aes26

14 - 18 September 2026
Darwin | Garrmalang

Making space, valuing place

#aes26DRW



Evaluation professionalisation: where to from here?

- Background on the project
- What we've learnt so far
- Hearing from you – fishbowl conversation

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Why is the AES exploring professionalisation?

- Professionalisation has been part of AES discussions for many years.
- The 2024–2028 AES Strategic Plan focuses on professional identity, capability development and career pathways.
- In 2025, the Board established the Professionalisation Project to explore contemporary approaches to professional recognition and what role, if any, the AES should play.

Guiding principles

- Diverse Practice recognition
- First Nations inclusion and cultural safety
- Equitable access
- Transparency and support
- Proportionality

What we've learned so far

- Approaches range from capability building to voluntary recognition to formal regulation.



- Initial consultations supported further exploration of a **voluntary, competency-based approach**.

What we've heard so far

- Benefits are that it can strengthen evaluation quality and professional identity

The model must:

- Maintain the diversity and inclusiveness of evaluation practice.
- Focus on demonstrated competence, not academic qualifications alone.
- Avoid unnecessary barriers to participation.
- Build on the principles established by the Board.

Today is a Fishbowl conversation



1. Listen to what others have said
2. Jump in when you have something to contribute
3. Write your ideas on butchers paper
4. Reward for contributions

Questions

What value would professional recognition provide for you?

What would make it useful for employers, funders or communities?