

# Creating credible findings in evaluating a complex programme

The New Zealand Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project

Carolyn O'Fallon



# Today

---

- ① Setting the scene: approach to solving complex social issues in New Zealand
- ② The strategic evaluation of the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project

# Some New Zealand problems are complex...

---

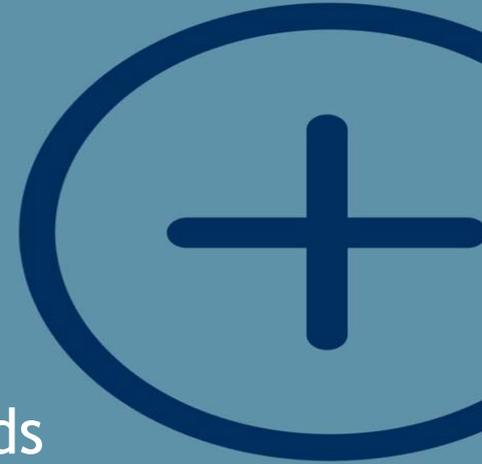
- ⊙ High rates of child abuse and neglect, rheumatic fever, (relative) child poverty, youth suicide, poor quality housing
- ⊙ Where Māori and Pacific peoples tend to be more highly represented in such statistics
- ⊙ Where clearly identifiable “places” (e.g. Northland, Gisborne, South Auckland) have greater “at risk” populations



# The Government's response: Social investment

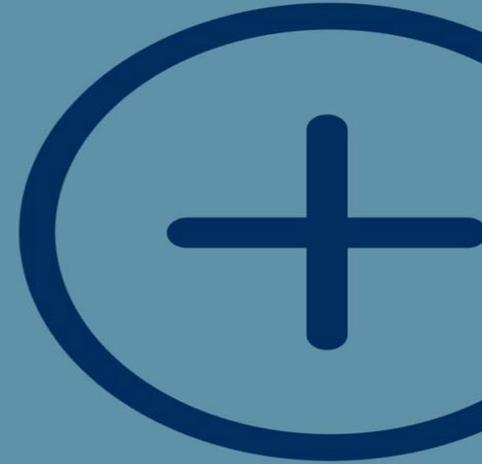
---

- Uses data and evidence to understand the needs of people
- Focuses on evidence-based prevention and early intervention
- Collaborative, multi-agency response over several years
- Emphasises monitoring & evaluating, learning and making improvements



