

2024



OUR VISION

Quality evaluation that makes a difference

OUR MISSION

To strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use

OUR VALUES

Recognition

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty and all First Nations' cultures as an integral part of our organisation.

Inclusion

We are welcoming, respect different ways of knowing, embrace diversity, and the principles of justice, equity and fairness.

Relationships

We are caring, compassionate and act with humility. We value collaboration and connection, and are a member-centred organisation.

Sustainability

We are stewards of our profession and respect our past, know our story and nurture a sustainable future through learning, being courageous and enabling growth.

We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation, the Traditional Owners, on whose land we gather and work. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. We respect their traditions and embrace their traditional and contemporary expression.

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President's report

Ki te kotahi te kākaho, ka whati; ki te kāpuia, e kore e whati.

If the reed stands alone, it can be broken, if it is in a group, it cannot.

When we stand alone we are vulnerable, but together we are unbreakable.

Tēnā koutou, wunya, greetings everyone

Firstly I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of all of the lands on which we AES members live and work. For me, the Kabi Kabi people express their stewardship and responsibilities as they care for Country and community where I live. I pay my respects to Elders past and present across this expansive land, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hope of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across this great nation.

The 2024–2025 year has been another year of growth for the organisation. The aes24 International Evaluation Conference hosted in Naarm | Melbourne was outstanding! Participant numbers and engagement throughout the week was incredible and reminded me how important this annual event is for networking and learning. 'Wayfinding' was a suitable theme to journey through complex spaces and draw on Indigenous values and other ways of knowing along the way. Once again the pre-conference workshops and the socialising throughout the week were highly regarded amongst delegates as highlighted in the conference evaluation.

AES members are embracing the recently adopted set of organisational values of Recognition, Inclusion, Relationships and Sustainability (aes.asn.au/about-us) and we are seeing these being operationalised through the work of committees, Special Interest Groups and the

Board. We encourage members to recognise these values in the way we work, with purpose, and as a collective. After an extensive member consultation, last August the Board adopted the 2024–2028 strategic priorities. Under the four domains of Culture, Pathways, Leadership and Vitality the Board and staff alongside Committees and regional network groups are now delivering on the goals and priorities of the plan. Committee membership has been refreshed. I'd like to express my gratitude to members for engaging meaningfully in both the organisational values and the strategy consultations, and equally thanks to those who have joined Board Committees, project teams and working parties. We are grateful to those who are supporting the vision of the AES in this way.

In 2024, the AES was delighted to induct three new Fellows: Theo Nabben, Amy Gullickson and Doyen Radcliffe. This brings the total number of AES Fellows to 32. The Fellows are an integral part of our association, and we honour their wisdom and guidance.

An important milestone for our association this year has been the engagement of a Policy Officer. The AES welcomed former Board member Carina Calzoni into this part-time role. Carina's experience and understanding of the AES and the evaluation sector is already contributing to advancing the strategic priorities – and will continue to strengthen evaluation practice and policy enhancement. The appointment grows our operational capacity significantly.

Year on year I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm of members as they commit to progressing our strategic aims across the association. The brief update to follow intends to capture only some of the activities across the AES. As a member focussed association we rely on the collective support of our volunteers to help us deliver on our goals and to provide such rich offerings. For that we are grateful.

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AES President Kiri Parata welcoming aes24 Conference support grant recipients | Photo: Albie Colvin

Activity across the four strategic domains during 2024-2025 included:

Culture

First Nations evaluators leading a community of practice shaping the aspirations and practice of evaluation

- → The First Nations Committee has promoted a strong community of First Nations evaluators by launching the Conference Support Grant (CSG) Alumni Group headed by Kaurareg woman and 2024 recipient of the CSG, Jamie-Lee Wagner.
- → The First Nations Committee continues to suport the AES in the Culture domain through membership from within Australia and the wider South Pacific region.
- The Board has continued its learning journey by furthering our understanding of cultural safety in all that we do. We remain active in embedding culturally safe and trauma informed practice in our governance work.
- → The Conference support grants for emerging Indigenous evaluators remains popular and resulted in an increased number of grant recipients from the Pacific region attending the aes24 conference. This was achieved with the support from external agencies and the generosity of a number of AES members.
- → AES First Nations Cultural Safety Framework workshops are firmly part of our professional development offerings.

Leadership

The trusted voice on evaluation in Australia

- → Cross Tasman relationships with Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA), Mā Te Rae Māori Evaluation Society and the Pasifika Fono continue through conference attendances and quarterly hui (meetings).
- → Kathleen (Ata) Samu Forrest, who is Aotearoa New Zealand based, is the South Pacific regional representative to the International Organisation for Co-operation in Evaluation (IOCE) Board.
- → The AES Policy Committee has refreshed membership following the conclusion of the Relationships Committee, a result of the strategic domain change.
- → A particular focus of the Policy Committee has been preparing for its flagship initiative: a project to develop an AES position on quality evaluation that makes a difference. This project aligns with the committee's goal to ensure members have a clear idea of what the AES vision entails and its priority to develop policy positions and guidance documents to support quality evaluation that makes a difference in consultation with other committees, AES staff and members. This project will be grounded in member-driven dialogue.
- AES continues to stay abreast of major shifts in the evaluation sector and has formed various strategic relationships to promote evaluation, including collaborating with the Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) on our professional learning and conference programs, the First Nations network Gilibanga, Learning and Evaluation for Australian Funders, SIMNA, ANZEA and our Pacific partners.



AES expo stand promoting strategic priorities and organisational values at the aes24 Exhibitions

Pathways

A strong professional identity, and career pathways

- The AES mentoring program continues its remarkable growth with 2025 welcoming the largest cohort to date with 14 volunteer mentors and 42 mentees.
- A cornerstone of evaluation professional development remains with the AES Professional Learning Program. Delivered online, the quality program is regularly refreshed with new offerings.
- In December 2024 a special open-access Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA) edition on evaluation competencies was published featuring the AES competencies being included in the Learn Evaluation Assessment Portal (LEAP), a tool which enables AES members to self-assess themselves against the competency framework.
- The Pathways Committee has established Professionalisation and Ethical Guidelines project teams, made up of AES volunteers and committee members in response to the 2024–2028 strategic priorities. The Professionalisation project team

- will work closely with the Board to consider a professionalisation agenda, including the possibility of a certification program. Members can look forward to engagement on this over the coming year.
- The EJA has performed well over the past 12 months with four issues published on time with over 39,000 downloads during 2024. The editorial team consists of an Editor, three Associate Editors, a Managing Editor, and an Editorial Assistant. An Editorial Advisory Board consisting of 20 members has met during this reporting period. Members assist with reviewing manuscripts, promotions and book reviews. We are grateful for the welcomed and valuable contribution they make.
- The AES Awards and Recognition Working Group has continued to engage in the assessment and promotion of excellent evaluation practice, and in 2024 identified six recipients across four categories, including the Emerging New Talent, Evaluation System, Indigenous Evaluation and Public Sector Awards.

Vitality

A sustainable organisation fostering a sense of belonging, connections, and embracing value for members

- → In May 2025 the Board embarked on a member engagement and value proposition project aimed to map and improve the member journey and experience.
- → Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to play a pivotal role in the AES and provide members with opportunities to engage, debate and network on a range of areas. We currently have the following SIGs operating: the Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network (APSEN), Systems Evaluation, Design and Evaluation and the Multicultural and Systems SIG.
- → Eight regional networks continue to host events, including the very popular online seminars and networking functions. In March we hosted a networking event in Hobart and were excited to meet evaluators from Tasmania who are interested in establishing a community of practice. A highlight for the Northern Territory group was to expand inperson networking to Alice Springs in response to local demand.

I am now at the end of a four-year term as President and eight years of service on the AES Board. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such an inspiring group of Board colleagues and AES members. The AES leadership team comprises our highly experienced Chief Executive Officer Bill Wallace, our Membership and Events Executive Fiona Zlotnik, our Policy Officer Carina Calzoni and our Administration Assistant Sonya Krzywoszyja. I'd like to publicly recognise the enormous value of Bill, Fiona, Carina and Sonya and my fellow Board members for their leadership, service and ongoing commitment to the AES.

As the proverb at the beginning suggests, we are stronger when we action collaboration. As I reflect on the accomplishments of the AES over the past year, we have witnessed collaborative excellence. The collective sharing of knowledge and expertise across a wide range of activities showcases the commitment of AES members. This dedication and engagement from our community of evaluators results in a vital and flourishing organisation. I'm proud to have contributed to the association through my Board membership and I'm grateful to have led an organisation that has been willing to take risks when we should, has recognised different ways of knowing and doing, and celebrated the diverse communities we serve.

Mauri ora, a simple but meaningful expression which means I hope your life essence and your spirit flourishes with potential, ideas and connections, much like our association.

Kiri Parata President

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Treasurer's report

Summary of the 2025 financial year results

The 2024–2025 financial year reflects the continued strong performance of the organisation, building on consistently solid results in previous years. Despite closing with a net deficit of \$33,732, in line with budget expectations and following last year's surplus of \$71,945, the year demonstrated resilience, strategic investment and growth in key areas.

Core operations generated \$603k in income, slightly above budget, driven by stable professional learning revenue, strong organisational membership growth and a significant uplift in publications, particularly the online consultants' database. Operational expenditure increased 19% to \$797k - reflecting expanded staffing, administration and member engagement initiatives in governance, leadership and regional support.

The 2024 annual conference achieved a record \$1,074,106 in revenue, although the surplus fell short of budget due to venue limitations and higher costs. Membership declined 7% to 1,103, with retention at 70% underscoring the importance of ongoing retention and attraction initiatives. Overall the year demonstrates resilient income streams, strategic investment in member services and a strong foundation for future growth.

