



AUSTRALIAN

EVALUATION

SOCIETY



2019-20

ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR VISION

- Quality evaluation that makes a difference


OUR MISSION

- To strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use

OUR VALUES

- Our Code of Ethics guides the activities and behaviour of our members. In essence the guiding principle is:

When commissioning, conducting or reporting an evaluation, members should strive to uphold the ethical principles and associated procedures endorsed by the AES in the guidelines for the ethical conduct of evaluations.

A large teal geometric shape, resembling a stylized mountain or a large arrow pointing upwards, is located in the bottom left corner of the page.

President's report

A TALE OF FOUR QUARTERS

As one of our Regional Convenors so eloquently puts it in this report '2019–2020 was a year like no other'. For many years we have talked about 'disruption' – primarily technological, but also societal and industrial in nature. Yet (again) nature has proven that it is capable of surpassing anything humans might do.

In many ways for the AES 2019–2020 was a tale of four quarters. The first quarter saw a continuation of the operational, financial and organisational momentum of the previous year, culminating in the highly successful 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference in Sydney, and the launching of the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022.

The second quarter saw a continuing strong uptake of our workshop program and operationalisation of the strategic priorities, including identification of key strategic projects and implementation of the new AES governance structures.

Nationally, the third quarter started as it had ended, with many communities impacted by bushfires. As it progressed, the whole country struggled with the first impacts of COVID-19. By early March decisions regarding how the AES would respond to the pandemic had to be made.

These were predicated on the principles that the AES would seek to continue meeting members' needs, prioritise members' and the broader community's health and ensure its ongoing financial viability. Some were difficult decisions, which with hindsight now appear to be no-brainers: deferring the 2020 AES International Evaluation Conference in Brisbane to 2021, ceasing the face-to-face workshop program, halting all face-to-face meetings, and deferring some strategic projects.

However the Board also resolved to pivot the AES to enable it to continue supporting members, which included (but was not limited to) accelerating the Digital Strategy strategic project identified in the development of the new strategic priorities.

AES President John Stoney and other Board members at the 2019 Annual General Meeting in Sydney



It's one thing for the Board to resolve to pivot, it's another to operationalise it. What followed throughout the fourth quarter reflects the adaptability, resilience, commitment and creativity of the AES membership and staff. While many associations and not-for-profits were forced to reduce activities, go into stasis or even question their ongoing viability, the AES saw a surge in activity across the organisation.

Under our vitality domain the Vitality Committee together with our regional networks and office team rapidly set up virtual networking and informal activities. The Vitality Committee commenced designing and commissioning a research project to understand members current and future needs. The Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee began developing a submission to the Australian Government Productivity Commission, commenced the first stage of an Indigenous Competency Framework strategic project and the next stage of the AES Reconciliation Action Plan. The newly established Relationships Committee developed a Statement on Evaluation during the Pandemic – the first of a series of policy position papers. Under the pathways domain our face-to-face training moved to online delivery, the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* continued to support the sector and work progressed on developing a learning and professional practice framework.

The AES enters 2020-2021 in a strong position to continue supporting members. Our balance sheet will be reduced this coming year due to postponement of this year's conference. However, this should be seen in the context of a strong balance sheet entering the pandemic and our successful strategy to strengthen it further by the close of 2019-2020.

Planning is underway for next year's conference. We will continue to evolve our virtual service delivery and offerings to members, and through FestEVAL we will have an opportunity for the evaluation community to still come together this September.

The evolution of our digital strategy, together with the strategic projects currently underway, provide a range of exciting possibilities for the AES to achieve its mission in the current and post-pandemic environment – hopefully sooner than later!

I would like to acknowledge:

- the efforts of all Board committees and working group members, in the provision of advice to the Board and CEO, and the activities and efforts they have undertaken, particularly in the second half of the year
- our regional committees and workshop facilitators who rapidly adapted to operating in a virtual environment
- the aes19 Sydney Organising Committee for their efforts in delivering a highly successful conference
- the (now) aes21 Brisbane Organising Committee for their ongoing support, commitment and resilience
- the EJA editorial team for continuing to provide a key resource to members and the sector
- the Australian and Victorian Governments for the financial support they have provided
- my fellow Board members for their leadership, counsel and work.

Underpinning all this work have been our CEO Bill Wallace and Membership and Events Officer Michelle Wightwick. In a very challenging and dynamic environment – where they have had to work from home and been subject to two lockdowns themselves – they have not just kept the proverbial lights on but have provided the foundations for our fourth quarter pivot to occur.

John Stoney
President

Treasurer's report

Introduction

Amidst the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm pleased to report the Board continues to monitor and mitigate the financial risks. In addition, I would like to thank the hard work and creativity of members and staff over the past few months. This has resulted in the association returning a surplus at the end of June, instead of making a loss as originally planned and described below. This is very reassuring as the surplus has strengthened an already healthy balance sheet meaning we will continue to operate with certainty and provide services sustainably.

In addition, the AES Board can confidently report that through careful management during the second half of the financial year we have limited the financial impacts on the AES caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was specifically addressed in the audited Financial Statement (Note 11, Impact of COVID-19):

'There have not been any significant adverse operational or financial impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to date and any known impacts to date have been reflected in the 30 June 2020 financial statements.'

Summary of the 2020 financial year results

As already mentioned, despite the impact of COVID-19, the AES achieved a net profit of \$51,124. This was against a budget loss of \$62,900 and builds on the \$75,483 surplus in 2019. It is important to understand that in 2019, the Board deliberately budgeted for a loss in 2020 due to planned investments across five special projects (total \$100,000). However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency, the Board chose to revise the decision and did not proceed with that magnitude of investment.

We outperformed our budget by 180% (+\$114,000) which is a great result and puts the AES in a strong financial position for the coming year. This was due in part to the Board decision to reduce planned spending on special projects from \$100,000 to \$30,000. Another factor was that the Sydney conference was more profitable than

budgeted, achieving a surplus of \$148,447 against a forecast surplus of \$133,100 (+\$15,347). Finally, the membership revenue was \$11,500 higher than budget.

Overall, our operating income (excluding the conference) was \$416,201 (11% lower than budget). This was due to lower workshop income because of COVID-19 restrictions, which was partially offset by \$43,116 in unbudgeted government emergency assistance.

The better than forecast surplus is reassuring to members. Currently equity (members' funds) has increased 11% (+\$51,123), it is currently \$500,636 (June 2020) compared to \$449,513 the same time last year. Clearly AES is in a favourable financial position to be able to operate in a difficult year ahead.

Profit and loss compared to the budget

- Operating income (non-conference) of \$416,201 is 11% lower than budget, due to lower workshop income because of COVID-19 restrictions, partially offset by \$43,116 in unbudgeted government emergency assistance.
- Operating expenditure was 22% lower than budget (-\$149,687) mainly due to:
 - lower business activity due to COVID-19 restrictions
 - unspent strategic project funds of \$29,090 against budget of \$100,000.
- The non-conference operating deficit of \$95,411 was 51% less than forecast.
- Sydney conference surplus was \$148,447 against a forecast surplus of \$133,100.
- Overall surplus for the year of \$51,123 exceeds our forecast loss of \$62,900 (+114,023 or 181% variance).

Profit and loss compared to last year

- Operating income of \$416,201 is 21.8% lower than in 2019, due to lower activity caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

- Membership income (\$191,530) remained steady, up 2.7% on last year.
- Operating expenditure decreased by 8.2% on last year.
- Overall profit decreased year on year \$51,123 (June 2020) against \$75,483 (June 2019), -32%.

Balance sheet analysis compared to last year

- Cash balance has decreased by \$612,845 (-19%) compared to last year, due to holding less unearned income and a lower surplus than in 2019.
- We are holding venue (and other) deposits for 2021 (Brisbane) and 2022 (Adelaide) conferences on the balance sheet to a value of \$44,000.
- Total assets have decreased 22% compared to last year (lower cash, venue deposits, and conference expenses).
- Total liabilities have decreased 60% compared to last year (lower unearned income).
- Total equity (members' funds) has increased 11% (\$51,123). It is currently \$500,636 (June 2020) and was \$449,513 (June 2019).

Looking forward

The Board is conscious of the general economic impacts arising from COVID-19 and has forecast lower levels of AES activity. This is likely to have a negative impact on our financial results over the coming financial year. However, the Board is confident that the negative impact of the pandemic is manageable, and given our healthy balance sheet, we are in no doubt that we will

continue to provide value to our members over the next financial year.

The Board has elected to adopt a flexible budget for the next financial year based on conservative budget assumptions. This budget is reviewed each quarter and revised if economic conditions change.

2020-2021 budget assumptions

- 10% decrease in overall membership income mainly because the 2020 Brisbane conference was postponed to the next financial year.
- Government assistance of \$54,000.
- Staffing remains two full-time.
- The planned 2020 Brisbane conference has been postponed to 2021.
- Online workshop delivery only.
- One face-to-face Board meeting in Melbourne.

Based on these conservative budget assumptions, we forecast that members funds at the end of the 2021 financial year will be between \$354,708 and \$414,708. This is a decline in our overall equity (\$500,636 as at June 2020).

Given the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 on our community, the Board believes this is an acceptable outcome. Despite the financial challenges we are likely to face this coming year, we are in a sustainable financial position. The Board believes it is important for the AES to continue to support members and strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use.

Carina Calzoni
Treasurer



ABOUT US

Who we are

The Australian Evaluation Society (AES) is a professional organisation for people involved in evaluation including evaluation practitioners, managers, teachers and students of evaluation, and other interested individuals.

It has over 1,000 members involved in all aspects of evaluation and performance measurement. The AES is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a Chief Executive Officer and staff.

Our members represent diverse professional sectors and areas of evaluation practice and meet regularly through regional networks, special interest groups, discussion groups and an annual conference.

The AES offers professional development through an annual international conference, a peer-reviewed evaluation journal, and regular workshops and seminars.

