



# Liaison/Communication

## Community Liaison/Relations

Community Liaison/Relations professionals encourage and assist communities to assess the requirements of their community and liaise with industry and governments to establish harmonious and productive relationships. Community Relations and Liaison professionals in the minerals and energy industry prepare submissions and reports, monitor, evaluate and recommend changes to community programs, policies and practices and encourage community participation in development of strategies for dealing with environmental, heritage and health issues. They also organise and chair community meetings.

## Industry Liaison - Policy And Advocacy

People working in industry liaison roles confer and consult with individuals, groups, and committees to determine needs, plan, implement, and extend programs and services based on the consultation process. Industry liaison professionals establish and maintain relationships with other agencies and organisations in industry to meet and not duplicate needs and services. They can assign duties to staff, members or volunteers and plan, direct, and prepare public relations materials. Research and analysis of member, industry and community is conducted as basis for strategic development and participation in various activities is undertaken to serve clients of the organisation. Industry liaison professionals review and analyse legislation, laws, and public policy and recommend change to promote and support interests of industry and specific groups. They deliver speeches, write articles, and present information for their organisations at meetings or conventions to promote services, exchange ideas, and accomplish objectives and they consult with staff and others in government, business, and private organisations to discuss issues, coordinate activities, and resolve problems. They evaluate findings of investigations, surveys, and studies to formulate policies and techniques and recommend improvements for personnel actions, programs, or business services.

They may also direct and conduct studies and research, prepare reports and other publications relating to industry trends, program objectives and accomplishments.

## Anthropology

Anthropologists study the origin, development and functioning of human societies and cultures, as they exist now, or have existed throughout history. Anthropologists are concerned with the total complexities of social and cultural life, including religion and rituals, family and kinship systems, languages, art and music, symbolism and economic and political systems. Anthropologists' main research method is fieldwork, living with the people being studied and learning by participation in activities. Applied anthropologists may work in areas such as social policy and planning, social impact assessments, conservation, advocacy, community development, women and development, cultural resource management, land claims and social justice. In collecting information about a society, Anthropologists may have to learn a language and spend some time undertaking field work in remote areas and often under difficult conditions. Anthropologists in the minerals and energy industry may work in different communities to gather and analyse information on social and cultural behaviour, artefacts, language and biology of the groups and societies which they are studying. They collect, identify, date, protect and preserve indigenous artefacts, material possessions and other objects of anthropological interest.

Anthropologists may specialise as in areas such as Applied Anthropology working in areas such as social policy and planning, social impact assessments, conservation, advocacy, community development, women and development, cultural resource management, land claims and social justice. They may also specialize as a Social/Cultural Anthropologist who conducts ethnographic research on small communities, cities and nations, and makes comparative studies of different cultures.

### PROFILES

#### SAM RIGG

BA MA (International Studies)  
Community Liaison Officer - Minara  
Resources Pty. Ltd. Murrin Murrin Operations

#### Why did you choose your particular career?

I like to believe that, apart from simple arithmetic, there is no 'one-answer' to any problem. So, if industry is serious, mutually beneficial solutions can be reached with all external stakeholders. For anyone motivated by community issues or inequalities, often more can be achieved by working with industry than against it.

#### What have you enjoyed most about your profession?

Every day is different. There are crises, short and long-term projects and time in-and-out of the office. You get the chance to interact with all departments within your organisation and a wide variety of external stakeholders which provides continual learning experiences and personal development.

#### For someone considering a career in your profession are there any words of wisdom to pass on to them?

Everything in community engagement takes time. If someone raises a concern with your organisation don't dismiss it or bombard him or her with facts, figures and 'expert opinions' it is not going to help. 90% of the people who raise issues do so with benevolent intentions and you need to listen and really figure out why they are distressed. Although, dealing with the other 10% is more entertaining!

#### MONIKA SARDER

Senior Policy and Research Coordinator,  
The AusIMM

#### What formal qualifications do you have?

BA/LLB (Honours) from Melbourne University.

#### What have you done?

I have written submissions to a raft of Government enquiries as well as press releases and articles on issues such as

uranium policy, exploration and education for major newspapers. I have attended a number of strategy sessions in which future policy directions were discussed, and undertaken a number of projects, such as a series of profiles on women mining professionals who successfully balanced work and motherhood.

#### What have you enjoyed most about your profession?

The chance to synthesise secondary research with on the ground opinions from members. You are constantly learning new things from people.

#### For someone considering a career in your profession are there any words of wisdom to pass on to them?

People are often the best resource you have. You need to be ready to listen to others and constantly amend your argument.