Annual conference

The aes24 conference continued to be a flagship program and a critical revenue stream for the organisation, generating a record \$1,074,106 in income, a 30% increase on the previous year. Strong registrations, increased sponsorship and new partner agreements contributed to this outstanding result, demonstrating the ongoing relevance and appeal of the event. While the conference surplus of \$159k fell \$67k short of budget due to venue capacity constraints, higher contractor and

catering costs, and a larger proportion of discounted or complimentary tickets, it nonetheless made a significant contribution to the organisation's overall financial stability. The conference's performance highlights its strategic importance in supporting both operational budgets and future growth initiatives, reinforcing its role as a key driver of income and a foundation for continued investment in member services and organisational development.

Workshop program

The online-only workshop program continues to be an important and reliable revenue source for the organisation. During 2024–2025 most workshops operated at or near capacity, generating a surplus of \$171k against a budgeted \$166k. While slightly below the previous year's surplus due to planned higher presenter fees, the program demonstrates strong demand and consistent value to members. The continued success of the workshops supports operational income and contributes to overall financial stability, highlighting their role as a key component of the organisation's diversified revenue streams. Maintaining and expanding participation in these programs remains essential for sustaining revenue growth and member engagement in the coming years.

Membership

Membership remains a vital revenue source for the organisation, generating income that supports core operations and strategic initiatives. As of 30 June 2025, total membership declined 7% year-on-year to 1,103 members, with retention falling slightly to 70%. Most regions experienced decreases, reflecting both challenges in attracting new members and retaining existing ones. While organisational memberships grew, this was offset by softer uptake of new and international individual

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memberships. The decline in membership and retention highlights the need for targeted strategies to strengthen engagement, improve member value and stabilise this critical income stream. Current initiatives, including consultancy-led retention and attraction actions, aim to address these trends and ensure membership continues to contribute effectively to the organisation's financial sustainability.

Cash investment

\$200,000 has been invested in a term deposit (returning 4.7% for one year term); this was assumed in the budget and will be rolled over into 2026.

Balance sheet analysis, June 2025 against June 2024

Cash balance (including the term deposit) has decreased by \$82k (6.5%), and is \$1,173,274 compared to \$1,255,500 as at 30 June 2024.

- → Total assets have decreased by 0.2%.
- → Total liabilities have increased by 3.3%.
- → Total equity (members' funds) has decreased by 5% (-\$33,732) and is currently \$641,524 (June 2025) compared to \$675,256 (June 2024).

Looking forward

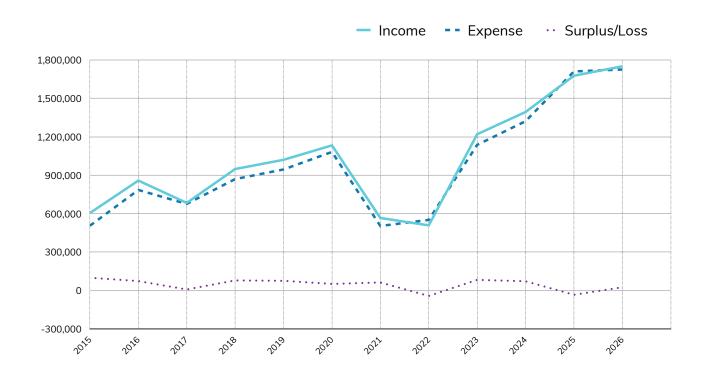
The organisation enters the 2026 financial year with a strong foundation, supported by resilient income streams from core operations, workshops, and the annual conference. Strategic investments in member engagement, governance, and professional development position the organisation to deliver increased value and strengthen long-term sustainability. Areas of potential financial growth include expanding membership, exploring new revenue streams such as professional recognition programs, and enhancing efficiency across operational and program delivery costs. The organisation continues to be financially stable and deliver value for members and the evaluation profession.

Tony Kiessler Treasurer

Finance summary

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 Budget
INCOME							
Prof development	158,392	244,257	249,220	255,418	298,430	302,169	315,000
Conference income	717,016	NIL	NIL	708,092	825,379	1,074,106	1,137,222
Memberships	191,531	209,224	231,312	231,586	247,492	256,205	260,000
Publications	23,043	22,014	27,908	25,276	22,844	35,600	30,000
Other Income	43,235	90,819	8	8	8	9,402	9,000
Total Income	1,133,217	566,314	508,448	1,220,380	1,394,153	1,677,482	1,751,222
EXPENDITURE							
Prof development	111,229	112,718	125,692	126,097	113,180	130,165	130,000
Conference/projects	572,167	NIL	NIL	536,907	652,912	914,539	861,646
Strategic projects	29,090	21,582	34,461	4,569	1,657	27,144	47,200
Memberships	3,457	3,061	18,743	21,097	7,334	25,522	15,000
Publications, inc EJA	53,173	54,425	52,801	60,951	59,924	65,978	67,000
Other expenses		466					
SUB-TOTAL	769,116	192,252	231,697	749,621	843,174	1,162,348	1,120,846
Admin/Governance	312,977	311,486	319,610	387,803	479,034	548,866	605,276
Total Expenditure	1,082,093	503,738	551,307	1,137,424	1,322,208	1,711,214	1,726,122
SURPLUS / (LOSS)	51,124	62,576	(42,859)	82,956	71,945	(33,732)	25,100

Income, expenses and surplus 2015–2026



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.

We have 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 Ethics, 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 conference and professional learning activities. Members keep up-to-date through AES publications, workshops, seminars, discussion groups and conferences.



Group mentoring

The AES Group Mentoring Program is an innovative online member-only mentoring program, where seasoned evaluators guide small groups of emerging and mid-career evaluators through their professional journey.



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 EJA, issues of e-news.



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 discounted 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 Notfor-profits Commission (ACNC). Since May 2015, the organisation 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 membership of the AES. 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 AES Constitution and policies.

Appointment of the Board

Following adoption of the new Constitution at the Special General Meeting in July 2023, the Board consists of six Directors, all elected by the membership. The Board elects the office bearers, President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, from amongst the Directors. 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, skills 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 2024-2025

President

Kiri Parata

Vice-President

Anne Stephens

Treasurer

Tony Kiessler

Directors

Nicole Tujaque

Jade Maloney

Andrew Hawkins

Carina Calzoni (to September 2024)

Matt Healey (from September 2024)

Meeting attendance

Kiri Parata	5 of 5
Anne Stephens	5 of 5
Tony Kiessler	5 of 5
Carina Calzoni	1 of 1
Nicole Tujague	3 of 5
Jade Maloney	5 of 5
Andrew Hawkins	5 of 5
Matt Healey	4 of 4

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Bill Wallace

Membership & Events Executive

Fiona Zlotnik

Policy Officer

Carina Calzoni (from March 2025)

EJA Managing Editor

leff Adams

Administrative Assistant

Sonya Krzywoszyja

President: Kiri Parata

Kiri's iwi (tribal) affiliations are Te Ātiawa ki Waikanae, Ngāti Toarangatira, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāi Tahu. Kiri's heritage is NZ Māori.

As an Indigenous evaluator and Māori health researcher, Kiri attributes her strengths to the mentoring and leadership she has received over the years from a number of dedicated leaders.

Her career began working at a grassroots level through improving health services for Māori and marginalised communities. When the service Kiri managed was evaluated in 2004, her interest in evaluation was sparked.

Kiri's professional roles have included project management, Indigenous health research and evaluation and relationship management.

Kiri is finalising her doctoral research and about to submit her PhD thesis with Massey University, Aotearoa New Zealand. She has been investigating the application of ancestral values when engaging with whenua tīpuna (ancestral lands) for enhanced wellbeing.

Since 2017 Kiri has served as an ordinary Board member, a member of the AES First Nations Committee, Vice-President from 2020, until being elected President in September 2021. During this time Kiri has supported the Board's strategic commitment to strengthen and showcase Indigenous capabilities in the evaluation sector and has shown an unwavering commitment to all strategic goals of the AES.

Significant Board achievements during this period includes the development of the Cultural Safety Framework, two strategic plan developments, constitutional changes for the AES, a Diversity and Inclusion statement and the adoption and implementation of AES organisational values. Kiri brings a sound and strategic approach to her roles and draws on her community development background and her commitment to social justice in her work.

Kiri lives with her whānau (family) on Kabi Kabi Country on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, Queensland. The majority of her work takes her back to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Vice-President: Anne Stephens

Anne Stephens (PhD, MBA, Gov Dip) is the Director of Ethos of Engagement Consulting and CEO/Secretary of Violence Prevention Australia.

Anne specialises in social program and policy evaluations, exploring systemic evaluation methodology. Anne is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Research at James Cook University. Anne's work has been used in community and government in health, family safety and social justice. She is a current recipient of an ANROWS research grant to investigate practitioner practices for the prevention of violence (2024–2027).

Treasurer: Tony Kiessler

Tony is a proud Central Arrernte man and the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA). Tony brings more than 20 years' experience across Australia, Asia, and the Pacific and has led initiatives in health, research, evaluation, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Tony is committed to advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, voice, and self-determination in evaluation and related fields. He has been an active and influential member of the AES First Nations Committee for over five years, contributing to the strengthening of culturally grounded evaluation practice. He brings cultural knowledge, strategic leadership, and governance expertise to support the AES Board.

His governance portfolio includes serving on the National Indigenous Australians Agency's Indigenous Evaluation Committee, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's Clinical Governance Committee, and the Board of Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia. Tony is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and research scholar at the ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance.

