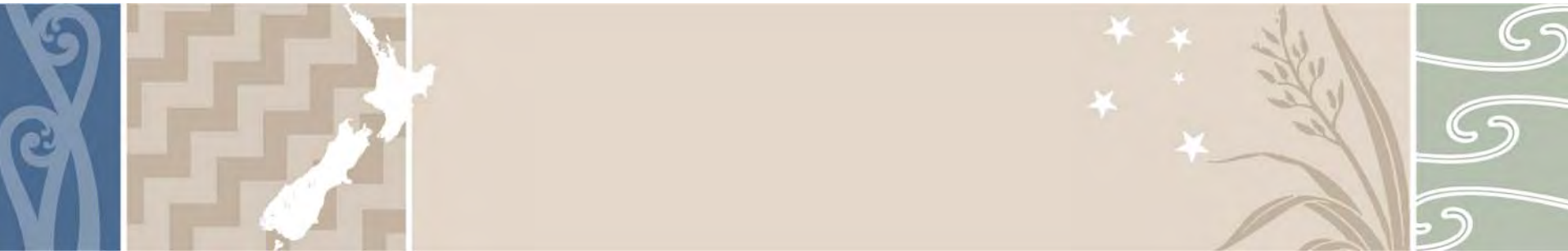


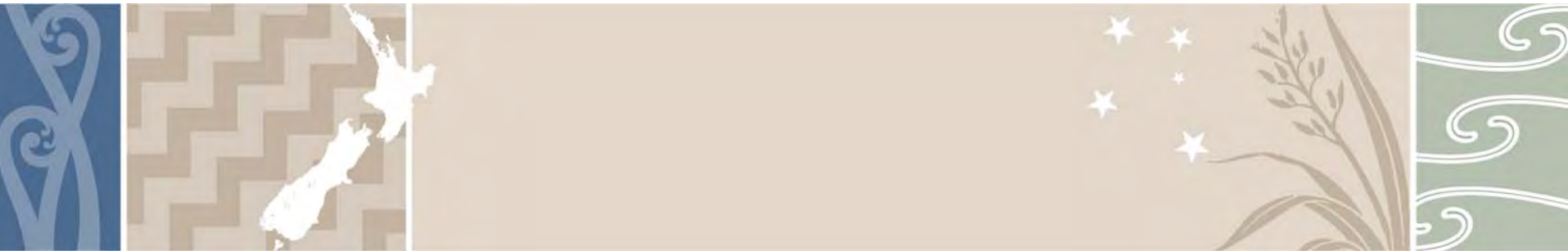
Reflecting on the Quality of Evaluations in the New Zealand Aid Programme



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Evaluation in the New Zealand Aid Programme



Penny Hawkins

Deputy Director – Evaluation, Monitoring & Research

Overview of NZ Aid Programme Evaluation

- Evaluations commissioned and managed by programme staff with advisory support from Evaluation Team
- Evaluation Advisors sometimes included in evaluation teams and/or lead the evaluation
- Independent evaluation contractors are used for almost all evaluations
- Evaluation policy, strategy, guidelines and use of international standards (OECD-DAC)

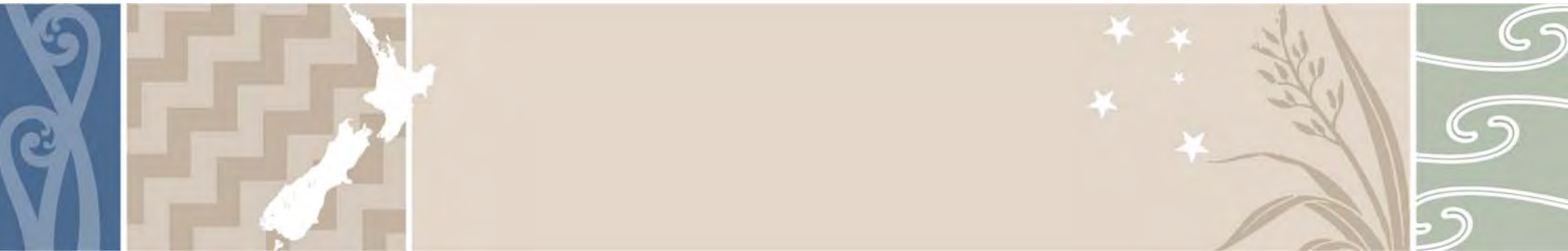


Increasing pressure for evidence-based programme funding decisions

- Evaluation is only one source of evidence
- Other streams of information flow from monitoring and performance reporting
- Need to maintain evaluation culture and demand for better quality evaluations
- On-going work to strengthen both the management processes for evaluation and the quality of the end product...with periodic progress checks



Evaluation Quality



Miranda Cahn
Senior Evaluation Advisor

Annual Review of the Quality of New Zealand Aid Programme Evaluations

- Aim of the study:
To assess the quality of evaluations commissioned by the New Zealand Aid Programme and identify areas for improvement
- Supports development of guidance, training and advice
- Since 2007 the study has used a similar methodology for comparison



Report on Quality of 2009 Evaluations

- Quality standards used in the study have lifted due to improved guidelines and expectations
- Quality of TOR and evaluations have improved over the three years eg ...
- Still improvement needed:
 - Clarity of evaluation objectives/questions
 - Methodology
 - Clarity of lines of evidence in reports
 - Evaluating value for money
 - Evaluating effectiveness (achievement of outcomes)