Objects of the AES

- Establish and promote ethics and standards in evaluation practice
- Encourage advances in the theory and practice of evaluation
- Provide education and training related to evaluation
- Provide forums for networking, professional development and the discussion of ideas
- Increase understanding of evaluation and advocate for quality evaluation
- Be inclusive of Indigenous and all cultural perspectives
- Have governance systems that reflect and incorporate best practice
- Provide a forum that allows the diverse voices of the community to be heard, including those who commission the evaluations, those who carry them out and the evaluands
- Undertake other activities consistent with these aims.

Member benefits



Recognition and support

Belonging to the longest established professional evaluation organisation in the region, with a network of over 1,000 practitioners, commissioners and academics involved in all aspects of evaluative enquiry and performance measurement.



Code of ethics

Members abide by the AES Code of Ethical Conduct, and are guided by and support the AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.

Members are encouraged to rely on the Code when faced with situations that require them to balance competing ethical principles.



Professional learning opportunities

Opportunities are available to learn from leading local and international expert evaluators through the annual conferences and professional learning activities. Members keep up-to-date through AES publications, workshops, seminars, discussion groups and conferences.



Networking

Members make contacts with colleagues in evaluation by joining in regional group meetings and other activities for training, networking and discussion of current evaluation topics.



Publications

Online, member-only access to the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)* and six SAGE Publishing titles, and the AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.



Members' centre

Electronic access to information and resources for members only, including the latest issue of the *EJA*, issues of e-news, and access to the Directory of AES members.



AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

Members are eligible for nomination for the prestigious AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation.



Consultants' directory

Members profile their evaluation services and consultancy through the online Consultants' directory and receive tender information made available to the AES.



Annual International Evaluation Conference

Evaluators stay in touch with the latest trends and issues in evaluation through the annual AES International Evaluation Conference, for which members receive advance notice and discount registration fees.



International links

Members are part of an international network of evaluation societies.

Corporate governance

How we are governed

The Australian Evaluation Society is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Since May 2015, the association has been a public company limited by guarantee after it transferred its registration as an association from the Australian Capital Territory. A Board of Directors provides overall governance and strategic direction for the organisation. The Board is legally responsible for governing the organisation. The Chief Executive Officer manages operations and has delegated responsibility for implementing the directions and decisions of the Board.

Accountability of the Board

The Board is accountable to the association's membership. All members of the Board must adhere to the requirements of the ACNC and the *Australian Corporations Act 2001*, as well as the provisions set out in the association's Constitution and Policies.

Appointment of the Board

Following adoption of the new Constitution at the Special General Meeting in February 2015 and subsequent re-incorporation from the 2015 Annual General Meeting, the Board consists of three named office bearers (President, Vice President, and Treasurer) and three ordinary Board members, all elected by the membership. The Board has the discretion to appoint up to three ordinary Board members, ensuring that at least two members of the Board are First Nations people and taking into account the overall mix of knowledge, skill and attributes of Board members.

Role of the Board

The Board is subject to the provisions of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001*, its obligations to the ACNC, and the AES Constitution. The Board may delegate certain powers to committees of members. All Board positions are unpaid.

Indemnity of the Board

The AES has directors' and officers' insurance and professional indemnity for all Board members.

Board and staff

Board members 2019–2020

President

John Stoney

Vice President

Doyen Radcliffe (to September 2019)

Sue Leahy (from September 2019)

Treasurer

Jess Dart (to September 2019)

Carina Calzoni (from September 2019)

Ordinary Board members

Sharon Clarke

Susan Garner

Sue Leahy (to September 2019)

Kiri Parata

Doyen Radcliffe (appointed February 2020)

Charlie Tulloch (appointed March 2020)

Meeting attendance

Sharon Clarke	4 of 6
Susan Garner	5 of 5
Sue Leahy	6 of 6
Kiri Parata	6 of 6
Doyen Radcliffe	3 of 4
John Stoney	6 of 6
Carina Calzoni	5 of 5
Charlie Tulloch	3 of 3
Jess Dart	1 of 1

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Bill Wallace

Membership & Events Officer

Michelle Wightwick

President: John Stoney

John Stoney's early career involved a decade in frontline juvenile justice and child protection work, before joining the Australian Public Service. An internal evaluation practitioner within the Australian Government for nearly 15 years he has responsibility for commissioning and project managing evaluations, supporting individual and organisational capability and capacity building, providing technical advice to policy and program managers and high-level advice on evaluation matters to senior officials.

Undertaking the Master of Evaluation at University of Melbourne led to being an online lecturer in the Master and Graduate Certificate programs. John is currently a Fellow at both University of Melbourne and Charles Darwin University, reflecting his interests in evaluation theory and praxis, evaluation capability and capacity building, evaluation use and strategic evaluation.

John's involvement in the AES commenced through regular attendance at conferences, evolved to membership of the AES Canberra Region Committee, AES Board and the aes17 Conference Committee. His primary roles in the AES are President and Chair of the Advocacy and Alliances Committee (AAC).

Vice President: Sue Leahy

Sue is an accomplished evaluation practitioner with over 30 years' experience in multiple policy sectors and roles. Sue began her career in the not-for-profit sector, working for seven years in crisis housing settings. She next directed her passion for social justice into research and program coordination roles in student equity in higher education, and from there developed her interest in evaluation and strategic review. She moved to the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to manage performance reviews and targeted evaluations, including the evaluation of Youth Partnership with Arabic Speaking Young People, for which she received the Premiers Strategic Community Contribution award. She continued to develop her evaluation expertise within the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ),

where she managed a wide-ranging program of evaluations, including large-scale multi-year projects and evaluations of programs designed for Aboriginal families in the child protection system.

In 2009, Sue joined ARTD Consultants where she managed a successful portfolio of evaluations, strategic reviews, service design and evidence-building projects for eleven years, including five years as Managing Director. She has specialist expertise across the human services, including child protection, social housing, social inclusion and youth engagement.

Following on from her experience at DCJ, one of Sue's key goals at ARTD Consultants was to help build capacity for Indigenous evaluation in NSW, including improving the cultural competence of evaluation practitioners and increasing the number of Aboriginal people involved in evaluation. Over the next decade at ARTD Consultants she developed an Indigenous internship program, established a network of Indigenous practitioners to work with, employed five Aboriginal practitioners, including three senior, permanent roles, and initiated the company's first Reconciliation Action Plan. Her efforts led to a successful portfolio of evaluation and capacity building projects with Aboriginal people, underpinned by principles of self-determination and community-led practice, acknowledged by receiving the AES 2019 Indigenous Evaluation Award.

Sue now works as an independent practitioner, focusing on advisory and capacity building work, mostly with Aboriginal controlled and other not-for-profit organisations. She joined the AES Board in 2017. As Chair of the Pathways Committee she is particularly interested in developing frameworks to support professional pathways and cultural competence and piloting strategies, such as a mentoring scheme to support professional development.

Treasurer: Carina Calzoni

Carina is Managing Director and Principal Consultant at Clear Horizon. She has a Masters in Evaluation as well as qualifications in Public Policy and Applied Science and has 20 years of professional experience working within and consulting to government and not-for-profit organisations. The combination gives her the breadth of skills and knowledge to work adaptively across a range of specialist fields.

As a Principal Consultant she has been involved in many complex evaluations involving qualitative and quantitative methods, and program design and planning. She has an in-depth understanding of public policy and program design and implementation. She is a strong advocate for utilisation-focused approaches that support organisational learning and contribute to positive social and environmental change. She is passionate about helping organisations to see the real value of good measurement and evaluation practice.

Since 1999, Carina has been an active member of the AES. She was WA regional representative for ten years (2008–2018), she has delivered many AES training courses and in 2016 she convened the AES International Evaluation Conference in Perth.

Since 2019, Carina has enjoyed the privilege of being the Treasurer on the current AES Board. She brings to this role a solid knowledge of the evaluation industry and experience in directorship. To complement her practical skills, Carina completed the Foundations of Directorship with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (including units in Governance for Directors, Finance for Directors, and Strategy and Risk for Directors).



THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

AES International Evaluation Conference

EVALUATION: UN-BOXED

The 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference was held 15–19 September 2019 at the International Convention Centre Sydney, with 600 conference participants and over 200 workshop attendees from across Australia and further afield.

When our committee first started tossing around ‘Evaluation: un-boxed’ as a theme for the 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference, we were worried. Evaluation as a gift? You don’t need to have read Donaldson, Gooler and Scriven’s piece on the 17 different ways to overcome evaluation anxiety to know that evaluation is not always seen this way.

However gift giving is a two-way exchange. According to psychologists, ‘it is often the giver, rather than the recipient, who reaps the biggest psychological gains from a gift’. Furthermore, the tradition of giving exists across cultures. The metaphor reflected our desire to open up evaluation to the communities we work with and to open up ourselves to the knowledge of communities, as well as the other disciplines beyond the box of evaluation.

When asked how we hoped #aes19SYD would help un-box evaluation, we hoped for this kind of an exchange. So what are the gifts we’re carrying from the conference?

Tracy Westerman kicked off Monday morning with a powerful message: ‘Without measurability, there is no accountability’. However not all measures are created equal, and inappropriate application of measures can do more harm than good. For example, we need culturally relevant assessment tools to understand risk and outcomes of prevention initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We need to recognise the way cultural resilience can buffer risk, increase the cultural competence of the workforce and address whole of community risk.

Perhaps, most of all, we need the sense of optimism that Dr Westerman brings to the work of preventing suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In the afternoon, David Fetterman picked up the thread of listening to community and recognising the expertise they bring to the table, when he spoke about empowerment evaluation. This received a warmer reception than when he first presented it to the American Evaluation Association in 1993, when people questioned whether the approach really fits in the box of evaluation. The notion of community owning the evaluation, with the evaluator providing the constructive and evaluative critical eye, resonated with the un-boxing theme. However, there were still questions – about how it can work in contexts where the evaluator is expected to be ‘independent and neutral’ and stakeholders are not supportive, as well as about who is engaged and sharing beyond those involved in the dialogue – which David addressed.

