



CASE STUDY: BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN ECONOMIC THINKING THROUGH PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Patricia Jamal, Public Advisor, ARC North West Coast

KEY IMPACT

- Increased confidence in discussing funding and value in healthcare decisions.
- Recognised the relevance of economic evaluation for public contributors, even without a background in finance.
- Suggested improvements to boost accessibility for future public advisors, including more tailored case studies and wider promotion.
- Expressed interest in retaking the course to reinforce understanding and better align it with her work on MIDAS projects.

BACKGROUND

Patricia Jamal has been a public advisor with ARC NWC since 2021, and a co-lead for the Methodological Innovation, Development, Adaptation & Support Theme (MIDAS) cross-cutting theme. She joined the RaCEEs course to explore economic evaluations in more depth after supporting several rapid evidence summaries in her role. Her motivation was to gain a more holistic view of how cost and value influence healthcare decisions.

“It was a good opportunity to look at evidence from a different angle—a more economic one.”

EXPERIENCE WITH THE COURSE

Although she entered the course with little background in finance or economics, Patricia found the structure helpful and thoughtfully paced. The gradual build-up of concepts, spread across five sessions, gave her time to reflect and process the learning. She particularly valued how the facilitators created an inclusive and supportive space, where participants were encouraged to ask questions and revisit material when needed.

That support was especially important when Patricia missed a key session, which affected her confidence during the final stages of the course. Despite this, she praised the patience and encouragement shown by the team and acknowledged that the difficulty she experienced was more about her own confidence with numbers than the course design itself.

“The support was brilliant. If I didn’t understand something, there were always materials and people to help—but I felt like I’d missed a step, and that threw me off a bit.”

While she hasn’t yet had the chance to apply the learning directly in her public advisor work, Patricia feels more confident discussing concepts like value for money and funding within research contexts. She believes the course has the potential to significantly benefit other public contributors, especially if future sessions include examples that more clearly reflect the kinds of decisions public advisors are typically involved in.



“There were lots of examples and the team was always supportive. The teaching was excellent, and we were constantly reassured that help was available.”

PATRICIA JAMAL

HEAR PATRICIA SHARE
HER EXPERIENCE ON THE
COURSE HERE;





RAPID CONVERSION OF ECONOMIC EVALUATIONS (RACEES) COURSE OUTLINE

SESSIONS

Here's an overview of the sessions and the workshop:

- Session #1: Research question and selection of economic evaluation
- Session #2: Key attributes of an economic evaluation
- Session #3: Costs
- Session #4: Outcomes
- Session #5: Analyses and results
- Session #6: Introduction section / Q&A / Workshop info
- Workshop: Critical appraisal of economic evaluation / Implications for practice / Future research

After the workshop, the team leads co-ordinate the writing up of the commentary which is then reviewed by the team members and submitted to a journal.

OVERVIEW

The Rapid Conversion of Economic Evaluations (RaCEEs) course consists of 6 online sessions of 1 hour every fortnight and 1 all-day face-to-face workshop.

The course is designed to equip you with the skills needed to understand and critically appraise an existing economic evaluation. The final output is the co-production of a commentary of an economic evaluation which is submitted to a journal for publication.

Before the course starts each participant is assigned to a team which focuses on a specific topic, based on the interests expressed by the participants in the registration form. Each team is led by a team lead with expertise in health economics. After each session some homework is assigned to help you identify the different elements of an economic evaluation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) How much do I need to pay for the course?

Nothing - the course is free to anyone in the ARC NWC.

2) I don't know much about health economics: will I struggle to follow the course?

Don't worry, no previous knowledge is required. We will teach you things step-by-step and there will be plenty of time in each session to ask questions.

3) Is it a problem if I miss any of the sessions?

Not at all. You can always catch up with the recording of each session on a dedicated playlist on YouTube.

4) How will I access the material?

A Microsoft Teams space will be created and the material for each session will be uploaded there. You can also use the in-built chat to interact with your team lead and the other team members during the course.

5) How do I qualify to be a co-author of the final commentary?

You would need to show relevant contribution by trying to do the homework after each session (but we won't be strict!) and/or provide a critical review of the final manuscript.

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