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

AES International Evaluation Conference

The 2024 AES International Evaluation Conference was held from 16 to 20 September at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, in Naarm, Melbourne. The Wayfinding theme explored the ancient process of navigating unfamiliar territory. In the global context of uncertainty, we focused on the destination, footprints, tools and journey (our sub-themes) of evaluators and evaluation.

On the eve of the conference, a Welcome Reception at the Australian Sports Museum, Melbourne Cricket Ground, kickstarted proceedings. AES President Kiri Parata officially opened the conference on 18 September with an acknowledgement of country. Audience members shared their welcome messages in over 15 different languages, highlighting the role of Naarm as a meeting place for Aboriginal people across centuries. At the Gala Awards Pre-reception and Dinner at The Edge and Zinc in Federation Square on 19 September, recipients of the AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation were honoured and three new AES Fellows announced.

The conference included an extensive program of speakers with diverse experiences across disciplines, sectors and cultural perspectives.

Keynotes

- → June Oscar AO, a proud Bunuba woman and Inaugural Chair of The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice, exhorted us to reimagine evaluation with a gender justice lens.
- → James Copestake, University of Bath (UK), challenged us to incorporate futures approaches into evaluation.
- Elizabeth Hoffecker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US), provided us with practical tools and framing for conducting systems evaluation.
- Indy Johar, co-founder of Dark Matter Labs (UK), implored evaluators to help address the polycrisis.



Keynote speaker June Oscar AO | Photo: Albie Colvin

John Gargani, Gargani + Co (US), led a panel discussion with James, Elizabeth, Indy and Yamatji Naaquja Wajarri man Doyen Radcliffe on the future of the evaluation profession.

Facts and valuing

With 685 delegates, aes24 was the largest AES conference to date. 360 people participated in the pre-conference workshop program. 27 people received Conference Support Grants. The conference evaluation showed that aes24 contributed to advancing the AES strategic priorities: Of the 290 who completed the post-conference survey, 86% found the conference valuable (with highest ratings from international, First Nations and novice respondents – see table). 89% said they acquired knowledge they intended to incorporate into their work; 98% made professional and social connections. Most found the conference represented value for money, and that they left feeling informed, inspired and part of a professional community.

Conference logo

In the logo, the Eagle Bunjil flies over Naarm, watching over people gathered around the Birrarung (Yarra River) and emus, representing Boon Wurrung peoples, shown by their tracks. Bunjil the Eagle, the creation spirit for Aboriginal Victorians, created the peoples, animals, plants, skies, waters and all of Naarm. He watches over us and the ways we respect each other and the lands. Naarm, as the concentric circles, is a meeting place for people from all walks of life. The Birrarung, as the turquoise line around the border, is a precious part of Wurundjeri Dreaming; its spirit flows through Naarm where our peoples (the Eastern Kulin Nation) have gathered for centuries. Contemporarily, the Birrarung continues to be a wayfinder for all peoples in Naarm.

Logo design by **Rebecca and Sarah Hunt**, proud Yorta Yorta, Wemba Wemba and Barapa Barapa women



Perceptions of overall value by priority groups (from aes24 evaluation report)

Overall, did you find aes24 to be valuable?								
	All (n=247)	First Nations (n=35)	Novice (n=40)	Intermediate (n=96)	Advanced (n=84)	Expert (n=19)	International (n=31)	
Valuable or very valuable	86%	94%	98%	88%	79%	79%	100%	
Somewhat valuable	12%	3%	2%	12%	18%	10%	0%	
Not valuable	2%	3%	0%	0%	3%	11%	0%	

Partners and sponsors

Platinum:

CUBE Group

First Nations Partners:

Kowa Collaboration and Gilibanga

Diamond:

Tetra Tech International Development

Gold:

Australian Health Care Associates, ARTD, URBIS

Sapphire:

Policy Performance

Silver:

ACIL Allen, Grosvenor, Rooftop Social, Clear Horizon, Paul Ramsay Foundation

Conference Committee

Co-convenors: Jess Dart and Amy Gullickson

Program Co-chairs: Matt Healy and Donna Loveridge

Conference Committee members:

Ruth Aston, Niketa Kulkarni, Elliott Tester, Mohib Iqbal, Sue Wilson, Stephenie White, Caroline Henwood

Conference evaluation

The conference evaluation was undertaken by The University of Melbourne Master of Evaluation students Ruth Walker and Wen Chee, supported by AES CEO Bill Wallace, the 2024 Conference Working Group and Capstone Fellow Alicia McCoy (Principal Consultant, First Person Consulting).

Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

2024 Awards recipients

Emerging New Talent Award

awarded to

Carla Pozo Jeria Martina Donkers

Indigenous Evaluation Award

awarded to

Seedling and ILEC – Evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre and the Lived Experience National Network

Public Sector Evaluation Award

awarded to

Department of Health Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence (CERE) - Evaluation of the Public Intoxication Trials Evaluation in Victoria

Evaluation Systems Award

awarded to

The Link Up Leadership Group and beyond (Kathleen Stacey & Assoc) - National Link-Up M&E Strategy

and

Department of Home Affairs and ARTD Consultants – The Australian Trusted Trader 10 Year Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

EJA Publication Award

awarded to

Alison Rogers and Amy Gullickson -'Embedding evaluation in non-profit organisations: Lessons from evaluation advocates'

The Awards and Recognition Working Group (ARWG) continued to promote excellence in evaluation practice. There was a high level of interest in the year's Awards round, with 17 nominations received. The group identified six recipients across four categories. Unusually, two recipients were identified in two categories. Also, the mainstreaming of Indigenous approaches and recipients across the award categories was notable this year. Congratulations to this year's awardees!

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 ARWG will continue to focus on sharing excellent practice and recruiting additional members.

Committee members

Dana Cross

Rick Cummings Kevin Dolman Farida Fleming Kym Hamilton Jess Kenway Amanda Mottershead Gill Potaka-Osborne

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 AWARDS RECIPIENTS!











Top left: Emerging New Talent Award recipients Martina Donkers (left) and Carla Pozo Jeria (right) with EJA Publication Award recipient Amy Gullickson (centre)
Top right: Seedling and ILEC – Indigenous Evaluation Award Centre left: The Link Up Leadership Group and beyond (Kathleen Stacey & Assoc) – Evaluation Systems Award Centre right: Andrew Hawkins, ARTD Consultants – Evaluation Systems Award

Bottom: Department of Health Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence (CERE) – Public Sector Award

Photos: Albie Colvin

Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)

Editor: John Guenther

Associate Editors: Anthea Rutter;

Kwadwo Adusei-Asante; Ming Hwa Ting

Managing Editor: Jeffery Adams Editorial Assistant: Fiona Zlotnik

The Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA) has performed well over the 12 months.

Editorial team

The editorial team has been stable over the 2024–2025 period. Yvonne Zurynski, who joined the team for a two-year commitment, completed her term and resigned from 30 June due to workload pressures.

The team currently consists of an Editor, three Associate Editors, a Managing Editor, and an Editorial Assistant. The team has regional and international representation with members based in Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, Singapore and Auckland.

An Editorial Advisory Board consisting of 20 members (with representation from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom) has met during the reporting period. The members assist with completing manuscript reviews, promoting the journal, reviewing books, and contributing manuscripts. The initial two-year term for members has been completed, and all but one Board member confirmed they wished to continue for a further period.

Content

Four issues (Volume 24, Issues 3 and 4; Volume 23, Issues 1 and 2) were published on time. Volume 23, Issue 4 was a special issue: 'Evaluator competencies and self-assessment: Lessons from the Learn Evaluation Assessment Platform'.

The articles published comprised nine academic articles, three practice articles and a special feature article based on James Copestake's keynote address at aes24. In addition, four editorials, three evaluator perspectives and three book reviews were published.

Performance metrics

The performance metrics for the EJA provided by Sage show that readership in terms of full-text downloads continue to increase year on year.

Full text downloads

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Downloads	39,468	36,927	23,305	19,825	16,121

The EJA quality scores show mixed results. The Cite score (number of citations divided by number of documents in past four years) has been steadily increasing since 2019. It is currently 1.7. The journal's percentile in Sociology and Political Science is the highest achieved to date and reflects the improved cite score.

Compared to other journals, the Scimago journal ranking in the Sociology & Political Science and the Development category are in the quartile 3 range. Citations are based on the Web of Science collections for which the EJA is not indexed. This likely reduced the EJA's ranking as the citations that are used to calculate a measure of journal quality, do not come from EJA's articles, books or evaluation reports which do cite EJA articles.

Scopus Cite Score

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cite Score	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.8
Percentile in Sociology & Political Science	56	53	52	54	55	49

Scimago Journal Rankings

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sociology & Political Science	Q3	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q2	Q2
Develop- ment	Q3	Q3	Q3	Q3	Q2	Q3

Looking forward

Attracting submissions: 26 manuscripts were submitted during this financial year. Five (20%) of these are manuscripts by First Nations authors. Increasing the number of submissions is a priority and will assist in lifting the quality of manuscripts accepted for publication. A range of actions are in place to do this. All presenters at the annual conference are invited via email to submit a manuscript. At aes24 a special session by the editors encouraging submissions was well attended.