On Tuesday morning, we leapt beyond the box of evaluation with panellists Jess Dart, Kate McKegg, Jax Weschler, Adrian Field and Jen Riley who responded to Ingrid Burkett’s provocations for designers and evaluators to think beyond programs to focus on systems. The discussion ranged from how evaluators can support design processes not impede them, and developmental evaluation through big data and automation. These boxes were opened up in other conference presentations. There was a sense from some audience members that we are already embracing the tools and processes beyond the box of evaluation.

In the afternoon, Gary VanLandingham took us beyond the box of individual program evaluations to evidence clearinghouses, which aggregate studies to draw conclusions about intervention effectiveness (such as the What Works



Keynote speakers David Fetterman (left) and Gary VanLandingham (right) during a panel discussion

Clearinghouse in the US; the What Works Centres for crime, health care, aging in the UK; and the Results First Clearinghouse that aggregates nine clearinghouses). Gary highlighted challenges for the evidence based policy movement, including political distrust of data, leaks in the evidence pipeline (for example programs that aren't evaluated and reports that aren't published) and replication failures. The audience discussed whether there are clearinghouses with Australian studies, the place of evidence in a post-truth world, how we recognise what works in one context might not work in another, as well as what counts as evidence (and what doesn't) in the world clearinghouses.

On the final morning, Dr Jane Davidson un-boxed our core – that is, values. This spoke to both what is in the box of evaluation and who should hold the box. Evaluation needs transparent

evaluation reasoning – demonstrating how you get from evidence to evaluative conclusions. As evaluators, we need to bring our whole selves to the work. And when questions are raised about 'whose values?', we should recognise that 'policies, programs and systems are only as good as how well they work for the people who have historically experienced the most marginalisation'.

The final reflections panel highlighted just how far our keynotes and the myriad of other presenters and participants had taken us in un-boxing evaluation. Duncan Rintoul's message to 'give it away' captured the sentiment of the three days.

The 2019 Awards were celebrated at the Gala Awards Dinner which was held at Luna Park and featured a stirring and uplifting performance by the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir.

At the Gala Awards Dinner, we welcomed Alan Woodward as a new AES Fellow for his long term contribution to the practice of evaluation, in particular in the fields of suicide prevention and mental health support/promotion and in-depth involvement with the AES at regional and national levels.

The 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference opened up conversations about the basis on which we value, who does the valuing and the boundaries of evaluation. These are difficult questions and require further unpacking given the conversations we've had since the conference.

While the conference is over, the un-boxing doesn't have to be. It is in all our hands to make evaluation more accessible and to learn from those we walk alongside.

Hope to see you at next year's conference in Brisbane where we'll reflect, refract, refocus or resonate with the theme 'through the lens'.

Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of our 2019 sponsors.

Platinum sponsor

ARTD Consultants

Gold sponsors

Allen+Clarke Consulting

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Clear Horizon Consulting

Grosvenor Public Sector Advisory

NSW Treasury

Silver sponsors

Acil Allen Consulting

Australian Healthcare Associates

Urbis



Tracy Westerman during her keynote address

Sydney conference committee

Andrew Anderson (Conference program chair)

Ben Barnes (Conference co-convenor)

Nerida Buckley

Alexandra Ellinson

Rae Fry

Christina Griffiths

Simon Jordan

Sue Leahy

Jade Maloney (Conference co-convenor)

Sarah Schofield

Bill Wallace (Conference director)

Michelle Wightwick (Conference manager)

Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)

The *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* has reached new heights over the course of the 2019–2020 year with an increased readership and international presence. This has helped elevate the journal's recognition, prestige and influence resulting in its ranking in two SCImago categories – 'Development' and 'Sociology and Political Science'. SCImago ranking provides an added incentive for authors and positions the *EJA* as an attractive journal to publish in.

The journal has now produced ten issues with SAGE Publishing to 30 June 2020. In the period January to October 2019, the journal achieved 8,640 full text downloads with most of these downloads occurring July to October. During this period the *EJA* experienced a vast geographical spread of visitors to its website from twenty countries. The highest levels of visitors were from Australia, USA, UK, NZ, Canada, India, Philippines, Indonesia and South Africa.

The *EJA* continues to offer a diverse range of academic and practice articles that provide an interesting array of evaluative stories, theories and methodologies. There has been a constant flow of Indigenous practice and academic articles that promote ways to evaluate programs so that improved program practises and outcomes can be achieved. The two special issues on values attracted a number of interesting articles that convey the influence of and the choices made through 'values' in the evaluation space. Use of program logic and systems evaluation theory are two areas of evaluation that continue to attract readers and authors alike and provide a strong learning platform. Overall the articles published in the past year highlight the inclusivity of the *EJA* and its capacity to deliver learning and publishing opportunities for members and non-members, packaged in diverse, meaningful and practical evaluation practice and theory that complements the professional learning program within the AES.

Looking ahead

During 2019 the AES Board recommended a strategic review of the *EJA*. This review commenced in May 2020 and seeks to understand the opportunities and risks of the journal as well as ways and means to improve the journal's performance through understanding its strengths and capacity. The review will explore the benefits of having the SAGE Publishing platform and the potential to further enhance the journal's quality, authorship and readership through resourcing and marketing strategies. A further important aspect of the review is to provide recommendations for a sound governance structure that supports the current and growing volunteer-based network including the editorial team, editorial board, authors, reviewers and other sponsors.

In 2020 the editorial team with the support of AES Board and staff advertised for two Assistant Editors. This resulted in selection of two very strong candidates who will add great value to the team by providing additional capacity for the next financial year.

The *EJA* experienced a productive year thanks to support from many people. Our warmest appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the *EJA* – we share our success with you all.

Editors

Liz Gould
Carol Quadrelli
Bronwyn Rossingh

Editorial assistant

Michelle Wightwick

AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

The AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation are awarded annually and are designed to encourage and recognise outstanding contributions to the theory and practice of evaluation. The 2019 awards were announced and celebrated on the evening of 18 September 2019 at the Gala Awards Dinner, held in conjunction with the AES 2019 International Evaluation Conference in Sydney.

Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, awards processes were suspended in 2020 along with the AES international conference. In their absence, the Awards and Recognition Working Group concentrated on advancing its internal work program which included:

- development of a Policy and Procedures Manual for the awards administration and assessment practices
- undertaking a review of the awards categories and processes.

The Awards and Recognition Working Group looks forward to the expected resumption of the awards in 2021, with some streamlined and enhanced categories and processes following the work undertaken in 2020.

2019–2020 Awards and Recognition Working Group members

Dana Cross
Rick Cummings
Kevin Dolman
Farida Fleming
Wei Leng Kwok (Co-chair)
David McDonald
Ian Patrick (Co-chair)
Gill Potaka-Osborne
Mathea Roorda



Kevin Dolman and Gill Potaka-Osborne during the awards ceremony

2019 EVALUATION POLICY AND SYSTEMS AWARD

Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Centre for Evaluation and Research



2019 INDIGENOUS EVALUATION AWARD

Aboriginal Evidence Building Partnership Pilot



ARTD Consultants: Simon Jordan, Sue Leahy, Ruby Leahy Gatfield, Kieran Sobels, Christine Eastman, Stephanie Quail, Imogen Williams, Holly Kovac

Aboriginal Evidence Building Team, Their Futures Matter: Nattlie Smith, Sharon Macleod

Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Community Centre Inc (Abcare): Garry Mathews, Greg Bennett, Trent Matthews

Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre: Matt Watts, Damien Thorne, Beverley Tucker, Department of Communities, and Justice Troy Mott, Department of Education

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The AES strategic priorities 2019–2022 include four strategic objectives: cultural capacity, pathways, vitality and relationships. To support the strategy the AES has five strategic advisory committees: Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee, Pathways Committee, Vitality Committee and Relationships Committee.



Board member Doyen Radcliffe welcomes the Indigenous conference support grants recipients at the 2019 international conference in Sydney.

Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee

Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity in culturally safe evaluation theory, practice and use

During 2019–2020 the Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee has continued to work across the pathways, vitality and relationships domains to work towards achieving the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022.

Reconciliation Action Plan

In our domain, cultural capacity, our focus is on Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity in culturally safe evaluation theory, practice and use. Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) provides us with a clear direction and supports our commitment to Indigenous evaluation and growing capacity in partnership with the AES Board.

The Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee would like to acknowledge and thank our AES members for their ongoing commitment and support of our priorities.

The impact measurement report for the AES *Reflect* RAP was submitted on 30 June 2020 and our next step is to develop the *Innovate* RAP Action Plan.

National Indigenous Evaluation Strategy

During the AES 2019 International Conference in Sydney, Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee members and Board members met with Romlie Mokak, Commissioner of the Australian Government Productivity Commission to discuss the development of the national Indigenous Evaluation Strategy. The group also spoke about the AES and its role in evaluation. This meeting resulted in a written submission by AES to the commission. The draft Indigenous Evaluation Report was released on 3 June 2020 and as further submissions were encouraged, we prepared a second submission with recommendations. The final strategy is expected to be handed to the Australian Government in October 2020.

Cultural Competency Framework

Two meetings were held with Beyond in relation to the Cultural Competency Framework. We received the project timeframe with commencement in July 2020 and completion by April 2021.

Conference Support Grants for Emerging Indigenous Evaluators

The Conference Support Grants for Emerging Indigenous Evaluators are awarded each year to new and emerging Indigenous evaluators to attend the AES International Evaluation Conference. Fourteen grants were awarded to attend the 2019 conference in Sydney. The 2020 conference has been postponed to September 2021 due to COVID-19.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our sisters and brothers on the Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee for their passion, knowledge and resilience in continuing to build capacity in a culturally safe evaluation theory, practice and use for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Committee members

Sharon Clarke (Chair)
Kevin Dolman
Doreen Mandari
Tony Kiessler
Kiri Parata
Doyen Radcliffe
Marica Tabualevu
Nicole Tajague
Min Vette
Nan Wehipeihana

Pathways Committee

Clear professional and career pathways

Over the past twelve months the Pathways Committee has started developing key components of a learning and professional practice framework, as articulated in the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022. Underpinning the framework is the AES competency framework. First developed by a member working group in 2013, a working group comprising members of the current Pathways Committee is reviewing the competency framework for repetition, clarity and redundancy to make it easier to apply in practice.