# The Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project

---

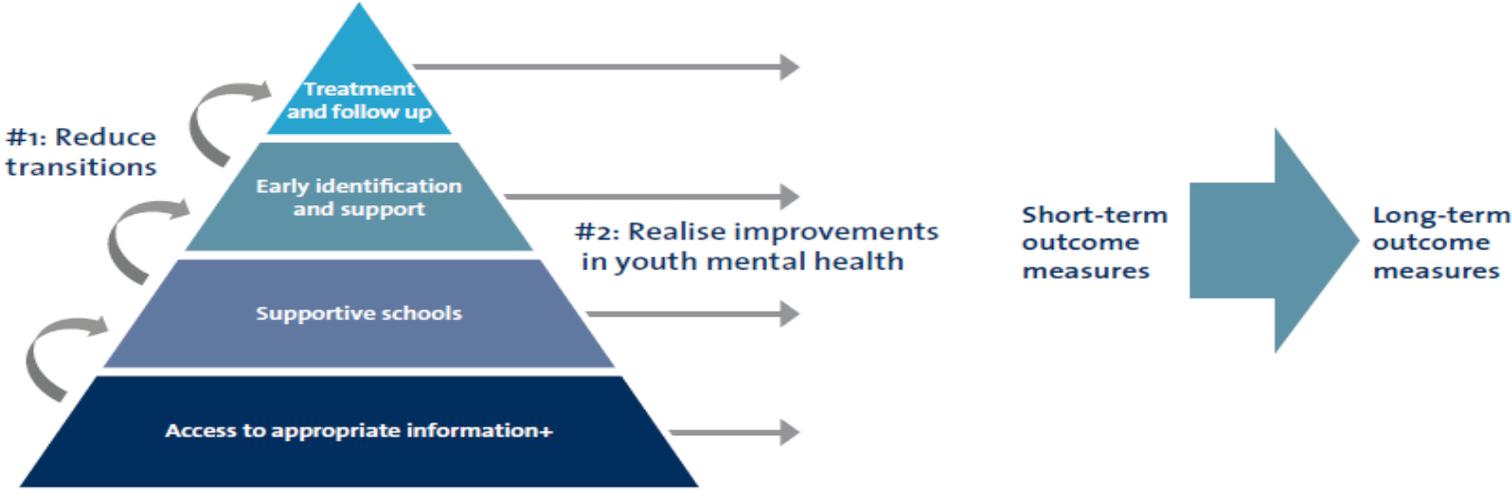


- System boost comprised of 26 initiatives
- Some new, some expanded, some pilots of international interventions, some reviews
- In places where youth live, work, study and play
- Nationally developed, locally implemented
- 4 year programme



# The structure of YMHP

Schematic of logic for YMHP  
YMHP is intended to have two main changes...



Structure of YMHP



# YMHP outcomes

---

- ⊗ Improved knowledge of what works to improve youth mental health
- ⊗ Increased resilience among youth
- ⊗ Better access to timely and appropriate treatment and follow-up
- ⊗ More supportive schools, communities and health services
- ⊗ Early identification of mild to moderate mental health issues in youth
- ⊗ Better access to appropriate information for youth and their families and whānau.

# 26 initiatives

**Improved knowledge of what works to strengthen systems and processes:**

- In referral pathways and transitions: Youth referrals pathways review (#19);
- In the ways services are funded: Developing integrated funding models and connected service delivery (#24)
- In schools: ERO review of wellbeing in schools (#11); Improving the school guidance system (#12); Co-locating additional social services in schools (#25)
- In education: Review of AOD education programmes (#13)

**Youth engagement (initiative 20)**

**Better access to timely treatment and follow-up:**

- Youth Primary Mental Health service (#3)
- E-therapy (#4)
- CAMHS & AOD Follow-Up (#6)
- CAMHS & AOD Access (#7)
- Addressing the emerging youth mental health issues in Canterbury (#26)

**Early identification and support:**

- School-Based Health Services (#1)
- Workforce development - HEEADSSS Wellness Check (#2)
- Youth Primary Mental Health Service (#3)
- Primary care responsiveness to youth (#5)
- Social support for Youth One Stop Shops (#18)
- Youth mental health training for social services (#21)
- Whānau Ora for youth mental health (#22)

**More supportive schools:**

- PB4L School-Wide (#8)
- PB4L Check and Connect (#9)
- PB4L My FRIENDS Youth (#10)
- Youth Workers in Low Decile Secondary Schools (#14)
- Addressing the emerging youth mental health issues in Canterbury (#26)

