

The logo consists of a white upward-pointing triangle above the text 'AUSTRALASIAN', a white rectangle containing the word 'EVALUATION' in bold, and a white downward-pointing triangle below the text 'SOCIETY'.

AUSTRALASIAN
EVALUATION
SOCIETY

2016-17

ANNUAL REPORT

www.aes.asn.au

Our vision

- Quality evaluation that makes a difference

Our mission

- To strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use

Our values

In December 2000 the AES adopted a Code of Ethics to guide its activities and the behaviour of members. In essence the guiding principle is that:

- When commissioning, conducting or reporting an evaluation, members should strive to uphold the ethical principles and associated procedures endorsed by the AES in the Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.

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About us

The Australasian 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.

It has 900 members involved in all aspects of evaluation and performance measurement. The AES is governed by a board of members and managed by an Executive Officer and staff.

Members represent diverse areas of evaluation practice and sectors and meet regularly through regional networks, committees, and Special Interest Groups. The AES offers professional development through an annual international conference and regular workshops and seminars.

OBJECTS OF THE AES

Within the States and Territories of Australia and New Zealand, as well as the wider Australasian-Pacific region:

- 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 other 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
- other activities consistent with the objects.



About us

MEMBER BENEFITS

Recognition and support

Belonging to the longest established professional evaluation organisation in Australia, New Zealand and the wider Australasian-Pacific region, with a network of 900 practitioners, commissioners, and academics involved in all aspects of evaluative enquiry and performance measurement.

Code of ethics

Members abide by the AES Code of Ethical Conduct, 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 conferences and professional learning activities. Keep up-to-date through our publications, workshops, seminars, discussion groups and conferences.

Networking

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 the Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.

Members' centre

Electronic access to information and resources for members only, including the latest issue of the *EJA*, issues of e-news, and access to the Directory of AES members.

AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

Members are eligible for nomination for the prestigious AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation.

Consultants' directory

Profile your evaluation services and consultancy through our online Consultants' Directory and receive tender information made available to the AES.

Annual International Evaluation Conference

Stay in touch with the latest trends and issues in evaluation through the annual AES International Conference, for which members receive advance notice and discount registration fees.

International links

Be part of an international network of evaluation societies.

Member discounts

Leading insurance broker, Aon, provides AES members with a 15 per cent discount off the standard consultants' insurance rate for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance.

Corporate governance

How we are governed

Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Since May 2016, the Society 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 Society. The board is legally responsible for all of the Society's decisions and activities. The Executive Officer has delegated responsibility for implementing the directions and decisions of the board.

Accountability of the board

The board is accountable to the Society's membership. 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 Society's Constitution and Policies.

Appointment of the board

Following adoption of the new Constitution at the Special General Meeting in February 2016 and subsequent re-incorporation from the 2016 Annual General Meeting, the board consists of three named office bearers (President, Vice-President, and Treasurer) and three ordinary board members, all elected by the membership. The board has the discretion to appoint up to three ordinary board members, ensuring that at least two members of the board are Indigenous and taking into account the overall mix of knowledge, skill and attributes of board members.

Role of the board

The board has overall control of the Society and 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 2016–2017

Lyn Alderman	<i>President</i>
Liz Smith	<i>Vice-President</i>
Jess Dart	<i>Treasurer</i>

Ordinary board members

Dan Borg (from 4/17)

Amohia Boulton

Sharon Clarke

John Stoney

Doyen Radcliffe

Staff

Executive Officer

Bill Wallace

Membership & Events Officer

Jacqui Diamond (to 11/16)

Michelle Wightwick (from 4/17)

President: Lyn Alderman

Lyn's experience encompasses several sectors including non-profit, corporate, higher education and vocational education. Her deep disciplinary knowledge and expertise is in program evaluation, evaluation frameworks, performance models, monitoring of quality assurance, institutional analytics and curriculum writing.

Lyn was the Associate Director, Academic Quality and Standards, QUT (2007–2016) where she led two portfolios: evaluation and quality assurance. Her leadership in this area was nationally recognised when she was awarded the L H Martin Institute Award for Excellence in Leadership (2016).

With over 50 publications to her name, Lyn advocates strongly for everyone to engage in scholarly writing as a professional development for personal reflection on practice, to disseminate evaluative thinking and to contribute to the scholarly debate on the benefits and use of evaluation per se.

In 2017, Lyn concentrated on her consultancy work in the non-profit and higher education sectors. In establishing The Evaluators' Collective, Lyn's philosophy was to provide sound, ethical and culturally specific evaluations for non-profit, corporate and government sectors for social good.

Lyn is the President of the AES (2014–2018) and an Editor of the *EJA* (2012–current).

Vice-President: Liz Smith

Liz is a co-founder of Litmus, a specialist private sector evaluation company based in Wellington, New Zealand, and active across Australasia. Liz's evaluation journey started more than 20 years ago as a nurse in the John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford when assessing the effects of a new nursing practice on patients' health experiences. Since then Liz has been involved in more than 50 evaluations, mostly in the health sector or with programs focused on improving health and wellbeing outcomes and decreasing inequities.