Led by Dr Amy Gullickson from the Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne, the group is part of an international collaboration to identify core competencies uniquely associated with evaluation. Alongside the revised AES competencies, the group is also developing a self-assessment tool and working with a programmer and developer to build a web-based platform enabling the competencies and assessment tool to be used online. The tool will be ready to pilot by the end of 2020. The online platform and tools will provide a much-needed infrastructure for evaluators to reflect on their strengths and priorities their professional development.

Another working group comprised of Pathways Committee members is developing a mentoring pilot, reflecting the high level of interest in mentoring expressed by members in recent

and previous consultations. Four fellows – Scott Bailey, Rick Cummings, Penny Hawkins and Alan Woodward – together with an Indigenous AES Board member Doyen Radcliffe, are using a co-design approach to develop the mentoring pilot scheme. We anticipate commencing the mentoring pilot in the second half of 2020. Lessons from the pilot will inform delivery options, including whether and how the AES can meet future demand for mentoring: to support particular groups, such as AES conference grant recipients and early career evaluators, as well as a mid- and later-career evaluators looking to learn from the experiences of more experienced practitioners to extend their own knowledge and understanding.

Committee members

Michael Cole
Fran Demitriou
Julie Elliot
Amy Gullickson
Lewis Haines
Sue Leahy (Chair)
Del Lloyd
David Roberts
Taimur Siddiqi
Anne Stephens
David Turner

Vitality Committee

An organisation meeting diverse member needs today and tomorrow

The Vitality Committee replaced the Membership Services and Engagement Committee to advance the vitality domain of the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022. The committee kickstarted its work in late 2019 when the east coast of Australia was in the grip of severe drought, bushfires and floods. Then to add to the drama, the whole of Australia was hurled into a global pandemic we now affectionately call COVID-19!

Clearly the Vitality Committee, chaired by Susan Garner, and drawn from regional network committee convenors, was formed in unprecedented times. Nevertheless, the committee has fully embraced a commitment under the vitality domain to 'an agenda of transformation to become a dynamic, future-focussed organisation' (AES strategic priorities 2019–2022).

With a strong focus on understanding the needs and issues of the membership across the AES regions, the committee, through the regional convenors have found innovative ways to provide and enhance services which have improved the geographic reach to the diverse membership of the AES. The last six months has literally seen 'digital transformation in action', with record numbers of registrants for free member engagement sessions, seminars and networking events with Zoom and Microsoft Teams the order of the day. Over the same time, a virtual AES workshop program has offered professional paid training services on a range of evaluation topics to serve the diverse evaluation community of the AES.

Two working groups have advanced practical action to fulfil the remit of the committee. The

first working group was set up to launch virtual member engagement sessions, which were intended to support members during COVID-19 lockdown and periods of social distancing. For example, Frances Byers (ACT) facilitated 'Unhurried' engagement sessions based on a UK model, which enabled virtual conversations that took participants into uncharted, and at times, unexpected territories. A second working group advanced the 2020 AES membership survey to better understand members' views on participation and engagement in the AES, and what might be possible in a post COVID-19 world. Duncan Rintoul led the charge with the project and results of the survey will be presented in the September 2020 AES FestEVAL.

Looking ahead, the Vitality Committee intends to build upon its achievements, to identify from the survey practical actions that will enhance the AES membership services and support members during a period of continued uncertainty due to COVID-19.

Membership was drawn from regional network committee convenors or their delegates.

Committee members

Susan Garner (Board, Chair)
Robert Grimshaw
Lisette Kaleveld
Greg Masters
Lee-Anne Molony
John Pilla
Tanja Porter
Sunita Singh
Cat Street

Relationships Committee

Collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the field of evaluation

2019–2020 was a year of transition, reflecting governance changes associated with the introduction of the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022. The three-year term of the Advocacy and Alliances Committee (AAC) came to an end in November 2019 and its successor the Relationships Committee was established in March 2020 following an expression of interest process.

In its three years, the AAC oversaw the development of several AES submissions regarding evaluation to Australian Government reviews, developed the *Talking about evaluation* resource and undertook consultation sessions with members. Behind the scenes it provided advice to the Board on a range of issues, including development and introduction of the new strategic priorities and operationalising these through potential strategic projects that could be undertaken under the new relationships domain.

In December 2019 the Australian Government concurrently released *Our Public Service Our Future*, the report of the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service (APS), and its formal response *Delivering for Australians*. The Australian Government response accepted a number of recommendations relating to evaluation that had been supported by the AES in its submissions. This included establishing a central Australian Government evaluation function, promoting agency investment in in-house evaluation functions, and establishment of an evaluation profession within the APS.

The newly established Relationships Committee found itself forming as the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact. In addition to providing useful advice and intelligence (as have the other strategic advisory committees) about its effect

on the evaluation sector and AES membership, it produced the AES statement on evaluation during the pandemic. This was issued both as a policy statement and as a resource to support members in any discussions they may be involved in about the particular relevance and value of evaluation during the pandemic, and how evaluations may be adapted in the current context.

Looking ahead to 2020–2021, the Relationships Committee will explore how to best pursue a number of potential strategic projects in the context of the current pandemic situation, monitor and seek to support the implementation of the Australian Government evaluation-related reforms and provide ongoing advice to the Board on emerging issues.

Committee members

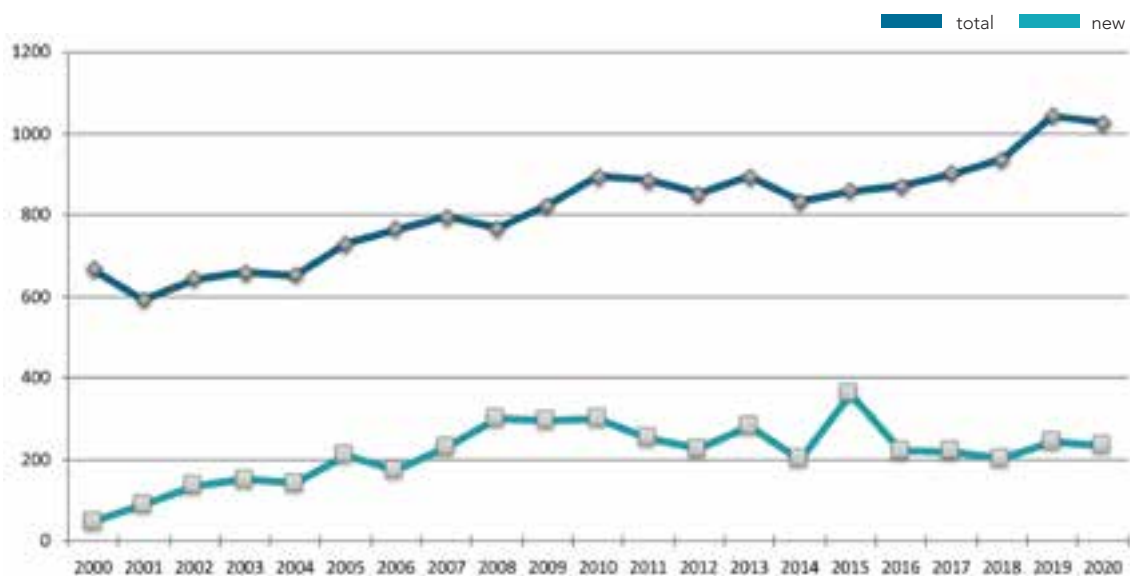
Rachel Aston
Helen Bartley
Luke Condon
Penelope Cooke
Alexandra Ellinson (Secretary, AAC)
Tracie-Lee Little
Jade Maloney
Lee-anne Maloney
Margaret MacDonald
Diane McDonald
Tadgh McMahon
Tim Renwick
Duncan Rintoul
David Roberts
Kara Scally-Irvine
John Stoney (Chair)
Elliott Tester
Charlie Tulloch
Helen Watts

MEMBER NETWORKS

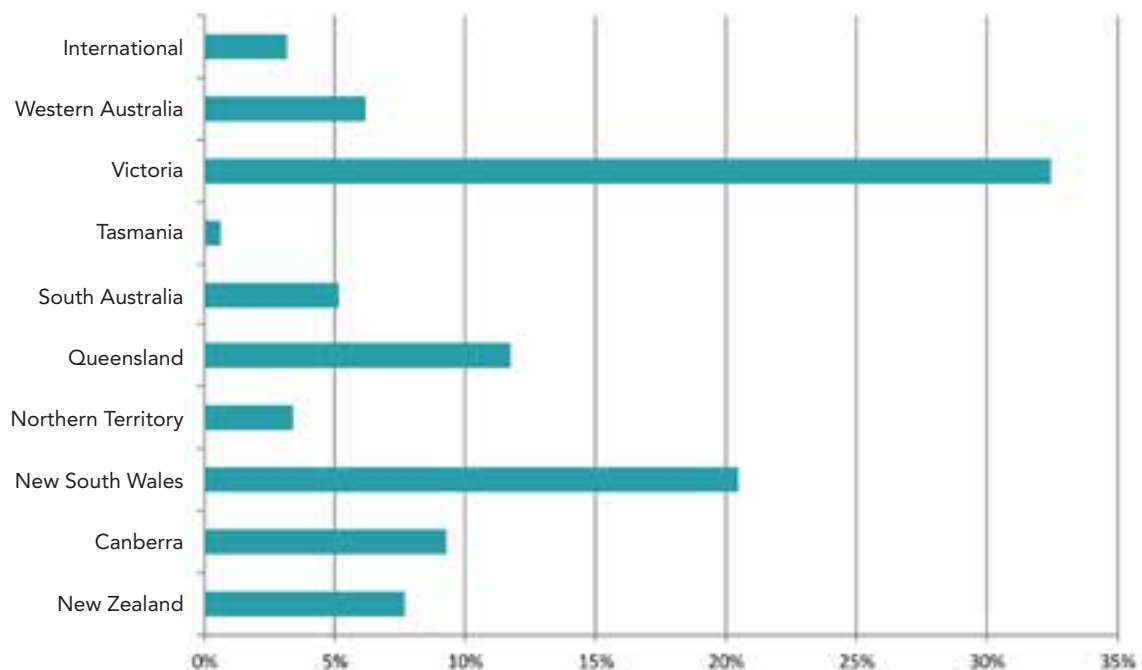


Membership trends

AES MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2000–2020



MEMBERSHIP BY REGION 30 JUNE 2020



Regional networks

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

During 2019–2020 the New Zealand network was saddened by the passing of Dr Jenny Neale (AES Fellow and past-President from 2007–2010). Jenny was a driving force in establishing the discipline of evaluation across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors in Aotearoa New Zealand. Her approach to evaluation was strongly grounded in the principles of social justice and equity (especially the intersectionality associated with gender-based inequalities). She is deeply missed.