**Better access to appropriate information:**

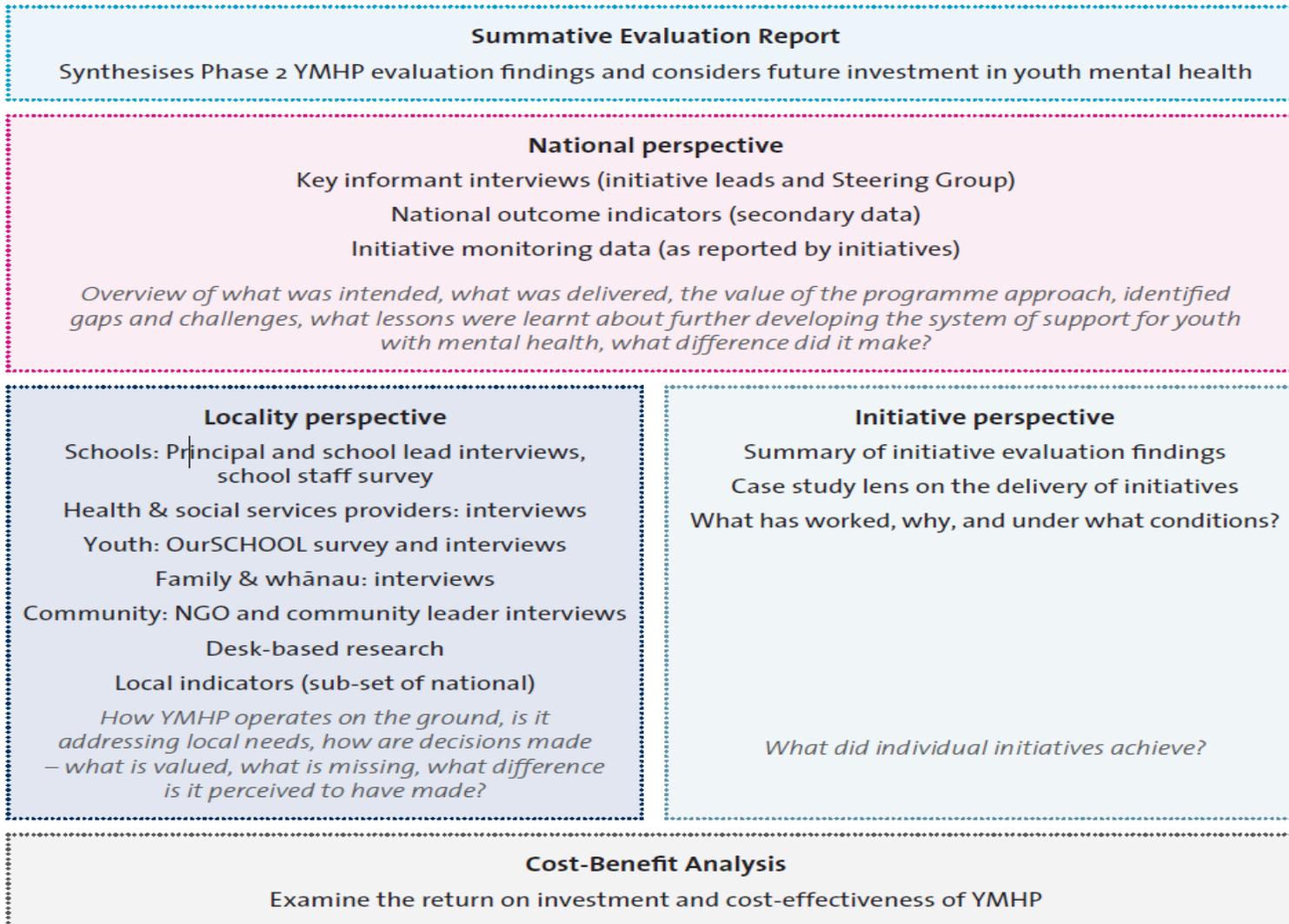
- Social Media Innovation Fund (#15)
- Improving the youth friendliness of mental health resources (#16)
- Information for parents, families and friends (#17)
- Referral pathway supports for young people (#23)