Liz's evaluation practice is driven by her goal of contributing to the creation of equitable health care systems that offer positive patient experiences and outcomes. Currently, Liz is leading multi-disciplinary teams in the completion of a number of long-term evaluations. In her evaluation practice, Liz engages in participatory processes to meaningfully include diverse communities, service providers, stakeholders and key decision-makers. Currently, Liz is exploring the interface between evaluation and design.

Liz is an active member of the AES. Since joining the AES in 2005, Liz has been involved in the Wellington AES Committee as the events coordinator from 2005–2012, and NZ Convenor from 2013–2015. Liz was elected as Vice-President of the Society in 2013. In 2014–2016, Liz chaired the AES's Stakeholder Engagement Group. In 2016–2017, she has chaired the Member Services and Engagement Committee.

Board and staff

Treasurer: Jess Dart

Dr Jess Dart is the founding Director and Chair of the Board of Directors of Clear Horizon Consulting. Clear Horizon is a specialist evaluation company established in 2005 operating nationally and internationally with offices in Melbourne, Perth and Canberra. Clear Horizon works with clients from a very wide variety of sectors, both domestically and internationally, and at all levels of government. Jess has been working in the evaluation space and has been a member of the AES for over 15 years. She holds a PhD in evaluation from the University of Melbourne.

With regard to her evaluation practice, Jess has a passion for evaluation theory and mixed-method approaches and is always striving to ensure that evaluation leads to improved social, economic and environmental outcomes. Jess is also a highly in-demand facilitator and trainer, and leads many capacity building endeavours for government, not-for profits and philanthropic organisations. Jess works across sectors but has a specialist background in international development and sustainable agriculture.

Jess has enjoyed the privilege of being the Treasurer on the current AES board since September 2014. She brings to this role a solid knowledge of the evaluation industry and hard won experience of directorship. To complement her practical skills, Jess completed the Foundations of Directorship with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (including units in Governance for Directors; Finance for Directors; and Strategy and Risk for Directors).

Meeting attendance

Lyn Alderman	5 of 5
Dan Borg (from 4/17)	1 of 1
Amohia Boulton	5 of 5
Sharon Clarke	4 of 5
Jess Dart	5 of 5
Liz Smith	5 of 5
John Stoney	5 of 5
Doyen Radcliffe	4 of 5

President's report

AES Strategy July 2016–June 2019

It is my pleasure to report that the AES board, leadership team, and committees have worked hard to begin operationalising the strategies for each of the five domains detailed in our three-year strategy. These domains are cultural capacity, professionalism, influence, relevance, and organisational sustainability. Each domain is supported by a committee, with each committee chaired by a board member and supported by a secretary. Two of the committees, supporting cultural capacity and organisational stability, have fixed membership whilst the remaining three, supporting influence, relevance and professionalisation, are open to member participation. The three-year strategy will be reviewed in the second half of 2018 and the board will keep this strategy front and centre when making decisions that impact our Society.

My report summarises our work over the five domains with individual activities elaborated in more detail within this report.

Cultural capacity domain

The AES Constitution enshrines our commitment to cultural inclusiveness with an assurance that at least two board members are Indigenous. This year we exceeded that commitment with the appointment of Doyen Radcliffe to the board for a two-year term. Doyen joins our two current Indigenous board members, Sharon Clarke and Amohia Boulton. Together they have driven the work of the Cultural Capacity and Diversity Committee. I commend our Indigenous board members for their wisdom and hard work this year which includes: strengthening our ties with evaluation organisations in the Australian-Pacific region; ensuring that the board received cultural respect training; ongoing assessment and responsibility for the support grants for emerging Indigenous evaluators; and guiding the board in the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

Professionalisation domain

In keeping with our strategy to move toward professionalisation and through a competitive tender process, we commissioned the Australian and New Zealand School of Government to complete a Pathways to Professionalisation Project. The board was presented with the recommendations from this project in March with the final report available in July 2017.

In relation to the *EJA*, we are currently in negotiations with an academic publisher for inclusion in their social science suite in 2018, while our succession plan allowed the Assistant Editors to be promoted to full Editors in 2016. The journal was also published on time each issue, and increased content extended our articles from four to five in 2017.

Influence domain

The AES hold a membership on the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) Board with each tenure held for a period of three years. Dorothy Lucks has held this position for the period 2014–2017 and I commend Dorothy for her dedication to this role and volunteering to the role of Secretary to this board. I am sure that Dorothy has made many friends along the way and experienced many highlights in this dynamic space and as the AES representative, she has impressed everyone with her success at an international level.

In the past, there have been some concerns that the AES (from the IOCE perspective) is representing Australasia, and by default other evaluation organisation may be perceived as reporting through the AES. On advice from IOCE, the AES will commence discussions to establish a South Pacific Regional body with Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA) and Mā te Rae – Māori Evaluation Society and Pasifika Fono boards. In the interim, the AES invited ANZEA to nominate a member who would represent the AES and report to all organisations (ANZEA and Mā te Rae – Māori Evaluation Society and Pasifika Fono boards). The AES board has now accepted the nomination of Debbie Goodwin to the position of IOCE Representative for the AES for a three-year term to start on 1 July 2017.