This year, the New Zealand Committee prioritised building relationships within the wider research and evaluation sector through members:

- playing an active role in the Relationships Committee
- organising collaborative seminars and training workshops
- sharing knowledge and expertise with other evaluation groups.

For example, the network collaborated with the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA) for an evaluation PechaKucha night as our joint Christmas function in late 2019. The presentations from both groups were highly engaging and resulted in further subject matter collaborations. The network also hosted several free seminars including Human centred design and evaluation; Design thinking for evaluators; and Evaluating behavioural insights in the New Zealand justice sector. The last Wellington-based presentation before the COVID-19 lockdown was Professor Picciotto's seminar on the history of evaluation, which concluded with an open discussion on how best-practice evaluation contrasts with management consulting. While the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted scheduled monthly seminars in Wellington, the network committee engaged with AES members throughout the period of lockdown to support each other in different ways of working. Adaptability, re-prioritising research tasks, creativity in finding alternative ways of conducting primary research and innovation were key themes

which emerged from the various conversations with evaluators in diverse sectors.

In the forthcoming year the network will resume monthly seminars online and continue building relationships within the wider evaluation sector.

Committee members

Kara Scally Irvine
Marie Nissanka
Elizabeth Poppelwell
Sunita Singh
Liz Smith
David Turner

CANBERRA

During 2019–2020 the Canberra Committee sought opportunities to host a warm and engaging community of practice and to encourage a culture of self-reflection.

The Canberra network organised two fee-paying workshops over the twelve-month period:

- Vanessa Hood and Natalie Moxham's Participatory evaluation skills in mid-November
- Julian King's Value for money on 20 February.

Participants provided positive feedback on both courses, and there was a lot of interest in Julian King's presentation. While the committee had planned a number of fee-paying events for 2020, these were cancelled due to the impact of the smoke haze associated with summer fires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on the welcoming culture of the Canberra region, the committee trialled formats to engage and support members. When new members join the AES, the committee sends them a welcoming letter inviting them to attend a regional committee meeting. A number of new members have taken up this invitation to learn more about the AES and some have gone on to become active members of the Canberra committee.

The committee hosted two well-attended networking events in July and December 2019. Between 30–40 AES members attended each event held at the Hyatt Hotel.

The committee established a reading and dinner group. Pre-COVID, the group met at the library of Canberra's White Eagle Polish Club on three occasions. The venue was designed by the renowned Italian-born modernist architect Dr Enrico Taglietti and blessed in 1973 by His Eminence Karol Wojtyla, the late Pope John Paul II. Kim Grey, Tanja Porter and Samantha Mayes facilitated the group. Prior to each meeting an article was sent out, accompanied by some inquiry questions encouraging participants to reflect on an aspect of their evaluation practice. So far the participants have explored the life and ideas of 'Wise women of evaluation' – Elinor Chelimsky, Carol Weiss and Patricia Rogers. During every meeting a facilitated discussion occurred over Polish dumplings, sometimes accompanied by the fruits of the bar. The group attracted a lot of interest and spirited discussion. Everyone looks forward to a future time when we can meet again in the welcoming environment of the club. Meanwhile, the Canberra Committee is planning to take the group online.

Frances Byers led a number of the AES evaluation engagement sessions, coordinated by the AES to provide members an opportunity to stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Frances Byers facilitated three 'Unhurried conversations' in 2019–2020. Frances is continuing to run 'Unhurried conversations' in 2020–2021, in response to the positive feedback from participants. Unhurried conversations use a simple format, where there is no agenda, but clear norms about how to take turns to speak. They have a facilitation format developed by Johnnie Moore that prioritises listening and generates meaningful and connected discussions conducive to growth and self-reflection.

Canberra Committee members are engaged in an array of governance activities of the AES, including the Board and Vitality sub-committee.

Committee members

Frances Byers (Co-convenor)
Gina De Pretto
Julie Elliot
Susan Garner
Kim Grey
Trisha Grey
Samantha Mayes
Tanja Porter (Co-convenor)
John Stoney

NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW)

2019–2020 was a year like no other. The NSW Committee commenced the year committed to its ambitious strategy of holding monthly free events. After a brief pause in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the network commenced its first ever online events and continued to offer them on a monthly basis.

The Zoom sessions have been a revelation. For the first time they have opened up offerings to members (and guests) outside the Sydney metropolitan area and the committee has been delighted to welcome guests from interstate and even overseas. As with the face-to-face workshops, the online sessions have been deliberately designed to provide participants the opportunity to interact and participate. The committee was therefore delighted to hear emerging evaluators report how they have picked up tips and skills from their experienced colleagues in these sessions.

The monthly program has spanned a rich variety of topics, including:

- analysis of quantitative data
- use of rubrics
- evaluation and Buddhism
- evaluation in a COVID environment
- evaluation and complexity.

One particularly successful session was the 'Open space' event, also used at the 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference in Sydney, in which participants choose their own topics for discussion and can move around at will amongst the various small groups. An online variation, skilfully curated by Jade Maloney and Kath Vaughan-Davies (with invaluable interstate support from Lewie Atkinson), was well attended and very well received. We shall certainly be doing reruns in 2020–2021!

Until the COVID hiatus, our friends at the Australian Human Rights Commission very kindly continued to host our face-to-face events, as they have done for a number of years. The Commission's Indigenous team shared with us a very special and moving Acknowledgement of Country that they made available for opening our sessions.

This has become a standard practice for workshops and has been very warmly received by participants, especially the presenter's personal reflection on Indigenous culture and reconciliation.

In 2019–2020 three of our committee members stood down: Jennifer Davis, Bryony Mika and Sarah Meikle. The network thanks them for their energetic contribution and particularly acknowledges the unharried professionalism and warmth of Jennifer who skilfully shepherded the committee for the last few years. She is already missed.

2019–2020 sees three new members join the NSW committee: Brian Keogh, Melissa Kaltner and Gavin Faunce. We look forward to their injection of energy and inspiration.

2019–2020 promises to be as unpredictable as last year. The NSW committee recognises the need to maintain contact with members and provide opportunities for collaboration and interaction in these challenging times. In particular, the committee looks forward to exploring the opportunities online delivery offers in opening up NSW and in continuing to break down the AES borders!

Committee members

George Argyrous
Ben Barnes
Gavin Faunce
Florent Gomez
Melissa Kaltner
Brian Keogh
Linda Klein
Jade Maloney
Greg Masters (Convenor)
Ruth McCausland
Kath Vaughan-Davies
Keren Winterford

NORTHERN TERRITORY (NT)

2019–2020 saw a total of six events held by the NT network:

- Use of statistics at Territory Families (Seminar)
- Evaluation skills for health promotion (interactive presentation)
- A whole-of-government approach to program evaluation in the NT (seminar)
- Navigating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander evaluation (interactive seminar)
- 'Meet and greet' with Patricia Rogers, Better Evaluation (networking)
- Thinking with theory as a policy evaluation tool: the case of boarding schools for remote First Nations students (online seminar).

A number of events planned for the first half of 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19.

The range of activities offered this financial year has been diverse and has aligned to the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022. Several seminars and presentations supported the pathways strategic priority by providing members and other evaluators with growth and development opportunities. This occurred through sharing information about various evaluation approaches, tools and frameworks. These were attended by a total of 99 individuals. The most recent online seminar, 'Thinking with theory as a policy evaluation tool', enabled participants Australia-wide to attend via Zoom. A surprising amount of participant engagement was achieved through moderation of the Zoom chat room function.

The 'Navigating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) evaluation' workshop saw the highest number of attendees for the year, with 37 people attending. Feedback received indicated that participants greatly appreciated the opportunity to reflect on the strengths and opportunities of working in the ATSI evaluation context. This event aligned to the cultural capacity strategic priority as it allowed for discussion around, and ideas to improve, cultural competency when conducting evaluations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A final event that aligned to the relationships strategic priority was a meet and greet with esteemed evaluator Patricia Rogers.

Nine members attended this session, which was held in an informal setting and allowed for development of relationships amongst the AES network.

This financial year also saw a changeover in the Co-convenor role for the NT network. Cat Street remains Co-convenor, while Alison Rogers stepped down from her role after six years of dedicated service. At the beginning of 2020 Christabelle Darcy, Assistant Director Program Evaluation, also came on board to be Co-convenor. Christabelle is deeply engaged in the evaluation setting and is currently leading the development of a whole-of-government evaluation framework for the NT Government.

For 2020–2021 the NT network aims to harness available technology such as Zoom in order to increase access to its professional development events until face-to-face events can resume. Events planned for the next financial year include those to promote important evaluation work occurring in the NT in coming months. This includes the imminent release of the NT whole-of-government evaluation framework and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy (RECS). The network also aims to hold training events to upskill members and others in relation to basic evaluation skills, specifically developing theory of change and program logic.

Committee members

Christabelle Darcy (Co-convenor)
Catherine Street (Co-convenor)

QUEENSLAND

The 2019–2020 financial year began as a period of renewal for Queensland Committee. A process of expression of interest for new members to join the committee was successful, with several joining and immediately taking on roles. In September 2019, nominations were called for and accepted for new members and leadership roles on the committee

The committee also noted its tremendous appreciation and thanks to Sarah Renals for acting in the convenor role and doing so fantastically. New members and allocation of roles allowed several committee members to focus on their roles as part of the (then) aes20 Conference Committee. The Queensland Committee and broader evaluation community were enthusiastically engaged in this task with the conference committee at full membership, co-convened by Sarah Renals and Natasha Doherty. It was terribly disappointing when the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused postponement of the conference to 2021. However, we look forward to welcoming everyone to Brisbane in September 2021!