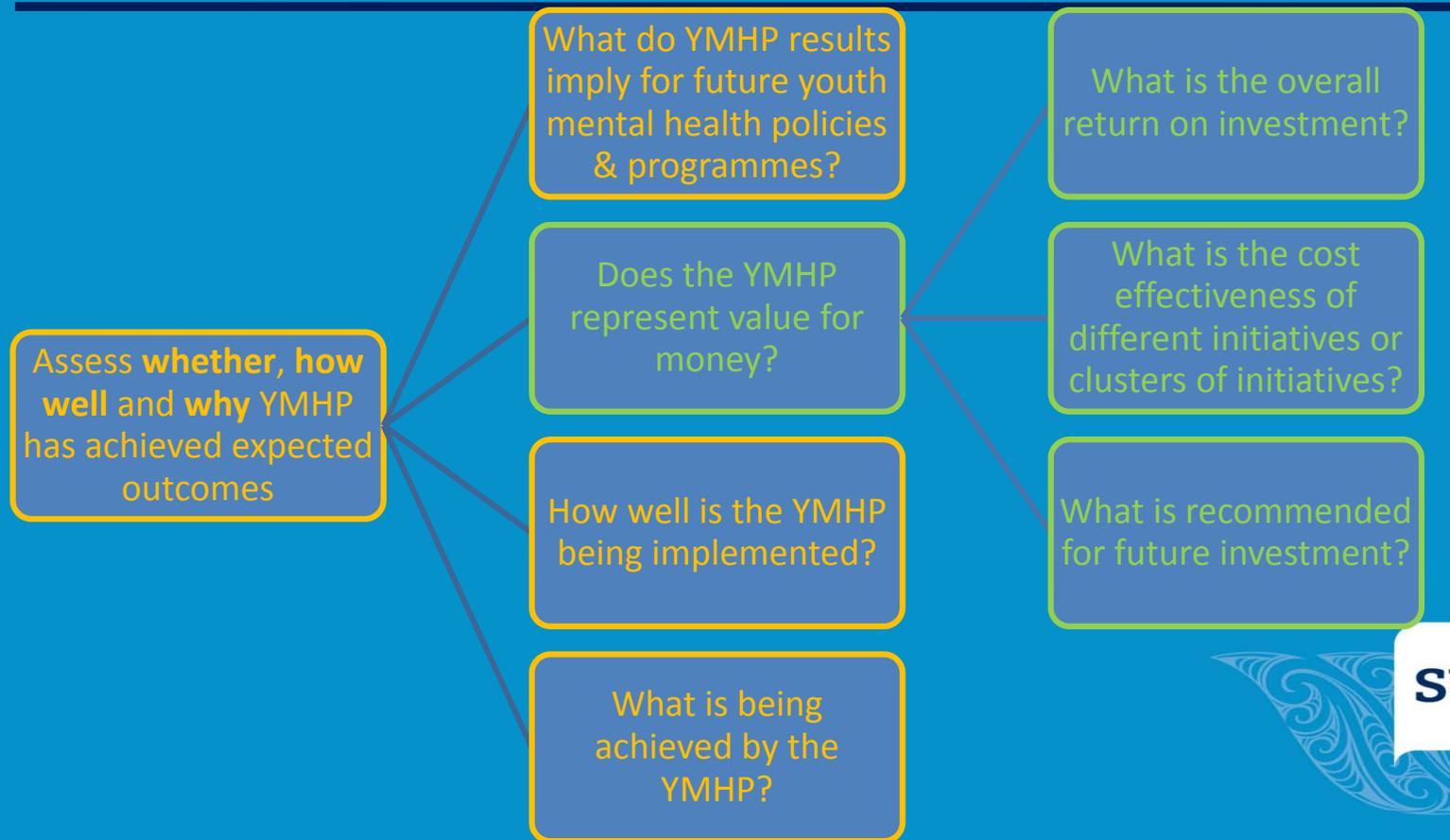
# Strategic evaluation

---





# Key Evaluation Questions



# “Triangulation”: creating a credible story



# “Triangulation”: creating a credible story

---



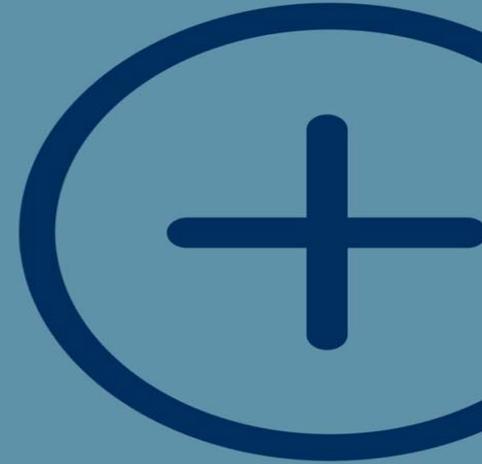