President's report

In June 2017, the Impact Management Project invited the AES to participate in their Research and Evaluation webinar to provide feedback on their draft evaluation framework. President Lyn Alderman joined board members Sharon Clarke and John Stoney and other invited researchers engaged in this process to further develop their evaluation framework.

Relevance domain

To strengthen the mix of skills within the board members, Dan Borg, a member of the Member Services and Engagement committee, was appointed in April 2017 for a period of two years. Dan's focus will be on the relevance domain.

When developing the three-year strategy, the AES board were well aware that the domains, in many respects, are overlapping. As there will always be common ground between the professionalisation and relevance domains, this committee is poised to address many of the recommendations of the Pathways to Professionalisation Report. The board established project funding for the Member Services and Engagement Committee to build upon and implement recommendations from this report.

Organisational sustainability domain

Board membership

Under section 25.6 of the Constitution, if there is a vacancy on the board, directors may appoint a member of the Company to fill the vacancy. This member holds office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of the appointment.

In March 2017, the AES board appointed Dr Dan Borg to the board, effective on the passing of this resolution, for a term that concludes at the end of the annual general meeting to be held during September 2018. Dan is a member of the Member Services and Engagement Committee.

In closing, I would like to thank the large number of AES members who volunteer their time and expertise across a large number of committees and working groups. A personal thank you to Bill Wallace for his continuous support for the AES more broadly and specifically for my role as President. Bill's diligence and attention to detail ensure that the business of the AES is in safe hands. Sadly, Jacquie Diamond our Events and Membership Services Officer for almost two years left us in November. Jacqui's contribution to the organisation is highly valued. Jacqui was replaced by Michelle Wightwick in April. Welcome Michelle!

To my fellow board members, thank you for your support, professionalism and dedication to the AES and its endeavours, it is truly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank our members for their continuing support and engagement with the Society. It is gratifying to enter a new year with news that our membership numbers have increased more than three per cent in this year bringing us back to 900 members. In an environment where all member-based societies are facing diminishing membership numbers, the AES continues to offer value and relevance to emerging, experienced, and returning evaluators and commissioners of evaluation.

Lyn Alderman, PhD

President

Treasurer's report

This year we performed considerably higher than the budget and made a small surplus, adding \$7 764 to our member funds. In the anticipation of a smaller Perth conference in 2016 we had budgeted for a loss of \$47 320. The main reasons for this variance were higher than expected revenue from our learning and development, coupled with an underspend on strategic projects. A larger and more profitable conference event in Canberra this year has ensured we are in a good position to invest in the future of the organisation as well as forecasting a modest budget surplus of \$12 079 in 2017–2018.

Balance sheet analysis against previous year

- Cash balance has increased by \$116 412 (+24.4%) compared to last year due to holding more unearned conference income.
- Total assets have increased by 18.3% (\$107 569) compared to last year.
- Total liabilities have increased by 33% (\$99 805) compared to last year due to holding a greater amount of unearned conference income.
- Total equity has increased 2.7% (\$7 764), currently \$295 617 (June 2017) compared to \$287 853 (June 2016).

Profit and loss—our position compared to last year

- Operating income decreased by 4.2%, currently \$322 675 (June 2017) compared to \$336 870 (June 2016) mainly due to a decrease in workshop income.
- Membership fee income has increased by 9.5%.
- Operating expenditure increased by 4.1%, \$386 400 (June 2017) compared to \$371 216 (June 2016). The increase in operating expenditure is due to investing in the strategy and increased workshop expenditure.

- Overall profit has decreased significantly year on year, currently \$7 764 (June 2017) compared to \$73 362 (June 2016) (–89%) due to a smaller conference in Perth in 2016 compared to Melbourne in 2015, and investment in the strategic plan.

Looking forward

With a larger conference in Canberra this year, we are budging for a surplus of \$12 079 (final figure will be dependent on conference numbers). Next year we will hold our conference in Tasmania, which is likely to attract smaller numbers, and because of our ongoing dependency on the conference income we need to ensure a surplus this year. We have sufficient reserves to invest \$40 000 into our strategic goals whilst staying in surplus. We are committed to effectively leveraging the savings we have made in the last three years of surplus to ensure a solid future for the AES.

Key budget items

- We are forecasting a budget surplus of \$12 079.
- We have budgeted \$40 000 expenditure for strategic projects to implement the strategic plan.

Jess Dart, PhD
Treasurer

The year's highlights

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2016 AES Conference was held in Perth from 17–21 September. The conference theme for the year was 'Landscapes', drawing inspiration from the vastness of Western Australia and inviting delegates to reflect on what diversity and change in social, cultural, organisational, environmental, political and economic landscapes means for evaluation and evaluators. The theme also generated discussion on: how we work within and between those landscapes; what impact our work has on them; and how we respond to changes in the terrain.