Prior to the impacts of COVID-19, the committee delivered a range of professional development and networking opportunities for our diverse evaluation community. The committee provided seven free lunchtime seminars, which were attended by around 200 participants.

Presenters included Dr Kate Murray (Queensland University of Technology), Dr Lyn Alderman (The Evaluators' Collective), Aaron Maher and Brianna Page (Nous Group), Dr Lesley Petersen (Petersen Consulting), Luke Thompson (Department of Youth Justice, Queensland Government), Dr Lewie Atkinson (Haines Centre for Strategic Management Limited) and Keryn Hassall (Aptavit).

The committee promoted and co-hosted two specialist workshops organised by the AES Office:

- Providing evidence to improve organisational performance: uses of evaluative thinking – by Dr John Owen and Dr Rick Cummings
- Introduction to evaluation – by Charlie Tulloch.

Following suspension of in-person activities, the committee has supported the virtual engagement sessions organised by the AES Office in collaboration with our colleagues across the member networks.

Throughout the year, the Queensland Committee's regular newsletter has provided a continued point of engagement with members and non-members. A refreshed format has been well received. The committee also hosted an Evaluation Interest Facebook group, periodic Conversation Group meetings and contributed to a Slack Community of Practice targeting solo evaluators and internal evaluators working for NGOs.

Looking ahead for 2020–2021, the Queensland Committee is keen to build on the (somewhat inadvertent) momentum towards digital modes of delivery. This provides greater opportunities for all members to engage regardless of where they are located across Queensland, as well as more flexibility around everyone's increasingly busy schedules. Re-establishing the regular professional development and networking opportunities, such as the free lunchtime seminars, will allow us to continue to share and promote great Queensland evaluation and evaluators.

Committee members

Buthaina Al Kindi
Natalie Arthur
Lewe Atkinson
Kylie Brosnan
Hannah Cotching
Nicole Cherry (Seminar coordinator)
Kiri Dicker (Newsletter editor)
Natasha Doherty
Rebecca Duell
Jo Durham
Mark Griffin
Robert Grimshaw (Convenor)
Keryn Hassall
Cherie Lamb
Marion Norton
Zhan Patterson
Carol Quadrelli
Sarah Renals
Emily Verstege
Rhianon Vichta
Peter Weston
Jackson White (Secretary)
Pauline Zardo

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA)

The SA network has achieved the following outcomes in relation to the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022.

Cultural capacity

The committee aimed to ensure that at least one event involved local Aboriginal people with a focus on Aboriginal social priority. This event attracted the largest number of participants in seminars organised by the SA network.

Pathways

The network's seminar program, supported by the AES Office is pivotal in assisting professional development of network members and promotion of evaluation in the broader community. This year's program included seven seminars and one workshop.

The committee delivered more interactive events (panel discussions) in response to a member survey, and initiated the use of digital platforms to introduce interstate speakers to the local environment.

Vitality

The committee continues to focus on the priorities and feedback received from the member survey (June 2019).

The network achieved a more diverse industry focus for seminars (from mining to Aboriginal health) with a more diverse range of delivery methods (panel, digital and conventional seminars). It was also pleasing that a substantial increase in committee membership was achieved.

Relationships

An informal partnership has been developed with the SA Government evaluation group.

In future, the committee will focus on two priority areas:

→ *Working in a COVID-19 environment*

The committee will consider a range of matters such as the role of evaluation in assessing COVID responses, how evaluators could work differently in order to ensure evaluation continues to be a practical activity for commissioners, and learning from experiences of others who have emerged from national disasters. This priority will be pursued largely

through the seminar program which will increasingly take the form of round table events.

→ *Cultural capacity*

In the past, the committee has largely been opportunistic rather than strategic. The committee aims to develop a long-term plan to proactively contribute to local cultural capacity building. Initially, the committee will liaise with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to identify their evaluation needs and then identify what practical steps it can take to address these needs, as well as identify emerging Indigenous evaluators it can support.

Committee members

Jane Austin (joined March 2020)

John Fargher

Ruth Fernandez (resigned 1 July 2020)

Donna Holden (joined March 2020)

John Pilla

Emily Saurman (joined March 2020)

Jessica Stevens

Patricia von Baumgarten

VICTORIA

The Victorian network ran a continuous and highly subscribed monthly seminar program during 2019–2020. With very little disruption, the committee managed to adapt to the online environment required in the new social distancing context. It has been remarkable to see how quickly speakers have adapted to run excellent sessions with relatively complex features (i.e. using breakout rooms to facilitate small group discussions with over 100 participants).

Registrations have skyrocketed since going online. With participation from other states, it means anyone can join from anywhere, including of course our seriously underserved regional members. With the recordings also available post seminar, this is the biggest positive change we have had and seen in our seminar program for a very long time. We will continue to offer this format in the future.

With the pivot to online program delivery at such short notice, and the discomfort of some scheduled speakers to move online, committee members have stepped up and offered extremely well-run topical presentations in lieu of speakers external to the committee. The seminar by Eleanor Williams (Department of Health and Human Services Victoria) on how her agency has managed to continue to deliver evaluations during COVID-19 was very topical.

The committee has established an 'environmental scan' standing agenda item to check-in on what's going on in our landscape and discuss whether and how we want to respond. This is bearing fruit in terms of 'project' ideas relevant to the AES strategy. For example, as a result of a discussion amongst committee members about supporting training in evaluation at the level of executives and decision makers in the Victorian Government, we recently reached out to ANZSOG (Australia and New Zealand School of Government) to discuss a joint executive education offering. Eleanor Williams (Department of Health and Human Services Victoria) has had an initial conversation with ANZSOG's Research Program Director, Subho Banerjee, and drafted a brief proposal. We'll be sharing this with the AES shortly.

VIC network members represent a wide range of sectors, but primarily health, human services (especially children, family, community), emergency management, Indigenous and international.

Committee members

Mandy Charman

Kon Jew-Chung

Hayden Collins

Jess Hatley-Brown

Caroline Henwood

Lee-Anne Molony

Ian Patrick

Kathryn Robb

Charlie Tulloch

Stuart Raetz

Eleanor Williams

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA)

Towards the end of 2019 the seminar program faced difficulties as the committee was unable to secure a reliable, suitable, cost-free venue. We persisted across a variety of venues and had a few very popular seminars – David Pannell's Value for money seminar in November, and a more intimate one about conference participants reflecting on learnings from the 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference in Sydney.

In February 2020, the planned seminar program had speakers confirmed but still lacked a suitable venue. This plan was disrupted by COVID-19 and the seminars were moved online. It was decided to hold a seminar in May on the topic at the top of mind of all evaluators – Evaluating during a pandemic. The seminar was capped at 50 participants – but it seems online seminars attract a much higher audience than face-to-face, and the AES will need to consider this in future.

The WA Committee values the support from the AES Office with the transition to online delivery during this time.

Feedback from participants and WA members about the online experience has so far been very positive. We certainly saw a few faces we had not seen for years, as well as many new faces, so it does seem to be more accessible for people who were not attending face-to-face events.

The WA Committee values informal discussion and networking, so our next steps are to find ways to create this 'safe space' environment online, to allow people to meet and reflect on their experience and learn from each other.

In 2020, it's been wonderful to be on committees where you can see one another's faces (via Zoom, rather than a teleconference), and to extend committee opportunities to other WA members.

In 2020–2021 the WA Committee aims to continue to offer online seminars, and to take the opportunity to better engage with regional WA – perhaps enabling evaluators in regional communities to present sessions.

Committee members

Heather Aquilina
Penny Cooke
Rick Cummings
Kylie Dalling
Kevin Dolman
Christina Kadmos
Lisette Kaleveld
Dorothy Luck
Theo Nabben
Nolan Stephenson

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

DESIGN & EVALUATION SIG

Membership of the Design & Evaluation SIG continues to grow with nearly 200 members signed up to the mailing list and LinkedIn group. In addition to the growth in membership the SIG continues to expand its reach into other professions, including designers and systems thinkers. This expansion highlights the interest in evaluation by these groups, but also that there is growing recognition of the overlap between their work and evaluation – which is in line with the relationships domain of the AES strategic priorities 2019–2022. The LinkedIn group has been restructured to ensure that existing content (e.g. Youtube videos) is prominent to members so that newly joined members can access pre-existing resources.

Looking forward, the SIG will be reaching out to members for expressions of interest to join the leadership team. The SIG will also be incorporating a more explicit focus on different systems methodologies and practices as they

relate to design and evaluation. There is a clear interest in this space from evaluators looking for practical tools to incorporate into their practice. This multidisciplinary approach to the SIG will help to ensure its continued relevance in a dynamic and fast moving environment.

The group will also continue promoting the SIG to expand the membership further – particularly to other professions to foster knowledge and practice sharing with different groups.

Group members

Jess Dart
Matt Healey
Vanessa Hood
Christina Kadmos
Rini Mowson
Elizabeth Smith
Mardi Trompf
Emily Verstege

MULTICULTURAL EVALUATION SIG

Formed in early 2020, the Multicultural Evaluation SIG provides a space for members to meet to enhance multicultural evaluation ideas, discussions, theories and practices, and provide a focus for sharing resources and learning about these topics with the broader AES membership.

The SIG is planning to engage the broader membership to invite them to join the group before formalising roles and responsibilities, TORs and so on.

We are planning on providing a time and space for the local and international evaluation community to come together to reflect on the Black Lives Matter movement and how we (as individuals, organisations and communities) can better support anti-racism efforts in Australia

and regionally. We are inviting anyone who is interested in participating to join us in this safe and respectful self-reflection activity.