# Working with key stakeholders to create credibility

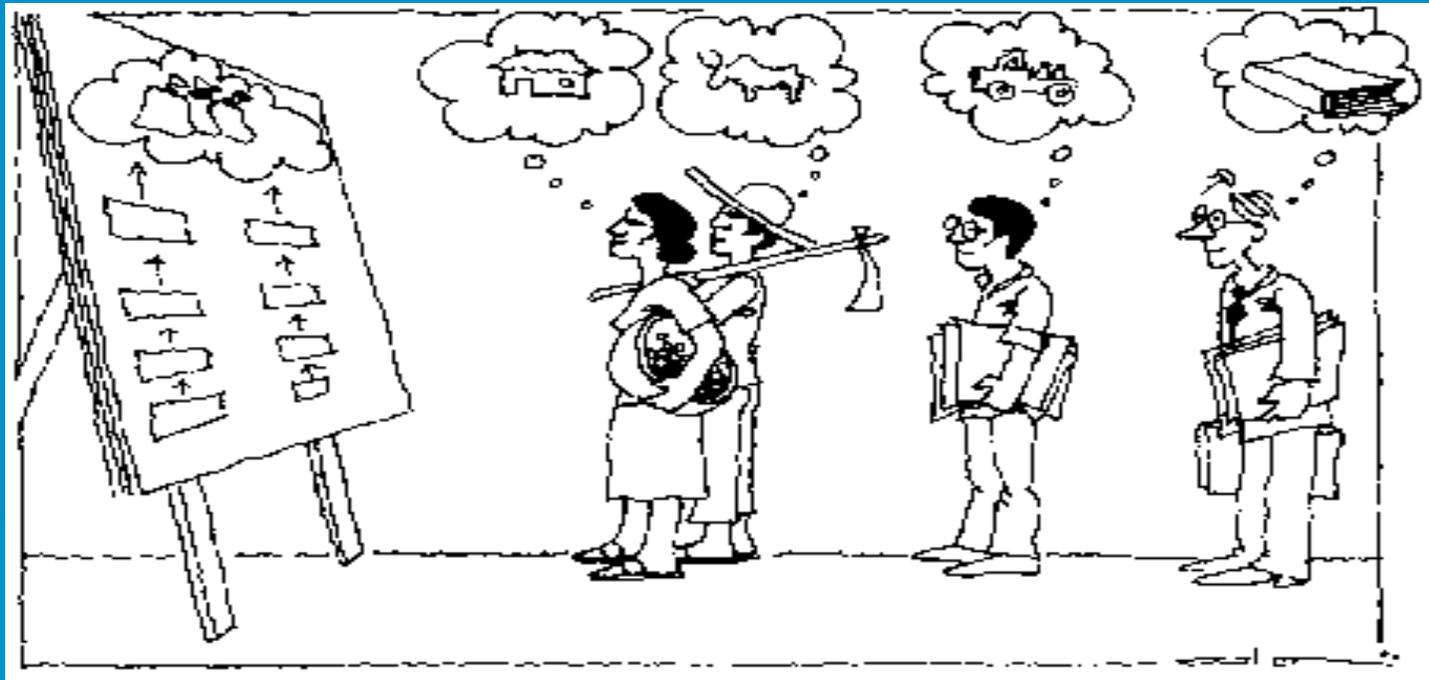
---



# Keeping the stakeholders happy

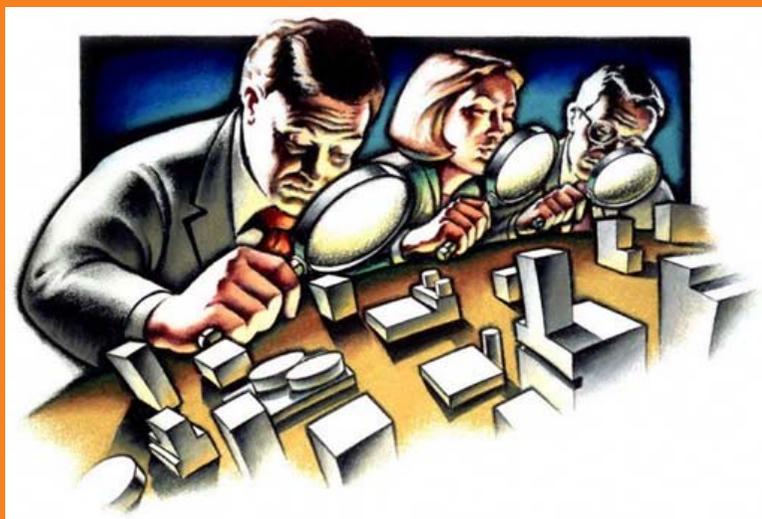


# Keep everybody on the same page



# Recognise their expertise

---



Establish regular feedback and reporting, so continuous