Engaging reviewers: A key challenge for many journals is securing peer reviewers in a timely fashion. The current uptake rate is 48%, which means on average six potential reviewers need to be approached to undertake a review. This is time consuming for associate editors and slows down the review process. To boost our pool of reviewers we ran a campaign on LinkedIn which we are likely to repeat. A particular challenge for the EJA is securing First Nations reviewers. The editorial team is currently discussing potential approaches to address this with Nicole Tujague from the First Nations Committee.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The AES strategic priorities 2024–2028 include four strategic domains: Culture, Pathways, Vitality and Leadership. To support the strategy the AES has four strategic advisory committees: First Nations Committee, Pathways Committee, Vitality Committee and Policy Committee.

First Nations Committee

First Nations evaluators leading a community of practice shaping the aspirations and practice of evaluation

The First Nations Committee has been collaborating steadily to support the goals and priorities of the Culture domain.

The Committee has promoted a strong community of First Nations evaluators by launching the Conference Support Grant (CSG) Alumni Group headed by Kaurareg woman and recent grant recipient, Jamie-Lee Wagner. Jamie-Lee, with the support of the Committee, is building a network of alumni who meet regularly to exchange evaluation ideas, knowledge and pursuits; to support new CSG recipients during conferences; and to create a safe space for new, emerging and established Indigenous evaluators from Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific regions. The agenda of this group is still being developed and Jamie-Lee has provided regular updates to the First Nations Committee on developments.

In pursuit of promoting this strong community, the First Nation Committee has continued its involvement in the assessment of CSG applications through its representation in the CSG Working Group. We are continually grateful for the generous contribution of time and the expertise committee members volunteer each year. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for their continuing financial support. Our thanks are also extended to Pacific Community, Australian Centre for Evaluation, Paul Ramsay Foundation, Institute for Social Science Research – The University of Queensland, Ninti One Limited, Rick Cummings, AES members and conference delegates who generously donated to the grants.

Discussions continue with the editor of EJA, John Guenther, on how the First Nations Committee can participate in the editing and reviewing of Indigenous journal contributions. Committee members agree that a panel group approach to this role would be the cultural sound way. Committee members also continue to support the evolving of culturally safe frameworks and the promotion of First Nations evaluation, for example through developing our relationship with the Indigenous evaluation organisation Gilibanga. We meet regularly with Gilibanga and are collaborating on the creation of cultural spaces.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 the First Nations
Committee will continue to encourage the formation
of a new working group within the AES community.
This working group will begin work on an alternative
framework that maps and strategises our continued
pursuit of cultural safety. This initiative will replace the
previous goal of recasting our Reconciliation Action Plan.
Our intention is to have a proactive, courageous and
comprehensive roadmap for continual improvement of
cultural safety within the AES.

Committee members

Sharon Clarke

Kevin Dolman

Fiona Fandim

Lea Gage

Tony Kiessler

Allan Mua Illingworth

Kiri Parata

Doyen Radcliffe

Kaita Sem (retired during 2025)

Melanie Syron

Marica Tabualevu

Nicole Tujague

Mark Watego

Nan Wehipeihana

Pathways Committee

A strong professional identity, and career pathways

The Pathways Committee undertook a membership refresh in early 2025, farewelling with thanks David Roberts, Delyth Lloyd and Molly Jones and welcoming Sue Wilson, Jo Van Twest Farmer and Lydia Phillips.

The mentoring program continued its remarkable growth, delivering significant value to both mentors and mentees and reflecting a strong desire among members for personal and professional development. In 2025 we welcomed our largest cohort to date, with 14 volunteer mentors leading seven mentoring groups and 42 mentees. The mentoring team's expertise was further recognised through the publication of an article on the AES mentoring model in the EJA journal.

During 2024–2025 the Pathways Committee advanced several key initiatives to strengthen evaluation practice within the AES. A cornerstone of evaluation professional development remains the AES workshop program. The 2024/2025 workshop program was met with enthusiastic participation, highlighting the ongoing relevance and quality of these offerings.

In December 2024 a special open-access EJA edition on evaluation competencies was published, featuring the updated AES competencies developed for the LEAP platform. Data collection and analysis on cognitive complexity are ongoing, with scaffolded rubrics for competency skill levels initiated at aes24 and results to be shared at the upcoming conference. These activities are paving the way for a comprehensive revision of AES competencies, informed by ongoing work on ethics and professionalisation.

In response to the AES strategic priorities, the Pathways Committee has established both a Professionalisation and an Ethical Guidelines project team, made up of AES volunteers and committee members. The impressive response to expressions of interest demonstrates our community's commitment to uplift evaluation, as a recognised and respected profession, and the desire to strengthen ethical practice in evaluation, particularly in ways that uphold cultural safety.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 the Pathways Committee will focus on key strategic initiatives, including the Ethical Guidelines review, Professionalisation project, and the launch of the Evaluation Competencies strategic project. We will also continue to deliver a diverse annual workshop series and support the planning and review of the 2026 pre-conference workshops. A strong emphasis will be placed on collaboration across projects, leveraging the expertise and insights of our members to advance the AES vision, mission and values.

Committee members

Iulie Elliott Amy Gullickson Lucy Pennington Lydia Phillips Taimur Siddiqi Anne Stephens Jill Thomas lo Van Twest Farmer Sue Wilson

Vitality Committee

A sustainable organisation fostering a sense of belonging, connections, and enhancing value for members

The Vitality Committee, comprising AES regional network convenors, has had a dynamic and collaborative year, strengthening member connections, enhancing event offerings and contributing to key strategic initiatives.

Regional activities

Regional networks are vitally important to the work of the AES. They delivered a wide range of engaging events tailored to member interests and local contexts. Highlights included high-attendance online seminars on evaluative reasoning, ethical use of AI, resilience in evaluation, and value-for-money analysis. In-person activities such as ACT's book club, Victoria's AI-themed networking, WA's breakfast gatherings, NT's Darwin Sailing Club events, fostered stronger local connections. NZ hosted international speakers, while SA, Queensland, and others explored creative formats to reach diverse and regionally dispersed audiences. Cross-jurisdictional collaboration was encouraged, with convenors sharing ideas and resources to increase reach and relevance.

Strategy

The Committee made a significant contribution to the AES strategic priorities with regional representatives participating in the Leaders Day held in Melbourne during September. An outcome has been the development of a Member Engagement & Value Proposition project, which is being led by a specialist consultancy. Regional Convenors will provide valuable insights into the member and non-member journey, identifying opportunities to strengthen onboarding, improve retention, and expand AES's relevance beyond evaluators to a wider professional audience.

Diversity and inclusion

Feedback from the Committee will inform the development of accessible event guidelines and ongoing engagement with the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, ensuring AES events and activities are inclusive, welcoming and responsive to diverse needs.

Collaboration and future focus

The Committee continues to serve as a vital forum for convenors to share experiences, coordinate activities and align regional efforts with the AES strategic priorities. In the coming year, the focus will remain on delivering inclusive, high-value member experiences and strengthening the AES community across Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Committee members

Co-chairs	Matt Healey Jade Maloney (AES Board members)
Aotearoa New Zealand	Marie Nissanka
Canberra	Emma Wensing
New South Wales	Florent Gomez
Northern Territory	Christabelle Darcy Alison Reedy
South Australia	Mark McKay
Queensland	Kim Abbey Robert Grimshaw
Victoria	Caroline Henwood
Western Australia	Janet Conte Lisette Kaleveld
AES staff	Sonya Krzywoszyja Bill Wallace Fiona Zlotnik

Policy Committee

The trusted voice on evaluation in Australia

The Policy Committee succeeds the Relationships Committee and brings together a diverse group of 11 members from across Australia, combining continuity with new energy. The first meeting in March 2025 laid the foundations for collaborative and strategic work, with time dedicated to relationship building, skill mapping, and collective reflection on AES values and strategic priorities.

A particular focus has been preparing for our flagship initiative: a project to develop an AES position on 'quality evaluation that makes a difference' (the AES vision). This project aligns with the Policy Committee's goal to ensure members have a clear idea of what the AES vision entails and its priority to develop policy positions and guidance documents to support quality evaluation that makes a difference in consultation with other committees, AES staff and members. It will be grounded in member-driven dialogue, with a focus on inclusivity, transparency and practical relevance.

Early work on this project has included forming a sub-committee to shape the approach, preparing a discussion paper, and developing terms of reference. The project will be launched at the 2025 AES International Evaluation Conference, after which a broader project team of AES members will be formed through an open EOI process.

In parallel, the Policy Committee is working to identify and prioritise a broader portfolio of policy-relevant initiatives, with the goal of amplifying the voice of AES on issues that matter to our members and the wider evaluation community.

A significant milestone during the year was the appointment of Carina Calzoni as the inaugural Policy Officer. Carina brings over 20 years of evaluation experience to the role, and has already added great value to the Committee's work. Her appointment is a key step in advancing the new strategic priorities and strengthening evaluation practice across Australia. Carina herself reflected, 'it's an incredible opportunity to contribute and to work collaboratively with the AES community'.

In 2025–2026, the Committee's priority will be delivering the 'Quality Evaluation that Makes a Difference' project. We will also begin work on additional projects that support the strategic ambition of the AES to be a respected source of thought leadership on key evaluation issues.