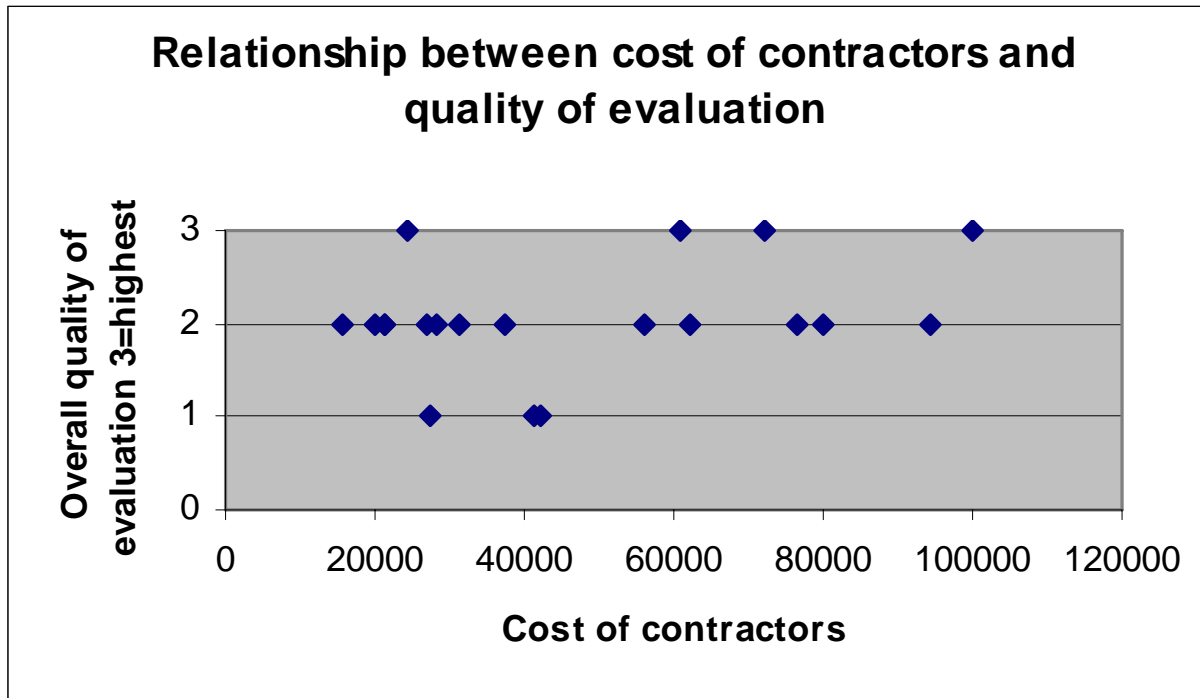


Factors affecting quality

- Some factors outside our control /influence ...
- Study analysed some factors we can manage:
 - Quality of TOR/RFP
 - Advice (e.g. timing, type)
 - Quality of evaluation plans
 - Expectations of evaluations being appropriate and adjusted in line with the resources available
 - Steering Groups



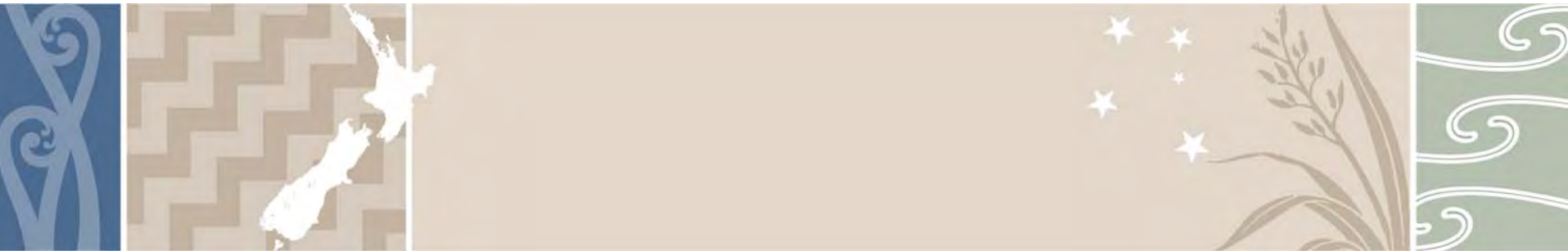
Resources



Average cost of contractor(s):

\$46, 293

Steering Groups



Simon Williamson
Senior Evaluation Advisor

Use of Steering Groups in International Development Evaluations

- Essential for an important and/or large, complex, politically risky, joint evaluation, or where several stakeholders have major interests
- Stakeholders have a voice in key issues and provide guidance to management on decisions
- Can enhance ownership of the study and create more interest in results and use of findings
- Facilitates early engagement and cooperation with development partners



Steering Groups...

- May include: implementing agency, cooperating partners, donor representatives
- Tasks can include: approving TOR/RFP; approving evaluation team; approving evaluation plan; reviewing and commenting on draft reports; approving final report



Issues in running a Steering Group

- Which Stakeholders to include?
- What is their motivation for being in the group? Is it governance or to influence evaluation outcome?
- Who represents development partners? (e.g. high status - no time to engage, or available but no decision making authority)
- Power imbalances need to be managed carefully
- Cross-cultural communication



When it works well