improvement is possible and those higher up in the chain of command are happy...

We have a board meeting coming up and could use a little input from the evaluation team.

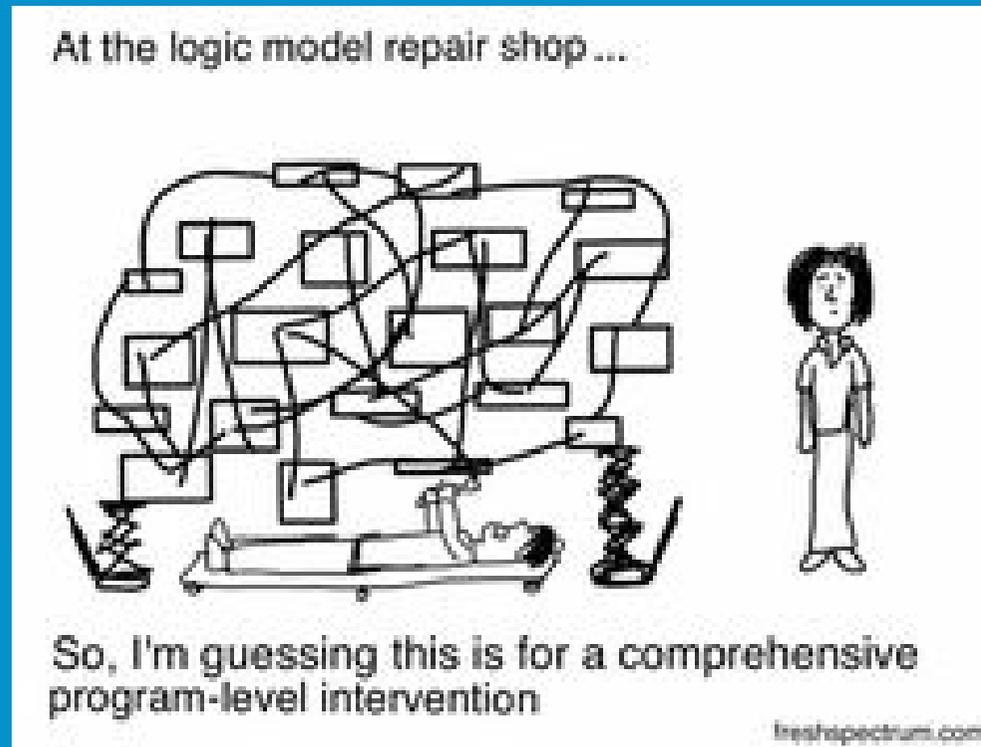


Sorry, we're not scheduled to provide input until year 3.

