



Dr. PATRICE BRAUN
Australia

CURRENT POSITION

Deputy Director and a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Regional Innovation & Competitiveness (CRIC) at the University of Ballarat, which has a focus on sustainable regional development and innovation. Director of the Asia-Pacific Centre for Women & Technology (www.apcwt.org), one of ten globally networked not-for-profit centres to mainstream women in the knowledge economy.

MAIN BACKGROUND

Patrice's work has a focus on ICT as an enabler to advance women in the workforce, business and green entrepreneurship, education and leadership. She has collaborated with government and industry, both in Australia and abroad, on SME policy, strategies and eLearning strategies for industry innovation, small business skills development and ICT as an enabler to advance women entrepreneurs through aggregate forms of collaboration such as networking and clustering.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Patrice holds a PhD in regional small business and network innovation underpinned by information and communication technologies (ICT). She also holds a Masters by Research on the use of the Internet for community informatics. Patrice has a background in journalism, multimedia and online educational design. An action researcher, her philosophy is to work *with* rather than *on* people to achieve engagement, collaborative learning and action-oriented outcomes.

RESEARCH / PRODUCTION

Patrice's foci include ICT-enabled entrepreneurship to promote and support self-employment for women in developed and emerging economies; and the weaving of technology with sustainable economic, social, learning and governance practices, especially in the areas of community, small business, clustering and green entrepreneurship. Dr Braun consults with state and local government bodies and grass roots organisations on behavioural change and action research methodologies pertaining to sustainable regional development and innovation. She has designed an online green entrepreneurship program that is available for adaptation in other regions.

INCIDENCE IN POLICIES

Dr Braun is a frequent speaker at APEC forums and was the Ministerial appointed ICT chair for the 2007 APEC Women Leaders Network meeting. Patrice is the Australian focal point for an APEC-wide research program on Women's Participation in the Digital Economy. She is on the Steering Committee of the International Taskforce for Women and Technology (ITF), a regional champion for the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT

and development (UNGAID), on the Advisory Group of the Latin American Centre for Women & Technology, the National Education & Employment Foundation, and a Fellow of the AMI Education Academic Panel. Dr Braun has published extensively in academic journals, contributed reports and policy recommendations pertaining to Women and ICT, and written policy papers for APEC on SME Development in the Knowledge Economy.