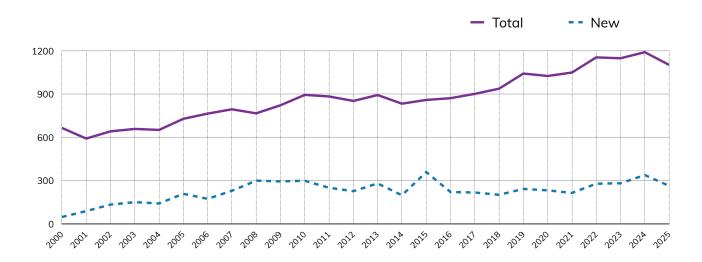
Committee members

Leah Allen Gosia Bucki-Smith Carina Calzoni (Policy Officer) Liam Downing Ahmed Gharib Kim Grey **Andrew Hawkins** Kristy Hornby Robert Sale (Chair) Kara Scally-Irvine John Stoney Angkana Whiley

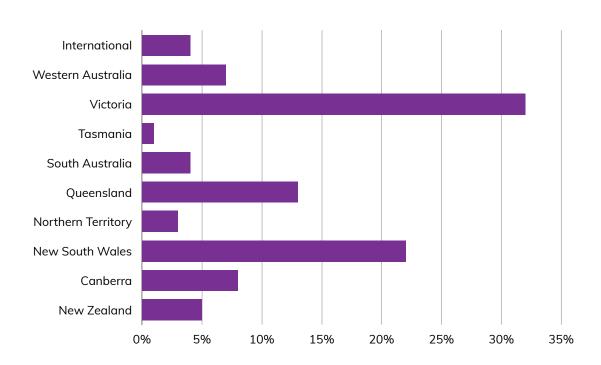
MEMBER NETWORKS

Membership trends

AES MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2000-2025



MEMBERSHIP BY REGION 30 JUNE 2025



Regional networks

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

In 2024–2025 the Aotearoa New Zealand chapter delivered a dynamic and deeply relevant seminar series reflecting the breadth, nuance and evolving demands of evaluation practice. Through curated virtual events, the Committee brought together leading international experts and local voices to engage with complexity, promote inclusion and strengthen evaluative capability – key pillars of the AES strategic priorities.

The series opened in September with 'Heavy meta(I): Why we evaluate evaluations', led by Stefan Silvestrini. This session challenged participants to reflect on quality assurance in our own practice. Drawing on extensive international experience, Stefan provided tools for conducting meta-evaluations – reminding us that rigorous evaluation must also apply to the evaluators themselves. In October, Leslie MacColman and Zahrah Rizwan delivered 'Empowering communities', drawing on their work in post-conflict Sri Lanka using Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI). Their message, 'Communities are the experts of their own experience', resonated strongly with attendees and underscored the value of grassroots-led indicator development in peacebuilding and evaluation.

In April the chapter was honoured to host internationally renowned evaluation pioneer Michael Quinn Patton, who delivered 'Resilience in evaluation: Navigating systemic shocks'. Drawing on global systems thinking and complexity theory, Michael offered guiding principles for how evaluators can remain adaptive and impactful amidst disruption. His seminar stood out for its thought leadership and relevance in uncertain times.

May's session 'Help! I'm doing an impact evaluation' saw AES Fellow Scott Bayley unpack the evidence needs of impact evaluation with refreshing clarity, cutting through jargon to focus on principles that guide realworld application. Our lunchtime sessions 'Unstructured conversations' provided a vital collegial space for evaluators to connect informally, share live challenges, and build professional trust. Together, these events fostered a strong sense of community and reflective practice across Aotearoa.

In addition, the Committee contributed to the Policy Committee and Vitality Committee, and collaborated with the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA) on joint networking events - further strengthening the sector's connectedness and capacity.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 we aim to broaden our regional reach by hosting a mix of virtual and inperson networking sessions in the regions where our Committee members reside. We will continue to actively participate in seminars and workshops, both nationally and internationally, to promote knowledge exchange, strengthen evaluative practice, and deepen relationships across the wider research and evaluation community.

Committee members Rula Abu-Safieh Talahma leevan Karki Marie Nissanka (Convener) Elisabeth Poppelwell Kara Scally-Irvine

CANBERRA (ACT)

In 2024–2025 the Canberra Region Committee continued to offer our seasonal events as they continue to be a great way for Canberra region members to connect in-person and have insightful discussions about evaluation theory and practice. Committee members took turns to organise these events.

On a typical cold and rainy July (Winter) evening, Laura Rohan-Jones and Ruth Pitt hosted the 2024 iteration of the Canberra book club/reading group. We again pulled the thread of 'wise women of evaluation' with the conversation starter article by 2024 conference keynote, Elizabeth Hoffecker. Over Pierogi dinner, 20 attendees explored the processes and practices of applied research in contexts in which imbalances of power exist between researchers and those being researched. Those in attendance noticed a gender imbalance in attendees (almost all women) - we welcome all genders to our book club series about women evaluators!

In October (Spring) and following on from aes24 in Melbourne), we again held a conference debrief session: 15 attendees gathered for breakfast, participated in a highly interactive and enjoyable discussion of the keynote sessions from the conference. A key theme explored this year was also the value and evolving nature of AES conferences over time. This style of event continues to prove useful for those unable to travel to the annual conference, as well as a way to consolidate conference learnings by those who attended.

In late November (Summer) we held our end of year gathering in our regular venue, the historic Hyatt Hotel. We had great weather and an equally great turnout, with more than 20 attendees enjoying tables decorated in a Christmas theme, and an array of snacks. We welcomed some new faces, and conversation was freeflowing with excitement for the year ahead.

Our Autumn event (March) was led by Scott Bayley (AES Fellow) and John Stoney, who guided us in

an evening of conversation exploring 'Evaluation's unmentionables: Discussing our sacred cows'. We had a full-house for the discussion (25 people+), which helped to connect newer and more experienced evaluators. Discussion challenged us to think about our evaluation contexts and why/when the unmentionables appear (and what we can do about them).

Throughout the year, the Canberra Region Committee has also been focused on supporting the preparations for delivery of aes25. We have had many discussions about how we can help create a conference where people feel included, supported and have opportunity to connect.

Looking ahead, 2025–2026 will be a year of consolidation. We are aiming to deliver our seasonal program in ways that keep the conference connections and discussions moving forward.

Committee members

Scott Bailey
Martina Donkers (from Feb 2025)
Julie Elliott
Ruth Faragher (from Feb 2025)
Susan Garner
Kim Grey
Samantha Mayes
Ruth Nicholls
Ruth Pitt
Laura Rohan-Jones (until Dec 2024)
John Stoney
Emma Wensing (Convenor)

NEW SOUTH WALES

In 2024–2025 the NSW Committee continued to offer regular free online events for evaluators to engage with contemporary evaluation topics and practices. Those events offer an informal platform for evaluators to learn and share with their peers and complement nicely the AES formal training offering. These events covered topics of interest which appealed to a wide range of evaluators, emerging or more seasoned:

- → 'Open space', 25 July 2025, 48 registrations
- → 'NSW Wellbeing Framework', 31 October 2024, 80 participants
- → 'NSW Government evaluation guidelines: Return on experience', 28 November 2024, 52 participants
- → End of year networking event, 12 December 2024, 41 registration, great turnout at Brewdog in Redfern and festive mood
- → 'The evaluator's journey: What is evaluation, what is an evaluator and how did I become one?', 21 February 2025, 82 participants
- → 'Evaluation reporting tips and traps', 3 April 2025, 123 participants

→ 'Evaluative reasoning', 29 May 2025, 109 participants

Participants regularly highlighted in their feedback the value of these events in terms of interactivity and content with the opportunity to share with their peers and hear from experienced evaluation practitioners.

'Extremely experienced and knowledgeable presenters. Relaxed conversational approach. Very generous sharing of information and experience.'

[Participant, Evaluation reporting – tips and traps]

The NSW Committee set up a LinkedIn group in replacement of the newsletter to allow more dynamic engagement with NSW members. New members are invited to join the group in a welcome email and we plan to have a roster to share content on the group.

A survey was also sent out to NSW members to seek interest for setting up some local groups, in particular in the regions to connect with evaluation peers locally. 14 responses were received expressing interest in setting up local groups in Newcastle/ Hunter, Central Coast, South Coast, Sydney-Central and Western Sydney. Those members were subsequently put in touch with each other to establish connections with their local peers.

The NSW Committee organised a third round of the successful EvaluAdder buddy program, which offers an informal complement to the AES group mentoring program. This new round had nine pairs of buddies and EvaluAdders (mentors), and the evaluation of the program found that the majority of participants benefited from the program, as was the case with the previous two rounds.

The NSW Committee is committed to deliver regular free events for the NSW evaluation community to actively engage in contemporary evaluation topics. Future events being explored include a panel on ethics pathways and a joint event with Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA) on child-focused evaluation.

Committee members

Laura Baker*
Ben Barnes
Gavin Faunce
Florent Gomez (Convenor)
Melissa Kaltner
Brian Keogh
Linda Klein
Greg Masters (Free Seminars Coordinator)
Ruth McCausland
Jasper Odgers

Jasper Oagers Emily Saurman Kath Vaughan-Davies

*On sabbatical since March 2025; due to return January 2026

NORTHERN TERRITORY

During 2024-2025 the NT regional network held inperson events and online seminars to strengthen the evaluation community in the NT and promote NT specific opportunities for learning. The first in-person networking event was held in Alice Springs in response to interest from AES members based in Central Australia. The NT regional network Co-convenors continued holding online meet-and-greet sessions with new AES members.

In the second half of 2024, we hosted seven events:

- → In early August face-to-face networking events were held in Darwin and in Alice Springs.
- In late August in Darwin, a lunch and learn seminar on 'The power of evaluative thinking to influence public policy' was delivered by Rick Cummings, AES Fellow. This event was jointly hosted by the NT regional network and IPAA NT. In the same week a meet-and-greet event was held to provide AES and IPAA members with an opportunity to network across professional organisations and to meet with Rick Cummings.
- → In October an online seminar was conducted as a follow-up to aes24, with the focus being takeaways from a NT perspective.
- → In November an online seminar was held on 'Using Australian early development census data to close the gap' in early childhood development.
- → In November an end of year in-person catch-up was held in Darwin at The Last Supper, an airconditioned inside venue that provided respite from the humidity.

