people from non-English speaking communities, community based disability and aged care services, volunteering, crime prevention, supported accommodation, and community housing. Helen was a national Ministerial appointment to the Family Services Council from 1994-99 and of the MFP Board from 1991-95, a State level Ministerial level appointment to the Coalition Against Crime in SA from 1991-93, and Chair of the National Industry Training Advisory Board Steering Committee for Community Services from 1990-2.

Both Principals play a lead role in the work of the company and at least one of the Directors is always involved in projects as Project Director or Project Manager.

Associates

Morgan Disney has formed strong relationships with a network of associates who bring other expertise and perspectives to our work. We have been deeply enriched by our relationship with **Tracey Whetnall** and **Benny Hodges**, Indigenous consultants also based in Canberra. Tracey has worked consistently with Morgan Disney since early 2004 and Benny since mid 2004.

Tracey is a Bidjagal woman from the Dharrawal nation and is a very experienced facilitator, trainer and consultant. She is a highly respected trainer in cultural awareness and in her consultancy work over 10 years she has undertaken an extensive range of projects across many Government and non-government agencies. She is Canberra based and has an excellent network of Indigenous contacts across Australia. Tracey is the current Chair of the ACT Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Steering Committee and works actively in the ACT community.

Benny is both an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander man, who for many years worked with a variety of Indigenous peoples within the Australian Public Service in ATSIC and then ATSI. During Ben's career he worked in a number of areas advising about Indigenous issues and has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the issues his people face. Ben is a more recent recruit to

consulting and brings great skills and background to our team. Ben is well known across the country within Indigenous affairs and with his already established networks within Indigenous communities, and will be an asset to the team. Ben is located within Canberra and works with many Indigenous communities in Australia.

Other regular associates include:

Applied Economics Pty Ltd
Australia's Health Pty Ltd
Success Works Pty Ltd
Margaret Goode
ARTD Pty Ltd
Julie White (SA)

Morgan Disney regularly form consortiums or participates as consortium members to ensure a blend of skills and expertise is achieved in consulting or research teams. They seek partnerships with other companies committed to ethical and informed research, policy development, and evaluations.