

# Practical solutions for evaluating complicated and complex policies

AES 2012

Marnie Carter  
Ned Hardie-Boys  
Julie McGeary  
Mathea Roorda

# Simple interventions

- › Single set of objectives
- › Single organisation
- › One way to achieve intended impact
- › Works the same for everyone

# Complicated interventions

- › Multiple objectives, at different levels, sometimes competing
- › Multiple organisations with formalised requirements
- › Several ways to achieve intended impact – can be identified in advance
- › Only works in conjunction with other interventions and/or only for some people and/or only in some circumstances – can be identified in advance

# Complex interventions

- › Emergent objectives
- › Emergent organisations, working together flexibly
- › Several ways to achieve intended impact – only evident in retrospect
- › Only works in conjunction with other interventions and/or only for some people and/or only in some circumstances – only evident in retrospect

# Implications for evaluation

- › Social problems recognised as ‘wicked’ and ‘messy’
- › Shift to more complicated and complex interventions
- › Evaluation challenge becoming as complex as the interventions we are evaluating
- › What have we learnt so far?

# Three cases

- › ‘New Model’ for supporting disabled people
- › The Future Farming Strategy
- › The Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative (NTER)

# 'New Model' for supporting disabled people

A programme of work to re-design the way the NZ Ministry of Health supports disabled people to live everyday lives

## **Aims to:**

- › Ensure people are connected to their communities and natural supports
- › Create more flexibility in funded supports
- › Enable disabled people and their families to be more in control of that funding



# The Future Farming Strategy



**FUTURE FARMING** Productive, Competitive and Sustainable

A Victorian Government Initiative  
 Victoria  
 The Place to Be

## Summary of Funded Actions

### Action 1: Boosting productivity through technology and changes in farming practices

Major new investment in research, development and practice change	\$77 million over four years
State-of-the-art services to farm businesses	\$8 million over four years
Changing irrigation practices	\$2.3 million over two years
Precision farming through GPS technology	\$1.47 million over three years + \$3.4 million from the RIDF fund
High productivity in the dairy industry	\$8.57 million over four years
Stakeholder engagement, implementation and evaluation	\$2.71 million over five years
	<b>\$103.45 million</b>

### Action 2: Building skills and attracting young people to farming

Strengthen primary industry skills	\$0.308 million
	<b>\$0.308 million*</b>

### Action 3: Understanding and managing climate change

Planning for climate change	\$5.2 million over four years
New technologies and strategies	\$6.22 million over four years
	<b>\$11.42 million</b>

### Action 4: Strengthening land and water management

New action on weeds and pests	\$20 million over four years
Improving rural land-use planning	\$3.79 million over four years
	<b>\$23.79 million</b>

### Action 5: Helping farming families to secure their futures

Working with rural communities	\$3.74 million over four years
Farm family health	\$2.18 million over four years
Case management for farmers	\$3.46 million over four years
New National Centre for Farmer Health	\$2.4 million over four years
	<b>\$11.78 million</b>

### Action 6: Developing new products and securing new markets

Better market access and supply chain development	\$2.93 million over four years
Support for organics	\$1.08 million over three years
Support for aquaculture industry	\$4.05 million over four years
Support for the grapevine industry	\$3.0 million over four years
	<b>\$11.06 million</b>

### Action 7: Transporting products to market

Regional rail review	\$42.7 million
	<b>\$42.7 million</b>
	<b>Total: \$204.51 million</b>

\* New school and TAFE funding will be outlined in the 2008-09 Budget.



# Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative (EHSDI)

- › Expanding PHC to improve access to core services
- › Improving the quality of remote PHC services
- › Developing regional approaches to planning and delivering services
- › Increasing Aboriginal community control

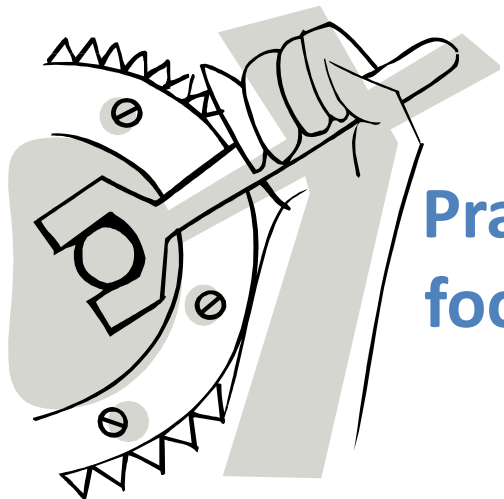


# Base sessions

- › The evaluation challenge(s)

Share  
experiences  
and ideas

- › How challenges were dealt with



**Practice  
focused**

- › Take home messages