Group members

Erin Blake
Kylie Brosnan
Yonas Dare
Kathryn Dinh
Jane Howard
Godwin Masuka
Erica Orton
Mark Planigale
David Roberts
Eva Sarr (Interim chair)
Jerry Winston

EMERGING EVALUATORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (EESJ) SIG

The EESJ SIG aspires to shift thinking and practice in the social justice sector through creating a community of practice and facilitating learning opportunities for emerging evaluators from diverse backgrounds.

This year we have been able to bring together over 25 emerging evaluators from diverse backgrounds via a physical meetup and a virtual seminar on two different topics – Power and Place-based evaluation approaches. The topics had been suggested and endorsed by the majority of our previous meetup participants.

For the two sessions we were privileged to have four guest speakers with extensive experience and expertise in evaluation and in their respective topics.

→ *Power*

Anna Powel, Principal Consultant, Clear Horizon and Abdullah Alemi, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Asylum Seekers Resource Centre shared their views on types and sources of power, as well as the power of program logic in sharing power between political and technical teams through system change.

→ *Place-based evaluation approaches*

Due to COVID-19, the second session Place-based evaluation approaches was held online. Dr Elise Barkley, Clear Horizon and Fiona Merlin, Hands Up Malee generously presented their expertise and experiences on the evaluation frameworks, methodology and

tools in place-based evaluation. Participants appreciated that there is a significant difference between traditional project management and place-based approaches as the latter cultivates local ownership that focuses on systems change and sustainability of program outcomes.

In addition to the meetup and online seminar, two EESJ SIG members, Yonas Dare and Eunice Sotelo attended the AES strategic planning meeting hosted by the AES Board and reflected the interests of the SIG.

Depending on the preferences of its members, the SIG aspires to continue engaging by inviting experienced evaluators to present seminars that could be shared to the wider AES community and beyond. Accordingly, the first session of the new financial year was an online seminar on How to write evaluation reports – with a possibility of follow-up practical exercises that would help emerging evaluators build their capacity, particularly on usable evaluation reports.

Current group members

Kaisha Crupi
Yonas Dare

Previous group members

Nikki Bartlett
Liz Bloom
Rini Mowson

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION NETWORK (APSEN) SIG

Established in 2019-2020, the APSEN SIG is an active community of practice for those working in public sector evaluation. The SIG aims to connect and support those facing similar contexts and challenges, address gaps in capability and capacity building and share resources to help build consistency in approaches to evaluation across the public sector in Australia. The SIG is co-chaired by Eleanor Williams and Florent Gomez and has 259 members.

The initiative to develop a dedicated network to connect those working in public sector evaluation was originally floated at the 2019 AES International Conference. Eleanor Williams subsequently led the work to build a comprehensive public sector network mailing list. This resulted in an enthusiastic response from prospective members, largely from the public sector in a wide range of policy portfolios from across all states and territories.

In March 2020 a consultation process was undertaken with prospective network members to help understand what the best use of the network should be and how members would like to engage. An online survey highlighted the need for a dedicated informal network to connect those working in evaluation in the public sector to share information and build capability across the membership by:

- sharing evaluation resources (tools, templates and guides) between government departments and agencies across Australia
- sharing public sector evaluation findings and lessons learnt in the public sector with network members in addition to publicly available information
- establishing a supportive community of practice for professional public sector evaluators
- supporting capacity and capability building within and across our departments and agencies
- providing a platform for sharing, interaction and hosting events, and

- raising the profile and promoting the professionalisation of public sector evaluation in Australia.

The APSEN SIG is governed by a self-selected Steering Group comprising network members from public sector with balanced multijurisdictional and multisectoral representation. Fifteen SIG members have been appointed to the Steering Group with Eleanor Williams as chair. The Steering Group will consult with members on an ongoing basis to identify network priorities and find ways to address the needs of evaluators working in government. Steering Group meetings were held in May and June 2020. The APSEN terms of reference will be finalised in July 2020 and have been developed to align with three strategic priorities: pathways, relationships and vitality.

Looking ahead, the APSEN SIG will establish an online platform for members from across Australian to connect and share public sector evaluation resources and evaluation findings. The platform will also contain a calendar of events which will be accessible to all APSEN SIG and AES members.

APSEN SIG is looking forward working with the AES Executive and connecting with the AES community in 2020-2021.

Group members

Michael Amon
Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside
Martin Bortz
James Burchmore
Raoul Craemer
Christabelle Darcy
Gavin Faunce
Florent Gomez
Eleanor Kerdo
Ruth Nicholls
Katherine Pontifex
Nolan Stephenson
Ashley Ubrihien
Angkana Whiley
Eleanor Williams

AES Life Members and Fellows



20th Fellow: Dr Alan Woodward

Dr Alan Woodward was endorsed as the 20th Fellow at the 2019 AES International Evaluation Conference in Sydney. As a long-time member and past President, it was very appropriate to have Alan as a new Fellow. Unfortunately, Alan was unable to attend the conference as he was attending a world meeting on suicide prevention in Africa. Based on past practice, we will formally welcome him to the Fellows at the next conference. Welcome Alan!

In line with the AES pathways strategic priority, fellows are expected to continue to contribute to the AES through various avenues, including professional development. In 2019–2020, fellows conducted more than a dozen professional development workshops across the country on a range of topics, including monitoring and evaluation, program logic, and evaluative thinking. In addition, several fellows presented workshops and presentations on similar topics for other agencies in several states as well as at overseas evaluation conferences.

Anthea Rutter has also undertaken, with support from the Board, a collection of short conversations with each of the fellows for dissemination to the membership. So far, ten of these informal and enlightening conversations have appeared as 'Meet the fellows' instalments on the AES Blog site at regular intervals.

In 2020–2021, four fellows will be taking part in a pilot project to establish a mentoring program for AES members. It is expected that this will involve mentoring small groups of members in several regions on issues of mutual interest.

Fellows Committee

Anona Armstrong
Rick Cummings (Coordinator)
Zita Unger

Life members

Anona Armstrong
Ian Trotman

AES Fellows

Anona Armstrong	Victoria, 2003
Scott Bayley	Aust. Capital Territory, 2016
Darrel Caulley†	Victoria, 2005
Rick Cummings	Western Australia, 2013
Sue Funnell	New South Wales, 2003
Penny Hawkins	Wellington, 2009
Anne Markiewicz	Victoria, 2015
Chris Milne	New South Wales, 2003
Jenny Neale†	Wellington, 2015
John Owen	Victoria, 2003
Patricia Rogers	Victoria, 2016
Anthea Rutter	Victoria, 2016
Colin Sharp	South Australia, 2003
Ralph Straton	Western Australia, 2004
Ian Trotman	Wellington, 2003, Emeritus
Zita Unger	Victoria, 2013
Yoland Wadsworth	Victoria, 2007
Gill Westhorp	Tasmania, 2018
Jerome Winston	Victoria, 2004
Alan Woodward	New South Wales, 2019



Welcome drinks 2019 AES International
Evaluation Conference in Sydney

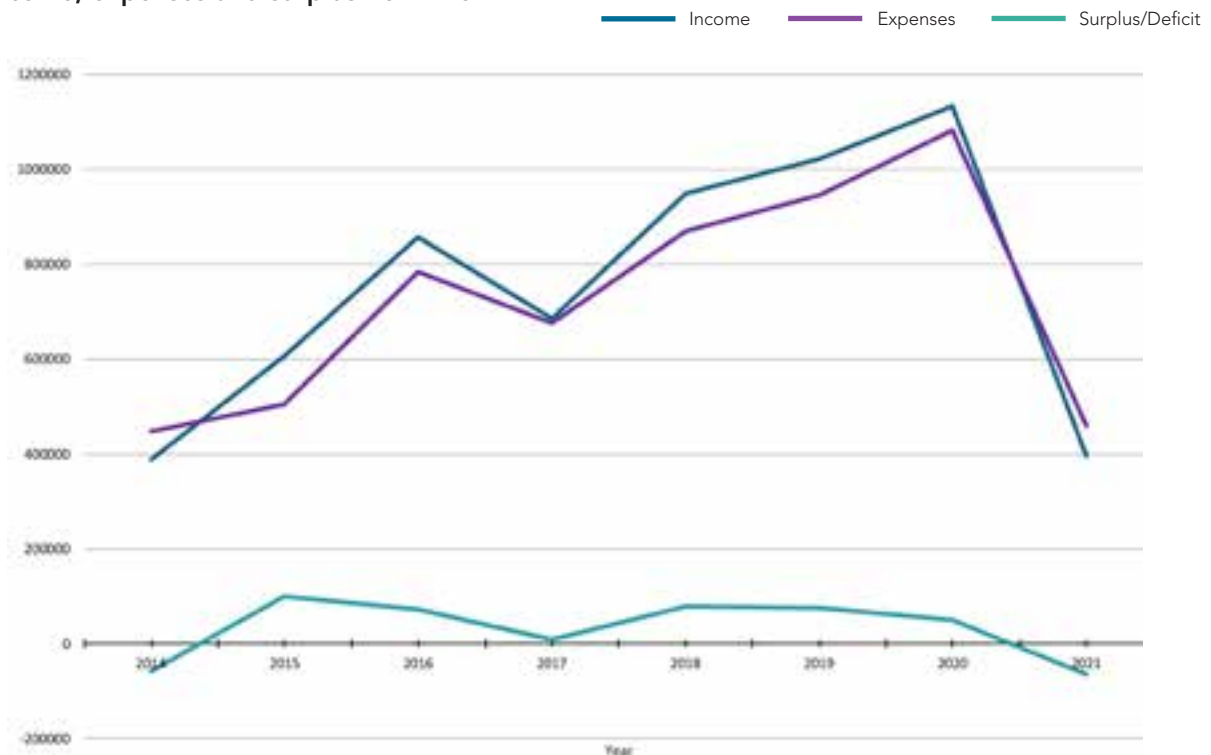
The background consists of two solid-colored geometric shapes. A teal triangle occupies the upper right portion of the frame, while a dark blue shape fills the lower left and bottom portions. The two shapes meet at a diagonal line that runs from the left edge towards the bottom right corner.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance summary