The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Perth and featured two days of pre-conference workshops, consisting of 8 workshops with a total of 121 attendees. The three day main conference program was buzzing from the first plenary session with a heartfelt Welcome to Country from local Noongar man Shaun Nannup, to the closing session with the charismatic American Evaluation Association president John Gargani. Keynote speakers included Victoria Hovane, John Owen, Ziad Moussa and Kathryn Newcomer who raised themes such as: a common desire to create positive change; needing to be respectful and mindful of culture; the professionalisation of evaluation; informed government decision making; and evaluators as skilled negotiators and knowledge brokers.

The conference attracted more than 300 attendees, including nearly 100 first time attendees at an AES conference. Delegates and speakers travelled from as far as the USA and the UK, as well as nearby locations like New Zealand. There was strong representation from emerging evaluators, and the provision of support grants to WA not-for-profit organisations encouraged a strong local presence.

The conference encouraged both experienced and emerging evaluators from landscapes across the globe to network and share experiences. Delegates were encouraged to think about the future vision of the evaluation profession by promoting well-regarded international speakers including both the current and future president of the American Evaluation Association.

In total, 110 presentations were delivered during the conference covering a number of landscape sub-themes including: evaluation, social and cultural, organisational and political, and natural and built.

Social opportunities for attendees included the Gala Dinner held in the picturesque Kings Park with a fantastic landscape view of Perth city.

The 2016 conference generated a renewed enthusiasm and optimism for the practice of evaluation and many of the moments were captured by cartoonist Simon Kneebone.

Responses to the conference feedback survey indicated attendees found the conference most valuable to network, learn and share knowledge. Interestingly, 81 per cent of survey respondents suggested that they were likely to change their evaluation practice as a result of attending the conference largely due to an increased confidence in their evaluative work, an introduction to new methods or approaches and feeling inspired to do evaluation.

Improvements for future conferences included suggestions relating to: consideration on the size of the conference to focus on quality over quantity; ensuring abstracts accurately reflect presentations; and ensuring conference costs remain affordable.

Conference committees

We extend a huge thank you to the 2016 AES Conference Convenors, Carina Calzoni and Kylie Dalling, and the Program Chair Rick Cummings who were supported by the various conference committees and volunteers.

Conference support grants sponsors

The AES would like to acknowledge the sponsors of the Conference Support Grants for Emerging Indigenous Evaluators whose generous and consistent support makes it possible to offer this program, including the Australian Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Roberts Brown and Whakauae Research Services.

We also thank the Local Support Grant sponsor Lotterywest who assisted to make the conference accessible to not-for-profit grant recipients in rural regions of Western Australia.

The year's highlights

Conference sponsors and supporters

The AES would like to extend their thanks to the conference sponsors and supporters. The committee employees and businesses have also provided invaluable support during the months of planning leading up to and during the conference.

Sponsors

Clear Horizon Consulting

Urbis

ARTD Consultants

ACIL Allen Consulting

Australian Government, Department of Social Services

Meerqat

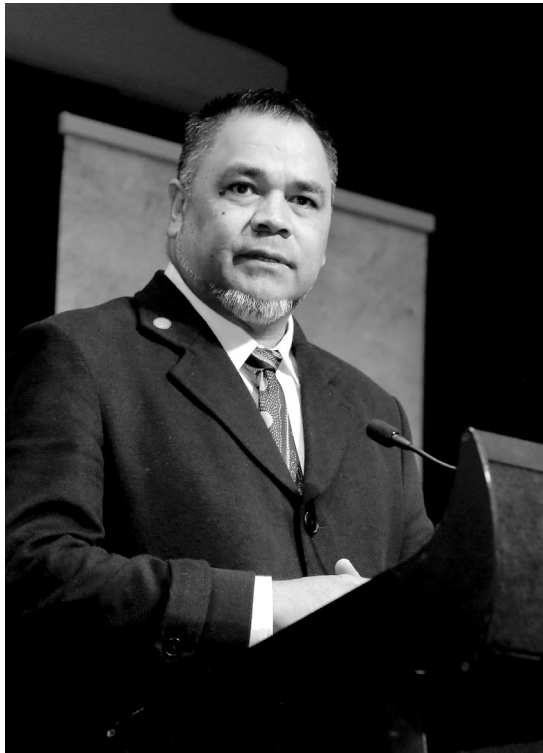
We would also like to acknowledge the wonderful team at the AES office: Bill Wallace and Jacqui Diamond.

Evaluation of the 2016 AES Conference Perth

Ben Schipp, a recent graduate of Murdoch University undertook a monitoring form of evaluation for the AES Perth conference using a range of research methods.

The focus of the evaluation was on 'the participant experience' to assess if conference attendees perceived there was value in attending the conference. The evaluation surveyed 152 attendees and 32 non-attendees, and included a report to the AES board.

Guidance was provided throughout the evaluation by Rick Cummings.



Shaun Nannup performs the 2016 Perth conference Welcome to Country ceremony



Victoria Hovane delivering her keynote address at the 2016 Perth conference

The year's highlights

AES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EVALUATION

The AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation are awarded annually and recognise exemplary evaluation practice, evaluation systems or evaluation capacity building in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Pacifica).

The awards were announced at the 2016 AES Conference dinner—see highlight box. Congratulations to all award recipients.