In the first half of 2025, network activities included:

- → In May an in-person networking event was held in Darwin at the Darwin Sailing Club. This coincided with a visit from Bill Wallace and Fiona Zlotnik from the AES Office. This event informed attendees about the planning for the aes26 conference in Darwin.
- Planning meetings for aes 26 commenced in April between the NT Committee and the AES Office. Following an expression of interest process, 13 NTbased AES members were selected to join the aes26 Conference Committee. Meetings of the Conference Committee commenced in June 2025.
- Two online seminars planned for the first half of 2025 were cancelled (prior to advertising) due to the withdrawal of speakers. One of these will be rescheduled later in the year.

In 2025–2026 the NT Committee will focus on planning for the aes26 Darwin conference. The committee will continue to identify online seminars relevant to the NT context and host in-person networking opportunities.

Committee members

Christabelle Darcy (Co-convenor) Alison Reedy (Co-convenor)

QUEENSLAND

The Queensland Regional Network Committee held a range of online and in-person events throughout the financial year. The in-person events aim to provide opportunities for members and evaluation colleagues to make connections with each other and the AES, and to share and learn from each other. In August 2024 networking events were held in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast simultaneously – the first time such an event has been held outside of Brisbane. This continued with successful end-of-year networking events in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

In March 2025 the Queensland Co-convenors and Queensland based AES Fellow Marion Norton had the opportunity to meet with Elliot Stern, Emeritus Professor Lancaster University and editor of the journal Evaluation, while he was visiting from the UK. The meeting provided an opportunity to share some Queensland and Australian perspectives on evaluation and public policy and interesting advances and challenges in our context.

Online learning events also provided opportunities to showcase Queensland evaluation and evaluators to a wider audience. Inspired by popular presentations at aes24 in Melbourne, we hosted virtual seminars on:

- → 'Embracing the L in "MEL": A journey towards participatory evaluation in government programs', presented by Milena Gongora, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, in March 2025
- 'Fidelity to context: A realist perspective on implementation science', presented by Andrew McLachlan, NSW Department of Education, in May

In partnership with SIMNA (Social Impact Measurement Network Australia), in October 2024 we also hosted the online panel event 'Local impact measurement platforms and tools you should know about in 2024'. The event provided an opportunity for evaluators and social impact professionals to learn about two local impact measurement platforms and tools that have come out of Queensland.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 the Committee will continue to provide opportunities for Queensland members and the broader evaluation community to engage, make connections and learn from each other through online and in-person events. Engagement in our events and responses to our new member welcome emails continue to reflect their interest in a mix of online and in-person options.

Committee members

Samantha Abbato Natalie Arthur Rebecca Duell Mark Griffin Robert Grimshaw (Co-convenor) Cherie Lamb

Sarah Renals Rebecca Roebuck Kate Sunners Kim Vesely (Co-convenor) Sophie Widdup Marianne Wyder

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

During 2024–2025 the South Australian Regional Committee has continued its focus on supporting the evaluation community through the provision of engagement and learning opportunities.

The Committee continued to host regular learning opportunities as online and face-to-face events. We found that online presentations seemed to be favoured by attendees attracting large numbers of participants. Online events also meant that we were able to have speakers from outside of South Australia; ensure local members not based in the city could attend events; and attract attendees from around Australia, New Zealand and other countries. We were fortunate in having speakers of high calibre and who were able to present interesting and diverse material.

The Australia Awards program funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) conducted its first ever short course in monitoring and evaluation during 2024. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to combine our end-of-year event with the opportunity to host the Fijian delegation who visited Adelaide to learn about evaluation as part of the Australia Awards program. The event was well attended by locals and the Fijian delegation.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 the Committee aims to continue to provide high quality learning opportunities for members and to facilitate discussions that contribute to the field of evaluation. We will continue to use online presentations as the primary means of delivering our learning opportunities. However, we plan to host at least one face-to-face event each half year to provide members and attendees with a more engaging networking opportunity. We will also continue to promote the benefits of AES membership at all our events in order to help grow local membership.

Committee members

Stephanie Carter Maria Eliadis Mark Mackay (Convenor) John Pilla Tania Plueckhahn Susan Rooney-Harding Colin Sharp Charlie Tulloch

VICTORIA

During 2024-2025 the Victorian Committee focused on supporting aes24 held in Naarm in September, and increasing the number of opportunities for Victorian members to meet in person. We are pleased to have delivered five well-attended seminars and three inperson networking events, including a well-attended event aligned to aes24 welcoming both Victorian members and conference attendees.

Our online seminars continue to be attended by AES members and non-members from across Australia and NZ (just as our Victorian members join other regions' online events). Seminars delivered include 'The Australian Framework for the Ethical Co-production of Research and Evaluation with Victim Survivors of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence' presented on 17 July by Katie Lamb (The University of Melbourne) and two representatives from the WEAVERs (a group of researchers with lived experience of domestic, family and/or sexual violence). In addition to presenting the framework, the presenters and attendees had a guided discussion about the challenges and opportunities for incorporating lived experience in evaluation.

'Thank you, appreciate the presentation and sharing these resources and experiences!'

The presentation 'Evidence in Aboriginal health and social settings: Past, present and future' was delivered on 16 October by Joanne Luke from the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency [VACCA). Joanne discussed the evolution of research and evaluation practices, particularly in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. She emphasised the importance of new ethical guidelines and practices, and the need for Aboriginal people to lead and be included in decision-making processes. Joanne pointed out the challenges in acquiring relevant studies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander settings and the need for greater self-determination, Aboriginal-led evidence, and community endorsement in research and evaluation practices.

2025 started with 'Australian funders and evaluation' presented by George Argyrous, Squirrell Main, Katrina Webster and Caroline Henwood. The presentation provided an overview on the funding landscape in Australia and ways different funding organisations consider evaluation. The session was well attended with over 100 participants.

'Was super, an area I knew nothing about!' 'Really valuable and lots of things to think about.'

This was followed by another very well attended event posing the philosophical question 'How might evaluation meet the challenges of our times?, led by a prestigious panel consisting of Patricia Rogers, Elliot Stern, Eleanor Williams and Brad Astbury. The discussion was lively and wide ranging and was followed by an opportunity to continue the conversation in person.

'Great outline of issues and ideas for how evaluation can be relevant in our current. changing times.'

Two seminars were held in May – the first one being 'Developmental evaluation in practice: Regional stewardship of aged care' with Zoe Enticott an engaging deep dive into the application of developmental evaluation in a national context over a three-year evaluation.

'Fantastic presentation, thank you! Easy to follow, practical but also covered the basic theory. Great job!'

The second seminar 'Everyday ethics in evaluation' was presented by Kristy Hornby and Eleanor Williams. Kristy and Eleanor led a broad discussion on ethics in evaluation and crossed over into discussions on evaluation quality and integrity.

'Thanks all, fascinating discussion' 'Thanks everyone! Juicy discussion of a nuanced

The year concluded with an in-person network event in Naarm, Melbourne in the heart of winter. While this was an opportunity for members to meet in person, there was a focus on Artificial Intelligence and its use within evaluation and in organisations. Several regional network representatives led small group discussions with engaged conversations – a great opportunity for peers to share their own learnings and ask questions.

We have continued to be active contributors to the broader work being undertaken by the AES, including discussions on how to operationalise the organisational strategy and values.

We said goodbye to long time members Co-convenor Ruth Aston and Lydia Phillips – their contributions will be missed. We appreciated the leadership of Ruth, and the time and energy both brought while on the Committee. We were pleased to welcome new committee members through an open expression of interest – with thanks to all members who responded. New members are Hilary Davis, Mohib Igbal, Melinda Nicholls and James Ong.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026 the renewed Committee is looking forward to the opportunities the year will bring. We aim to continue our seminars, including increasing opportunities for members to engage in person.

Committee members

Ruth Aston (resigned 2024) Kerry Brogan Mandy Charman Erin Davis Hilary Davis Su-Ann Drew Caroline Henwood (Convenor) Mohib labal Alice Muller

Melinda Nicholls James Ong Lydia Phillips (resigned 2025) **Emily Tee** Eleanor Williams

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The WA regional network held three social events (approximately 10–15 attendees at each) and three learning events in the past year. The learning events included:

- → An in-person book club with 12 attendees on a paper – 'Intangible outcomes: The importance and current neglect within evaluation practice', which led to a great discussion.
- → A hybrid event in October 'Wayfinding back to WA: Reflections on the aes24 conference' with approximately 25 participants.
- → An online presentation 'Big dreams, big evaluation' with Kelsie Prabawa-Sear from Nature Play on their IPAA WA award-winning evaluation (approximately 55 participants).

Feedback from a regional WA member

'One of the reasons I maintain my membership with AES is for the State events and SIGs. They are great semi-formal connections with peers. I attended four of six WA events this year. The variety of sessions, meeting place and timing helps to fit these in around work commitments. What I gain from these events, both those with a topic or social, is insight into the diverse roles of evaluators. I always come away with a new idea, a practice tip, or something that helps me reflect on the AES code of practice and how I uphold this.'

I often feel guite isolated in my role as an internal evaluator in the not-for-profit sector. Being involved in the WA events has helped me create a network of like-minded people that is supportive and always gives me a confidence boost to push "imposter syndrome" aside."