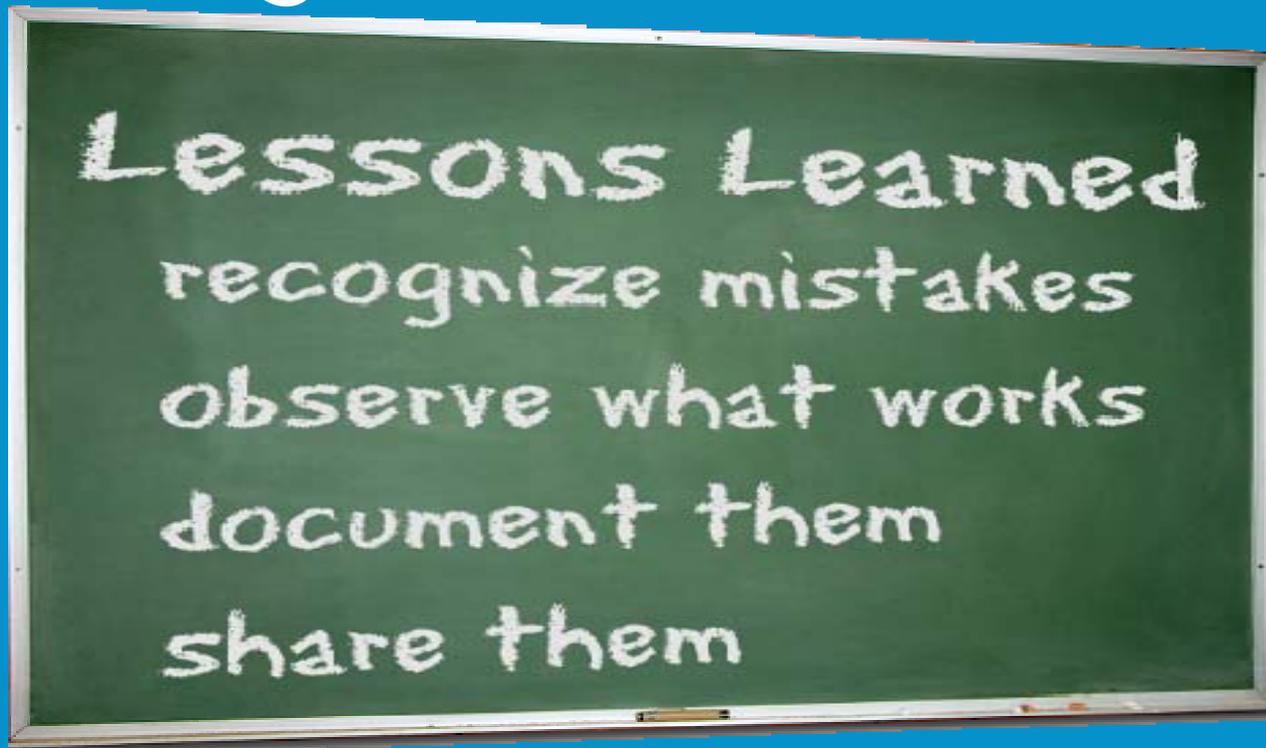


[freshspectrum.com](http://freshspectrum.com)

# Intervention logic(s) identify implementation & population outcomes...



# Going forward



Source: [TheSaltChronicles.com](https://www.thesaltchronicles.com)

superu<sup>+</sup>

# Performance monitoring PLUS evaluation activities throughout the project work



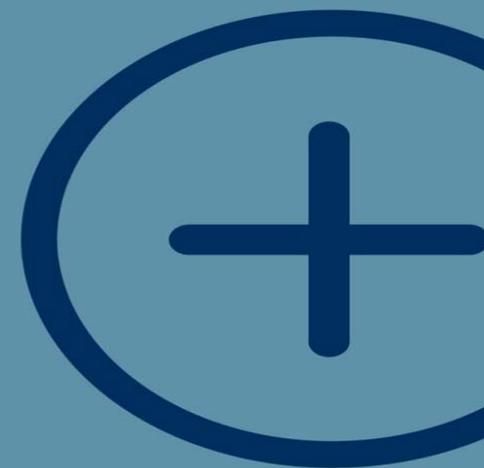


Source: <http://dilbert.com>

Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit

# YMHP reports

---



[www.superu.govt.nz/y mh](http://www.superu.govt.nz/y mh)



# Questions?

---

- ③ [Carolyn.ofallon@superu.govt.nz](mailto:Carolyn.ofallon@superu.govt.nz)
- ③ @ceofallon (on twitter)
- ③ +64 27 2404196