2016–2017 Working Group members

April Bennett
Amohia Boulton (from early 2017)
Dana Cross
Rick Cummings
Wei Leng Kwok (from early 2017)
David McDonald
Ian Patrick
Mathea Roorda (Chair)

2016 AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

→ Evaluation Study or Project Award

Wei Leng Kwok, WLK Consulting, for Generating equality and respect: Evaluation of a world-class model for preventing violence against women in Victoria, Australia. A study in engagement for learning and evaluation capacity building

→ Public Sector Evaluation Award

DFAT Office of Development Effectiveness, for the Evaluation of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program

→ Evaluation Policy and Systems

Jessica Kenway, for the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme: M&E Framework and M&E Systems Review

→ Indigenous Evaluation Award

Lauren Siegman, String Theory, for the Straight Talk evaluation for Oxfam Australia

→ Emerging New Talent Award

Dr Clancy Read



Dr Lyn Alderman, AES President (left); Dr Clancy Read, Emerging New Talent Award recipient (right)

The year's highlights

EVALUATION JOURNAL OF AUSTRALASIA (EJA)

Moving from strength to strength

Succession planning for editors

Last year the *EJA* established the role of Assistant Editor to ensure succession planning for the Editor role. In 2016, Dr Liz Gould, Dr Carol Quadrelli and Dr Bronwyn Rossingh were welcomed as Assistant Editors. In 2016, Professor Janet Clinton stepped down from her role as Editor for the *EJA* and we would like to thank her for her leadership and contribution to the *EJA*.

Following this change, and with board approval, the Assistant Editors were invited to join Dr Lyn Alderman as Editors of the *EJA*. This year, each Editor was appointed lead of one issue with the responsibility to write the editorial topic, summarise the articles and determine the table of contents. Given the nature of change in our working lives, we believe that the succession planning for Editors is working well. All issues for the last two and a half years have been on time and this year the number of articles in each issue has been increased from four to five.

Conversations with an academic publisher

Three years ago, the Journal and Publications Working Party conducted an environmental scan of suitable publishers with a view to moving into a contractual arrangement for the publication of the *EJA*. At the same time, the *EJA* moved from paper-based to online and the issues were increased from two per year to four per year. Mindful of the amount of change happening at the time, the Working Party decided that it would be wise to reconsider this issue in the future.

In 2017, an academic publisher contacted the AES and, on approval by the board, the President and Executive Officer have met with representatives from this publisher, completed appropriate paperwork and are progressing discussions between the two organisations for the *EJA* to be included in their social science suite. A major benefit for the *EJA* would be the increased profile, which will increase the value in publishing in our journal and extend our audience.

Strategy and committees

In consultation with AES member representative bodies, the board conducted a review of the Strategic Plan during 2015. Several member consultations informed the development of draft strategic statements which were reviewed by member representatives at the September 2015 AES Leaders' Forum. Informed by this review, in February 2016 the board formally adopted the 2016–2019 Strategic Plan to inform the work of the AES from July 2016 to June 2019.

The five strategies are:

- **Cultural capacity:** to strengthen and build Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity in culturally safe evaluation theory, practice and use
- **Influence:** to promote the use of evaluation and evaluative thinking by agencies and organisations
- **Professionalisation:** to strengthen the capacity and professionalism of the evaluation sector
- **Relevance:** to strengthen the value proposition of AES membership
- **Organisational stability:** to maintain good governance and broaden our revenue base.

The following advisory committees support the strategy:

- Cultural Capacity and Diversity
- Finance and Audit
- Learning and Professional Practice
- Advocacy and Alliances
- Member Services and Engagement.

Note: Organisational stability is covered in the Treasurer's report on page 9.

Strategic priorities July 2016–June 2019



Strategy and committees

CULTURAL CAPACITY

Strengthen and build Indigenous and non-Indigenous capacity in culturally safe evaluation theory, practice and use

The Cultural Capacity and Diversity Committee have a committed board and members with a range of expertise who diligently engage to support Aboriginal/Indigenous evaluators and emerging evaluators from Australia, New Zealand and the wider Australasian Pacific region. Our mission is to strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use. Over the course of the year, the AES Indigenous board members, especially through the new formed Cultural Capacity and Diversity Committee, have been involved in a number of large pieces of work in addition to their usual provision of advice and guidance to the board. We particularly want to highlight five areas of work in the 2016/17 year which we believe have further strengthened our Society's capacity with regard to Indigenous issues. These include our contribution to the revised strategic priorities; closer relations with our colleagues in other evaluation organisations in the Australian-Pacific region; driving the cultural respect training for the board; the Conference Support Grants for Emerging Indigenous Evaluators; and the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

One of the first tasks as the Indigenous board members was to contribute to the revision of the AES Strategic Priorities for July 2016 to June 2019. Along with the other board members, we identified that a key strategic objective for the AES is to continue to work towards building cultural capacity. As a result of our strategic planning the board formed the Cultural Capacity and Diversity Committee. This committee, initially comprising the three Indigenous board members is specifically charged with leading the development of a society of evaluators with an appreciation for, understanding of, and capacity to undertake, high quality Aboriginal evaluation. In the 2016/2017 year, we undertook a range of activities to advance our purpose and this key strategic objective.