The WA events include a mix of "regulars" and those coming for the first time. This year has been fabulous. The efforts and networks of Janet and Lisette to build the WA chapter are behind this. They have taken on board ideas to make the events open to more (e.g. varied times, locations, hybrid, social and presentation based) and have encouraged their colleagues to be involved in AES. The WA chapter is building momentum. There was a good balance and number of events this year, something for everyone. I really enjoyed the book club session. Similar to one the year before, it was a chance to get a bit nerdy with evaluation, critically think about your own values and how you practice evaluation and hear different perspectives from others. These session formats have been fun, interactive and safe. I appreciate the effort of those having great ideas and then organising and facilitating the events'.

Feedback from a Perth-based member

'The AES WA events are always a great blend of connection and information. I really enjoy them to keep connected with the evaluation community here, to meet new people and to hear about interesting work being done. I equally enjoy events that are focused on an evaluation topic for discussion which help me to consider other perspectives and broaden my thinking.'

This feedback most closely aligns with the Vitality domain of the AES strategic priorities: the WA regional network is providing a sense of belonging and connections for members, and thus enhancing the value of membership.

Looking ahead to 2025–2026, we have two major aims: to continue the momentum of regular events (seasonal learning events and regular social networking events); and to invite more members to volunteer with the committee in readiness for a future conference.

The bookclub/reading group idea has especially been embraced by longer term members who wish to go deeper into evaluative approaches and concepts, with members suggesting the desire to explore different topics together in the coming year. One member suggested the WA network could draw on articles from EJA, to promote engagement with the journal (one of the open source articles accessible for all).

Committee members

Janet Conte (Co-convenor)
Penelope Cooke
Rick Cummings
Kevin Dolman
Christina Kadmos
Lisette Kaleveld (Co-convenor)
Dorothy Lucks
Amanda Mottershead
Theo Nabben

Special Interest Groups

DESIGN AND EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Design and Evaluation Special Interest Group (DESIG) was formed in 2017 and has continued to evolve its offerings. Most recently, our flagship was the Evaluation Lab. Over the course of 2024 we ran sessions with groups across three areas: Evaluation cultures, Evaluation methods and Evaluation careers.

At aes24 in Melbourne, six groups presented their evaluation innovations in a Big Room Session. These covered a range of ideas, including:

- → 'Engage, eEvaluate, expand' examining the power of engagement and relationship building in evaluation
- 'MERI ninjas' embedding informal MERI planning into ad hoc or small scale, informal engagements
- → 'Nudge implementation' blending nudge methods with implementation planning
- 'Shifting the lens' using systems thinking in evaluation
- 'Whip wizards' a roadshow for evaluation
- 'Qualapalooza' expanding the range of qualitative methods to collect data

This was the first of its kind for the AES: it brought together evaluators in cross-sector design teams to tackle different challenges. The feedback from participants was extremely positive and provided a practical introduction to applying design to evaluation challenges.

The Evaluation Lab has been a big investment of time by the DESIG. At the end of 2024 we decided to take a break, and after July we will be turning our attention to refreshing the Committee and developing a new action

Group members Charlotte Atherton Jo Farmer Matt Healey Ellie McDonald Shani Rajendra Nic Vogelpoel

MULTICULTURAL EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Over the last year the Multicultural Evaluation Special Interest Group (MESIG) facilitated the development of a special edition of the EJA; focused on culturally sensitive evaluation; rotated leadership; and convened an annual reflection meeting to revisit our mission.

The special edition of the EJA will feature articles that exemplify culturally inclusive evaluation. This publication will help evaluation practitioners across the region learn the principles and practice of culturally grounded evaluation, and recognise it is as a critical part of evaluation. Three articles have been accepted at this point, with one awaiting revisions. Publishing is planned for December 2025, depending on how long revisions take for the final article.

The MESIG leadership has transitioned as well: Erin Blake and Jane Howard have stepped down as Co-chairs and Lena Etuk took on the Chair role in May 2025.

The annual reflection meeting in December 2024 was open to all AES members, and we discussed our purpose and mission statements to assess alignment to current

goals and the AES strategic priorities. The conclusion of the conversation was that the purpose and mission largely still align, but some adjustments could be made. Those adjustments will be carried out in August 2025.

The MESIG will be updating its mission and purpose statements to align more closely with the AES strategic priorities. We will also develop and deliver activities that help us achieve our mission and create opportunities for evaluators with interest and passion in multicultural evaluation to connect.

Group members

Erin Blake EeMun Chen Yonas Dare Amy Dellit Kathrine Dinh Lena Etuk Elissa Mortimer Mark Oliver Ali Rasoli Eva Sarr

SYSTEMS EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Throughout the past year, the Systems Evaluation SIG has hosted a series of discussions and events designed to explore systems thinking in evaluation, while quietly reflecting the Vitality goals of the AES strategic priorities. These activities have encouraged inquiry, supported member connection, and fostered ongoing professional development.

On 19 July 2024, we began with 'How Andrew ate an elephant', an exploration of core systems thinking concepts using an impossible meal to support reflective practice. This was followed on 6 September by 'System Mappy Methods', where Brian Keogh introduced approaches to visually map complex systems, including Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping – offering participants practical techniques for their evaluation work.

We continued with a member-led conversation on 25 October 2024, 'Systems conversations from Rimini', led by Ann Stephens following the European Evaluation Society Conference. Informed by global discussion, the session created space to examine how evaluators are responding to complex and 'wicked' problems using systemic approaches – showcasing the value of sharing practice across borders and sectors.

On 22 November 2024, Professor Pierre Hadaya joined us virtually to consider 'Strategy as a dynamic system', opening discussion on how strategic frameworks interact with evaluation in complex environments. The session added to our collective thinking about how evaluative practice can remain adaptable over time.

Our Systems SIG Book Club began in May 2025, thanks to France Bright who proposed AES Fellow Yoland Wadsworth's Building in Research and Evaluation. This ongoing series has supported inclusive participation and sustained learning for the whole group over time, in line with the AES aim of strengthening benefits to members.

Finally, on 13 June 2025, we explored the concept of 'Panarchy' with Kara Scally-Irvine – how systems change while maintaining key functions – prompting reflection on resilience, continuity and renewal in evaluation ... and Andrew's eating habits!

We are committed to continuing our Topics of Interest seminar series, exploring the latest innovations and insights in systems thinking. Alongside this, we will deepen our collective learning through more in-depth discussions in our book club format, providing space for reflection and exploration.

Our goal is to cultivate a dynamic, connected community where members not only engage in meaningful conversations, but also shape and lead the evolving field of systems evaluation. We remain grounded in collaboration, staying responsive to the ideas and interests of our members as we grow together.

Group members

Julie Elliott Brian Keogh, Andrew Hawkins Kara Scally-Irvine

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION NETWORK

During 2024–2025, the Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) took over responsibility for supporting the Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network (APSEN) from the Victorian Department of Health's Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence.

There was a call-out to all members to nominate to be on a refreshed APSEN Steering Group. All members that nominated were invited on to the Steering Group. Members are keen to engage in evaluation conversations at a national level, forge stronger networks between sectors, and explore common challenges. The APSEN membership list was also refreshed, with the network currently having over 450 members. The network continues to provide the opportunity for sharing information, including information on ways to contribute to knowledge creation, workshops and networking.

In 2025–2026 the APSEN Steering Group looks forward to developing a program of activities and reinvigorating the network and building its membership. The Steering Group is also looking to explore new ways of sharing information across the network and connect to the work of the Australian Public Service evaluation profession.

Group members

Jenny Booth
Gosia Bucki-Smith
Suzanne Butler
Cobi Calyx
Giulia Capuzzo
Gavin Faunce
Taryn Gazzard
Florent Gomez
Kristy Hornby
Ansari Jainullabudeen

Angela Kinnell Ruth Nicholls Josephine Norman Mark Robinson Luke Ryan Allison Salmon Todd Sansness Debbie Stockton Charlie Tulloch Eleanor Williams

Fellows of the AES

A Fellows Management Group was established in 2024 with its first meeting in May 2024. The initial membership of the group consists of Janet Clinton, Scott Bailey, Marion Norton and Anthea Rutter. They are joined by Board representative Andrew Hawkins. It was agreed that the group would meet four times per year via Zoom, with a face-to-face meeting at the annual conference. A terms of reference was drawn up for the group, and a two-year plan was developed. The minutes of the meetings are forwarded to AES Fellows for comment, along with short surveys to Fellows inviting comment and suggestions on possible activities for Fellows.

It was agreed that the AES Fellows would be involved in the following activities:

- → Contribute to AES policy making when requested
- → Ensure that the Fellows have a voice in the AES strategic priorities
- → Undertake the nomination process for new AES Fellows
- → Engage in mentoring
- → Contribute to the AES annual report
- → Sit on the Awards Committee, if invited
- → Sit on the AES Conference Committee, if invited
- → Be involved in the organisation and running of a Fellows Forum at the annual conference

Several meetings have been held during the year, and a number of key areas were discussed and actioned a long with consultation from the Fellows. There were a number of significant topics for the 2025 year:

Expectations of being a Fellow

- → Following a discussion, it was noted that the group had sent some suggestions to Bill Wallace to include in the documentation for nominations of new Fellows.
- → A short survey to the Fellows was distributed to ask them about the ways they think Fellows can contribute to AES activities.

Conference panel at AES Conference in Canberra

→ Marion Norton led a Fellows group in developing a presentation for the 2025 conference.

Support for the EJA

→ It was felt that the Fellows could increase their capacity to support the journal process by engaging as reviewers for the EJA. It was noted that a number of the Fellows are already involved.

Quality evaluation

→ The group discussed the changing face of evaluation both here and across the world, and the status of evaluation at universities. The significance of these issues will be raised with the AES Board.