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/21 Budget
INCOME							
Prof development	135,284	176,447	147,498	172,780	324,542	158,392	160,000
Conference income	293,482	521,623	361,286	593,572	488,755	717,016	
Memberships	144,115	143,385	156,997	167,487	186,475	191,531	160,000
Publications	22,573	16,622	17,913	14,463	20,814	23,043	21,200
Government subsidies						43,116	54,000
Other Income	9,564	416	267	197	197	119	100
Total Income	605,018	858,493	683,961	948,499	1,020,783	1,133,217	395,300
EXPENDITURE							
Prof development	83,151	101,665	88,076	111,626	186,757	111,229	77,500
Conference/projects	192,228	413,914	309,797	426,880	388,087	572,167	1,500
Strategic projects			20,000	1,326	28,516	29,090	
Memberships	2,209	2,338	1,520	2,084	3,169	3,457	12,000
Publications, inc EJA	28,591	21,320	24,040	33,120	30,734	53,173	45,000
Other expenses	4,136	1,875	924	–			
SUB-TOTAL	310,315	541,113	444,357	576,036	637,263	769,116	136,000
Admin/Governance	195,268	244,018	231,840	295,050	308,037	312,977	324,200
Total Expenditure	505,583	785,130	676,197	870,086	945,300	1,082,093	460,200
SURPLUS	99,435	73,363	7,764	78,413	75,483	51,124	–64,900

Income, expenses and surplus 2014–2021



Financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Revenue		1,133,217	1,020,783
Depreciation and Amortisation		5,800	1,635
Other Expenses		1,076,293	943,665
Profit before Income Tax	3	51,124	75,483
Total Comprehensive Income		51,124	75,483

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Publications Sales	23,043	20,814
Professional Fees		
Workshops Income	158,392	324,542
Conferences Income	717,016	488,755
Membership Fees	191,531	186,475
Interest Received		
– Interest Received - Bank account	119	197
Government Subsidies		
– Government Subsidies (COVID-19)	43,116	–
	1,133,217	1,020,783
Expenditure		
Administration & Governance	307,177	306,402
Cost of Publications	53,173	30,734
Depreciation	5,800	1,635
Membership Services	3,457	3,169
Special Projects (incl Conferences and Support Grants)	601,257	416,603
Workshops	111,229	186,757
	1,082,093	945,300
Profit before Income Tax	51,124	75,483

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		498,163	612,846
Trade and Other Receivables		24,541	35,760
Other Current Assets		111,631	175,914
Total Current Assets		634,335	824,520
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	11,371	6,215
Intangible Assets	8	11,560	11,560
Total Non-Current Assets		22,931	17,775
TOTAL ASSETS		657,266	842,295
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	9	36,154	98,343
Provisions	10	25,044	19,805
Prepaid Income		95,431	274,634
Total Current Liabilities		156,629	392,782
TOTAL LIABILITIES		156,629	392,782
NET ASSETS		500,637	449,513
Equity			
Retained Profits		500,637	449,513
TOTAL EQUITY		500,637	449,513

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Retained Earnings		
Balance at 1 July 2019	449,513	374,030
Profit Attributable to Members	51,124	75,483
Balance at 30 June 2020	500,637	449,513

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	6		
Receipts from Customers		1,208,600	986,629
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,323,402)	(935,691)
Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities		(114,802)	50,938
Interest Received		119	197
Net Cash Outflow from Investment Activities		119	197
Net Decrease in Cash Held		(114,683)	51,135
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 July 2019		612,846	561,711
Cash and Cash Equivalent as at 30 June 2020		498,163	612,846

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The financial statements cover Australian Evaluation Society Limited as an individual entity. Australian Evaluation Society Limited is incorporated under *Corporations Act 2001* and report under *Australian Charities and not for profits Commission Act 2012* ('the Act').

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Board of Directors, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs

modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(b) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past

events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment of losses.

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on diminishing value over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The Depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Office Equipment	66.60 %
Website Costs	33.30 %
Art Paintings	5.00%

(e) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(f) Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest Revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

Membership Subscriptions

Membership fees are payable annually in advance and are due on the Anniversary of the month of joining. Membership fees are treated as income when the subscription is received except when the membership exceeds on year. Income received in respect of memberships exceeding one year are carried forward as income in advance (current liability) and recognised in the subsequent period. Fees received from new members whose membership has not been approved prior to year-end are brought to account as income in advance (current liability) and carried forward to the year in which the membership is approved.

Conference and seminar income expenditure

Events income and expenditure are recognised in the year that the event is held. Events income and expenditure which is received or expended prior to year-end, but which relates to an event to be held after year end, is recognised as income in advance (current liability) and conference expenses prepaid (current or non-current asset) and is carried forward to the year in which the event is held.

Where conference administration is outsourced, income received and expenditure incurred by the conference organiser prior to year-end, but which relates to a conference to be held after year end, have not been recognised.

Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
3. PROFIT		
Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	5,800	1,635
Other Expenses	1,076,293	943,665
	1,082,093	945,300
4. PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		
Profit before income tax expense from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:		
Charging as Expense		
Movements in Provisions		
Depreciation		
– Depreciation of Property Plant and Equipment	5,800	1,635
Net Expenses Resulting from Movement in Provisions	5,800	1,635
5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank	419,031	533,833
Anz V2 Bank Account	79,132	79,013
	498,163	612,846
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	498,163	612,846
	498,163	612,846
6. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income Tax		
Profit after Income Tax	51,124	75,483
Adjustments for Non-Cash Components in Profit		
Depreciation	5,800	1,635
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Increase in Trade and Other Receivables	64,546	(75,551)
Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	(241,392)	38,106
Decrease in Provisions	5,239	11,462
Net Cash Decrease in Cash Held	(114,683)	51,135

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Office Furniture & Equipment	19,335	12,300
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	10,232	8,472
	9,103	3,828
Art Collection	2,500	2,500
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	232	113
	2,268	2,387
Total Plant and Equipment	11,371	6,215
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	11,371	6,215
8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Non-Current		
Formation Expenses	11,560	11,560
Website Development	12,020	12,020
Less Accumulated Impairment Losses	12,020	12,020
Total Intangible Assets	11,560	11,560
9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Sundry Creditors	5,048	5,489
Trade Creditors	12,175	47,172
ANZ Visa Card	6,664	7,091
PAYG Tax Withholding accrued	6,948	7,838
Provision for GST	5,319	30,753
	36,154	98,343
Total Trade and Other Payables	36,154	98,343
10. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	9,861	8,117
Provision for Long Service Leave	15,183	11,688
	25,044	19,805

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$

11. IMPACT OF COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions imposed by the Australian and other overseas governments have caused disruption to businesses and economic activity.

The Australian Evaluation Society has managed, and continues to actively manage, the risks arising from Covid-19.

This includes reducing planned spending and moving fee-paying activities online. We have sufficient cash on hand and cashflow to operate for at least another two years.

There have not been any significant adverse operational or financial impacts as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to date and any known impacts to date have been reflected in the 30 June 2020 financial statements.

As at the date these financial statements are authorised for issue, the directors of Australian Evaluation Society consider that the financial effects of any potential changes cannot be reasonably estimated for future financial periods. As the situation remains fluid, due to the evolving changes in government policy and business and customer reactions thereto, the directors consider that the general economic impacts arising from Covid-19 and lower levels of forecast activity are likely to negatively impact the financial results of Australian Evaluation Society over the near term, in particular, the year ending 30 June 2021.

Based on the current assessment as of the date of signing the financial report, the directors have concluded that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate as the negative impact of the pandemic on the organisation is expected to be manageable.

12. STATUTORY INFORMATION

The registered office of the association is:
Australian Evaluation Society Ltd., Level 6,
100 Leicester Street Carlton Vic. 3053

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, for the year ended 30 June 2020 has been received and is included with the financial statements.

The Board of Directors present their report on the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

Committee Members

The names of each person who has been a committee member during the year and to the date of this report are:

John Stoney
Carina Calzoni
Doyen Radcliffe
Sharon Clarke
Kiri Parata
Sue Leahy
Susan Garner
Charlie Tulloch

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

Promote Ethics and Standards in evaluation practice in Australia
Advancing Social or Public Welfare


Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of the association's activity occurred during the financial year.

Operating Result

The profit of the association amounted to \$51,124.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



John Stoney



Carina Calzoni

Dated 25 August 2020

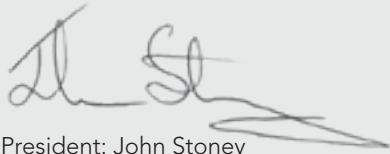
AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LIMITED STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors have determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board of Directors the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Australian Evaluation Society Limited as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Evaluation Society Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:



President: John Stoney



Treasurer: Carina Calzoni

Dated 25 August 2020

Australian Evaluation Society Limited

Compilation Report To Australian Evaluation Society Limited

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Australian Evaluation Society Limited, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, and the income statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the additional information contained in the detailed profit and loss. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in the notes to the accounts.

The Responsibility of the Board of directors

The Board of Directors of Australian Evaluation Society Limited is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the Board of Directors, we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements on the basis of accounting described in the notes to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled for the benefit of the Board of Directors who is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

V P Cannizzaro & Co

Fellow Certified Practising Accountants & Chartered Tax Advisor
Ground Floor, 19-21 Argyle Place South Carlton Victoria 3053



Vito Cannizzaro
19 August 2020

BPR AUDIT PTY LTD
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd (the Entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and not for profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Australian Evaluation Society Ltd to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and not for profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Impact of Covid-19

We draw attention to Note 11 to the financial report, which describes management's current understanding of the impact of global Covid-19 pandemic and the related social distancing measures put in place by the Australian Government in March and July 2020 to the operations of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd. The note discloses the key management assumptions to reach the conclusion that the impact of the pandemic on the Entity is manageable and the going concern basis of accounting is still appropriate. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Bernie Rohan
Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Reg. No. 311673
G03, 12-14 Cato Street
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

Dated: Aug 25, 2020

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE DIRECTORS OF
AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020, there have been:

- a. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Bernie Rohan
Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Reg. No. 311673
G03, 12-14 Cato Street
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

Dated: Aug 25, 2020



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME
APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS LEGISLATION

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