Our work began in July of 2016 when Sharon Clarke and Amohia Boulton attended the ANZEA Conference and met with our colleagues within ANZEA as well as Mā te Rae – Māori Evaluation Association and the Pasifika Fono. We enjoyed a number of stimulating conversations with our colleagues regarding the future of our respective organisations, and a particular highlight was the opportunity to meet with, and share experiences with Māori ANZEA members at their hui, held during the conference.

In August 2016, the board participated in a training session entitled 'Developing respectful service responses in working with Aboriginal people' facilitated by Sharon Gollan and Kathleen Stacey. The training, held over two days, enabled board members to gain a better understanding of the historical and ongoing effects of colonisation and dispossession, and the impact of these experiences for Aboriginal Australians in their everyday life, including work life. It is hoped that in the future, the training can be offered to other leaders within the Society, at the regional and local levels.

The Conference Support Grants for Emerging Indigenous Evaluators continue to be an excellent model for supporting emerging Indigenous evaluators from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region to attend our annual AES conference. In 2016, 13 applications were received for the award, which provides award holders with funding to attend both the pre-conference workshops and the annual conference, this year held in Perth, Western Australia. This year we awarded grants to the following recipients: Brenda Andrias from Papua New Guinea; Ferguson Vaghi from the Solomon Islands; Maaki Tuatini from New Zealand; Saneta Manoa from Tuvalu; and Nathan Peckham, Shaarn Haywood and Tracy Williams from Australia.

Strategy and committees

The following is an excerpt taken from a conference report written by Maaki Tuatini, one of the 2016 recipients. In her report Maaki highlights the learnings she gained from her attendance at the AES Conference:

This year's [conference] theme, 'Landscapes' invited delegates to reflect on what diversity and change in social, cultural, organisational, environmental, political and economic landscapes means for evaluation and evaluators. The experience was challenging and thought-provoking testing my understanding of evaluation, challenging my head space and moving my soul to unusual places.

This year I was one of seven recipients who were awarded an AES Conference Support Grants to support emerging Indigenous evaluators. This enabled me to attend the conference itself and a series of pre-conference workshops.

The world of international evaluation was a thought-provoking experience for me with many 'aha' moments where the meaning of evaluation was clarified. My highlights of the conference were meeting other scholarship recipients, listening to their stories, journeys and connecting to their rhythms. From

attendance at this conference I gained enormous wealth of knowledge, skills, information and a greater understanding of evaluation processes. I've come back from this conference with new energy and rhythm which will continue to influence with my mahi and people. I can truly state that the world of evaluation isn't that scary after all.

Our final major piece of work for the year has been to begin drafting a Reconciliation Action Plan for the AES. A Reconciliation Action Plan is a framework by which organisations can identify and then realise their vision for reconciliation. In our Reconciliation Action Plan, we want to outline the practical actions AES can undertake to build respectful relationships and create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and document the ways we, as a Society will commit to contributing to reconciliation in Australia. Our draft plan is currently under review, with the expectation that it will be released to the Society by the end of the year.

Committee members

Amohia Boulton
Sharon Clarke
Doyen Radcliffe



Emerging Indigenous evaluators are welcomed to the 2016 conference

Strategy and committees

INFLUENCE

Promote the use of evaluation and evaluative thinking by agencies and organisations

The Advocacy and Alliances Committee (AAC) was formed in September 2016 as the successor to the Strategic Engagement Taskforce. Attracting a strong membership, the AAC is tasked with guiding and advising the AES board on promoting evaluative thinking and evaluation standards, plus building advocacy and alliances opportunities to strengthen the reputation of the AES nationally and internationally. To date the AAC has considered a number of issues and strategies, including drafting position papers, developing information products (such as the 'Talking up evaluation' resource) and creating an AES Government Engagement Strategy.

Another highlight for the AAC was planning the 2017 AES Conference, where the organising committee has sought to capitalise on the opportunities provided by the conference being held in Canberra to advance the AES' profile, influence and strategic priorities.

An aim for 2017/18 is to build upon recent efforts to influence including refreshing key documents (such as the AES Code of Ethics and Professional Practice), introducing the Competencies Framework, and making formal submissions to the Department of Finance and the Australian Parliament regarding the Enhanced Commonwealth Performance Framework.

Reflecting on its increasing maturity as an organisation, the AES is beginning to project its 'voice'. Doing so has implications, bringing opportunities, challenges and risks. The AAC will have a key role in helping the AES to effectively balance and navigate these. At the same time, the AAC is seeking to achieve a balance between progressing key elements of its work while also being cognisant of, and positioned to support and leverage, work that is occurring in the cultural capacity, relevance and professionalisation portfolios.

Committee members

Luke Condon
Penelope Cook
Alexandra Ellinson (Secretary)
Tracie-Lee Little
Diane McDonald
Margaret McDonald
Tim Renwick
David Roberts
John Stoney (Chair)
Helen Watts
Poppy Wise

Strategy and committees

RELEVANCE

Strengthen the value proposition of AES membership

In September 2016, a new Member Services and Engagement Committee commenced work on strengthening the AES value proposition to membership. This was a year of inspiration on how the committee might change the AES so it is more relevant to members, with an initial focus on using the great membership research completed by the previous committee. We thank Susan Garner and her committee for completing this work.