New AES Fellows

Three new Fellows, **Doyen Radcliffe**, **Theo Nabben** and **Amy Gullickson**, were inducted at aes24 in Melbourne. This brings the total number of Fellows to 32.

Work plan

The AES Fellows provided a range of activities to be undertaken by the Fellows. These topics are discussed with AES management. The Fellows Management Group continues to liaise with the Fellows to prioritise activities.

AES Fellows Management Group

Janet Clinton (Co-ordinator)
Scott Bailey
Martion Norton
Anthea Rutter
Andrew Hawkins (Board representative)

AES Fellows

Lyn Alderman (Qld, 2021)

Anona Armstrong (Vic, 2003) Scott Bayley (ACT, 2016) Amohia Boulton (NZ, 2022) Darrel Caulley[†] (Vic, 2005) Sharon Clarke (SA, 2022) Janet Clinton (Vic, 2021) Rick Cummings (WA, 2013) Jess Dart (Vic, 2021) Sue Funnell (NSW, 2003) John Guenther (NT, 2023) Amy Gullickson (VIC, 2024) Penny Hawkins (NZ, 2009) Dorothy Lucks (WA, 2021) Anne Markiewicz (Vic, 2015) Chris Milne (NSW, 2003) Theo Nabben (WA, 2003) Jenny Neale[†] (NZ, 2015) Marion Norton (Qld, 2023) John Owen (Vic, 2003) Doyen Radcliffe (WA, 2024) Patricia Rogers (Vic, 2016) Anthea Rutter (Vic, 2016) Colin Sharp (SA, 2003) Ralph Straton (WA, 2004) Ian Trotman (NZ, 2003) Zita Unger (Vic, 2013) Yoland Wadsworth (Vic, 2007) Nan Wehipeihana (NZ, 2021) Gill Westhorp (NSW, 2019) Jerome Winston (Vic, 2004) Alan Woodward (NSW, 2019)

Annual Financial Report

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD ABN 13 886 280 969 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Prepared by V.P. Cannizzaro & Co - Certified Practising Accountants

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Principal Activities

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

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

Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The Losses for the financial year amounted to \$33,732.

Going Concern

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 for the organisation.

Directors

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

Kiri Parata, President
Tony Kiessler, Treasurer
Anne Stephens, Vice-president
Jade Maloney
Andrew Hawkins
Nicole Tujague
Matthew Healey

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors on:

Kiri Parata (President)

Tony Kiessler (Treasurer)

Dated 15 August 2025

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD AS AT 30 JUNE 2025 ACCRUAL BASIS

	Notes	2025	2024
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
ANZ V2 Account		_	79,263
ANZ Business Account		973,274	1,176,237
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		973,274	1,255,500
Trade Receivables and Other Current Assets			
Term Deposits		200,000	-
Trade Debtors		11,000	65,649
Prepaid Expenses and Event Deposits	2	375,556	240,585
Total Trade and Other Receivables		586,556	306,234
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,559,830	1,561,734
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	3	13,690	12,002
Intangibles	4	6,241	9,358
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		19,931	21,360
TOTAL ASSETS		1,579,761	1,583,094
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	5	795,986	788,929
GST Payable		74,342	71,960
Employee Entitlements	6	67,909	46,949
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		938,237	907,838
TOTAL LIABILITIES		938,237	907,838
NET ASSETS		641,524	675,256

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	Notes	2025	2024
MEMBER'S FUNDS			
RETAINED PROFITS			
Retained Earnings Beginning of Year		675,256	603,311
Current Year Earnings		(33,732)	71,945
TOTAL RETAINED PROFITS		641,524	675,256
TOTAL MEMBER'S FUNDS		641,524	675,256

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD AS AT 30 JUNE 2025 ACCRUAL BASIS

2025	2024
9,402	8
1,074,106	825,379
256,205	247,492
35,600	22,844
302,169	298,430
1,677,482	1,394,153
541,359	479,034
914,539	652,912
65,978	59,924
7,323	8,167
184	-
24,522	7,334
27,144	1,657
130,165	113,180
1,711,214	1,322,208
(33,732)	71,945
(33,732)	71,945
	9,402 1,074,106 256,205 35,600 302,169 1,677,482 541,359 914,539 65,978 7,323 184 24,522 27,144 130,165 1,711,214 (33,732)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD AS AT 30 JUNE 2025 ACCRUAL BASIS

	Notes	2025	2024
EQUITY			
Opening Balance		675,256	603,311
Increases			
Profit / (Loss) for the Period		(33,732)	71,945
Total Increases / (Decreases)		(33,732)	71,945
TOTAL EQUITY		641,524	675,256

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Members and Customers		1,717,742	1,837,571
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,803,292)	(1,305,600)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(85,550)	531,971
INTEREST RECEIVED			
Interest Received		9,402	8
TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED		9,402	8
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(6,078)	(9,433)
Payment for investments (Term Deposit)		(200,000)	
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(206,078)	(9,433)
NET CASH FLOWS		(291,628)	522,546
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of period		1,255,500	732,954
Net change in cash for period		(282,226)	522,546
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD		973,274	1,255,500

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025 ACCRUAL BASIS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements cover Australian Evaluation Society Limited as an individual entity. Australian Evaluation Society Limited is a not-for-profit entity incorporated in Victoria under Corporation Act 2001 and reporting under Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission Act 2012 ('the Act').

In the opinion of the Board of Directors, Australian Evaluation Society Limited 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 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 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, AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures, AASB1048 Interpretation of Standards and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures. We have not assessed if the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards.

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.

Income Tax

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

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Each class of property and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Board of Directors reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the

asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the entity's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents includes cash, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors.vReceivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

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 entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed.

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 is recognised using the effective interest method.

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 one 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 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.

Government grants and subsidies income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The entity's evaluations, estimates and judgments are incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company. There are no areas involving high degree of judgment or complexity or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements.

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

	2025	2024
2. PREPAID EXPENSES AND EVENT DEPOSITS		
Prepayments		
Prepaid Expenses and Event Deposits for conferences	375,556	240,585
Total Prepayments	375,556	240,585
TOTAL PREPAID EXPENSES AND EVENT DEPOSITS	375,556	240,585
	2025	2024
3. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Art Collection	2,500	2,500
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(745)	(653)
Office Furniture & Equipment	26,484	31,054
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(14,549)	(20,899)
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	13,690	12,002

	2025	2024
4. INTANGIBLES		
Website costs		
Website Development	31,299	31,299
Less Accumulated Amortisation	(25,058)	(21,941)
Total Website Costs	6,241	9,358
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	6,241	9,358
	2025	2024
5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade Payables		
Accounts Payable	5,875	4,900
Total Trade Payables	5,875	4,900
Other Payables		
ANZ Credit Card	23,256	10,618
Prepaid Income	753,337	760,706
Sundry Creditors	13,518	12,705
Total Other Payables	790,111	784,029
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	795,986	788,929
	2025	2024
6. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS		
PAYGW Payable	8,864	5,710
Provison for Annual Leave	23,427	14,289
Provision for Long Service Leave	35,618	26,950
TOTAL EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS	67,909	46,949

7. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

Australian Evaluation Society Ltd did not have any transactions with related parties during the financial year ended 30 June 2025. None for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

We, Kiri Parata and Tony Kiessler being members of the Board of Directors of Australian Evaluation Society, certify that-

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd during and at the end of the financial year ending on 30 June 2025 and satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2022.

Signed

Signed

· ·

Dated 15 August 2025

VPC&Co CPA

Compilation Report

Australian Evaluation Society Ltd For the year ended 30 June 2025

Compilation report to Australian Evaluation Society Ltd.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2025, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Board of Directors

The Board of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd are 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 financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the partners we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 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 exclusively for the benefit of the Board who are 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.

Vito Cannizzro
Vito Cannizzro (Aug 15, 2025 14:40:59 GMT+10)

VP Cannizzaro & Co

Fellow Certified Practising Accountant & Chartered Tax Advisor

PO Box 606, Carlton South Victoria 3053

Dated: 15/08/2025

BPR AUDIT PTY LTD G03 12-14 CATO STREET, HAWTHORN EAST, VIC A USTRALIA 3 1 2 3 TELEPHONE 61 3 9836 8824 INFO@BPRAUDIT.COM.AU WWW.BPRAUDIT.COM.AU ABN 3 2 0 8 9 8 5 5 7 4 7



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd (The Entity), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2025, income and expenditure statement, the statement of movements in in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements and the declaration by the members of the board.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial
 performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60
 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2025.

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 (including Independence Standards) (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 for the purpose of fulfilling the Entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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



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

As part of an audit in accordance with the 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 the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' 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
- 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 the directors 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.

rug 15, 2025 17:42:51 GMT+10)

Bernie Rohan

Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd (Authorised Audit Company) Reg. No. 311673 PO Box 468 Canterbury VIC 3126

Dated: 15/08/2025

BPR AUDIT PTY LTD G03 12-14 CATO STREET, HAWTHORN EAST, VIC AUSTRALIA 3123 TELEPHONE 613 9836 8824 INFO@BPRAUDIT.COM.AU WWW.BPRAUDIT.COM.AU ABN 32 089 855 747



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025 there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- b. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

BOKAGGIT (Aug 15, 2025 17:42:51 GMT+10)

Bernie Rohan Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd (Authorised Audit Company) Reg. No. 311673 PO Box 468 Canterbury VIC 3126

Dated: 15/08/2025



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ABN 13 886 280 969 ACN 606 044 624

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