The research told us people who do participate find the AES beneficial. However, more can be done to make the membership more relevant and valuable. We used a human-centred design approach to identify ways to make the AES more relevant to current and potential members. Through this iterative process, the challenge of increasing the AES's appeal to millennials was evident as well as how to engage members beyond the main centres. Other associations are also facing these challenges – cold comfort!

2017/2018 will be a year of trialling, testing and iterating to increase AES's relevance and value. Our first initiative will be trialling the use of webinars to increase member access to the range of free seminars conducted by the regional committees. We will also trial at least two other initiatives drawing on the Pathways to Professionalisation Project within the context of the AES report. We are looking forward to a year of fast fails and much learning, and hopefully some success. We are also keen to get feedback on the trial initiatives and welcome other ideas for the AES to test.

Committee members

Eve Barboza
Sheryl Boniface
Dan Borg
Joanna Farmer
Lesley Petersen
Liz Smith (Chair)
Zita Unger (until 7/17)

We also extend our thanks to Ann Braun and Vanessa Hood from the AES Design Special Interest Group. Ann and Vanessa were members of the IDEO Design group exploring how to increase AES's relevance and value.

Strategy and committees

PROFESSIONALISATION

Strengthen the capacity and professionalism of the evaluation sector

The Pathways to Professionalisation Project focuses on identifying advantages and disadvantages in the Australasian context of potential paths to professionalisation; value of professionalisation for Australasian evaluations needs to be identified/ demonstrated rather than assumed, and any path forward must be developed to suit the Australasian context. Consideration of the Australasian context needs to clearly differentiate the status in each of the national jurisdictions—Australia, New Zealand, Pacific nations—to ensure that a pathway to professionalisation is developed that suits the evaluation context of each country, rather than focus on one-size-fits-all guidelines across Australasia.

There are clear differences in approach, standing and opportunities for skill development and professional development that need to be recognised. Differences in the markets for evaluation, and the lack of barriers to entry from associated areas of management consulting and market and social research, creates pressure points for Australian evaluators that may not exist in other jurisdictions. The role of Indigenous/ non-Indigenous evaluators and their paths to professionalisation also needs respectful attention in each jurisdiction. After a rigorous tender and selection process, the Australian and New Zealand School of Government was awarded the tender of \$20,000.

The AES board was presented with the recommendations from this project in March with the final report available in July 2017. The main recommendation from this report is for the AES to focus, connect and augment current activities and to consider developing a voluntary credentialing process, once more evidence is available about the effectiveness of this in other countries.

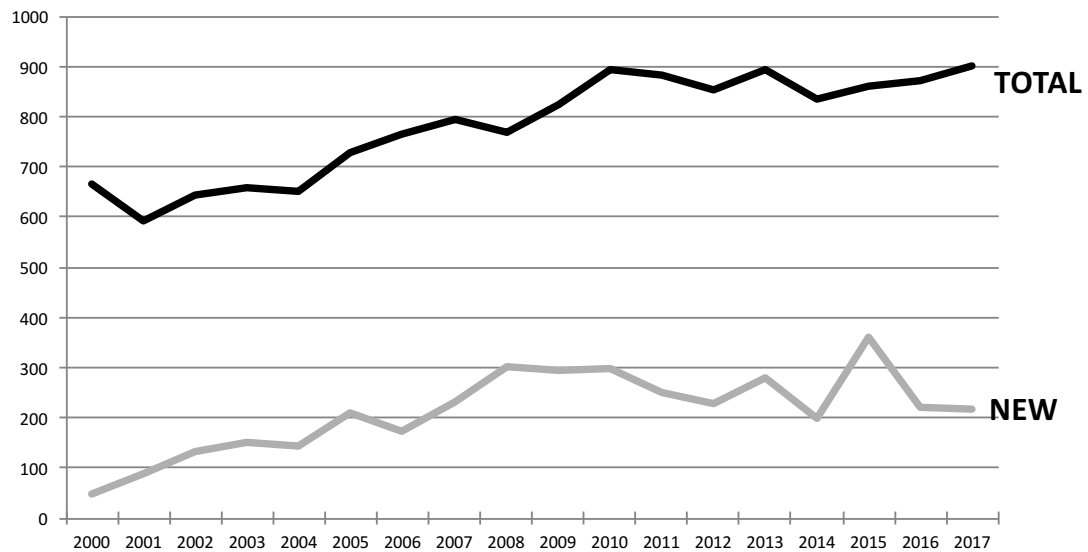
Committee members

Lyn Alderman (Chair)
Michael Cole
Pauline Dickinson
Amy Gullickson
Michelle Jones
Dorothy Lucks
Krystin Martins
Georgina Parkes Willetts
David Turner
Emma Williams

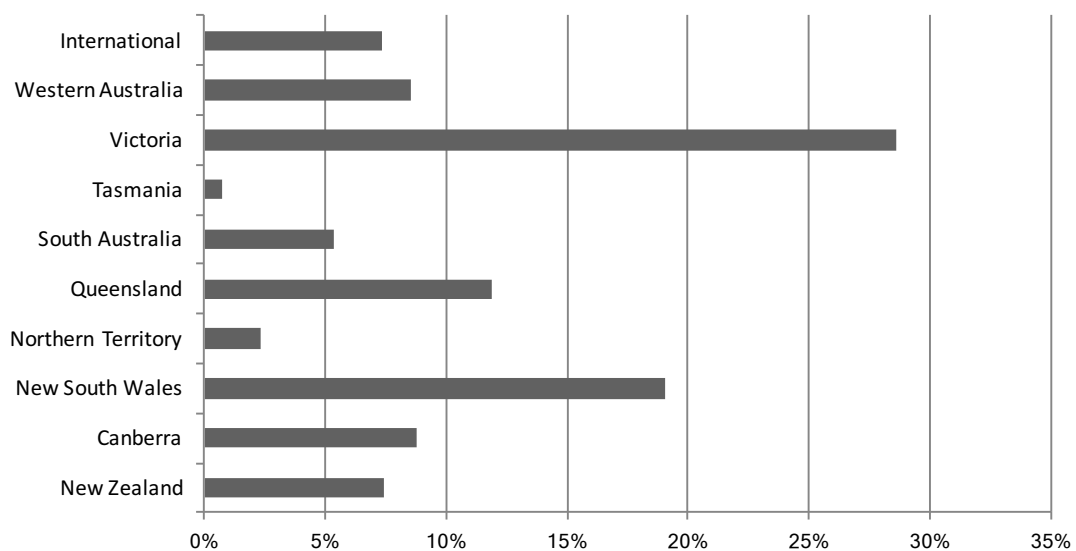
Member networks

MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

AES membership numbers, 2000–2017



Membership by region, 30 June 2017



Member networks

REGIONAL NETWORKS

Canberra Regional and 2017 AES Conference Committee

During 2016–2017, the committee worked closely with the Executive Officer to organise the AES 2017 International Evaluation Conference, coordinate six workshops and run two local activities.

The committee began the year with an 'Ideas lab: Exploring the possibilities' session facilitated by Frances Byers to consult with local members about their priority interests. The findings from the Lab guided our organising, including ensuring that the Professional Development Workshops offered throughout the year were well targeted and met local needs. These workshops were:

- Commissioning better evaluations by Duncan Rintoul and Vanessa Hood, 14 November 2016
- Realist evaluation by Gill Westhorp, 5–6 December 2016
- Qualitative inquiry for evaluation and accountability reporting by David Roberts, 20–21 February 2017
- Performance story reporting by Jess Dart, 24 March 2017
- Developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks by Anne Markiewicz, 4–5 May 2017

- Designing and using evaluation rubrics to make evaluative reasoning explicit by Krystin Martens.

In May, Graham Smith presented on a framework developed as part of his recent PhD research that helps to understand where, and in what circumstances, performance measurement is more likely to be effective (a vital tool), and where it can sometimes be unhelpful (a chore, or worse, detrimental to the organisation).

The organisation of the 2017 AES Conference, to be held at the Canberra Convention Centre from 4–6 September, has been where most of our attention has been directed. The conference theme 'Evaluation Capital' has struck a chord with a wide audience, from dedicated evaluation practitioners both inside and outside government through to policy and program managers. Achievements to date include a record number of proposals submitted and nearly four hundred registrations for the conference and associated workshops being received by the end of June 2017.

In late 2017, the committee will build on the success of the 2017 AES Conference with a renewed strategy for building the profile of AES and supporting local membership.

Committee members

Scott Bayley
Frances Byers
Julie Elliott (Co-convenor)
Susan Garner (Co-convenor)
Peter Graves
Trisha Gray
Kim Grey
Stephen Horn
Graham Smith
John Stoney
Sue Sutton
Joan ten Brummelaar
Roberta Thorburn

Member networks

New South Wales (NSW)

During 2016–2017, NSW conducted four free seminars:

- Innovation in evaluation:
How to make it happen
- 2016 AES Conference highlights
- Ethics and evaluation
- Lessons learned from an exemplar evaluation:
Keep them safe outcomes evaluation.

Attendance at these seminars ranged from 30 to 70 people. The AES would like to thank the Australian Human Rights Commission for supplying the venue for these events; each event was followed by networking drinks at a nearby bar.

NSW also hosted three paid workshops:

- Developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- Performance story reports
- Introduction to program logic.

The committee plan to build on the strong foundation established during this year to deliver an increased number of free seminars. During 2017–2018, with the support of the Australian Human Rights Commission, we will look at options for making seminars available online. The committee will also begin planning for the international conference to be held in Sydney in 2019.

The committee will also put out a call for new members later in the year.

Committee members

George Argyrous
Ben Barnes
Jennifer Davis
Ben Harris-Roxas
Sue Leahy
Greg Masters
Suzanne Pope
Peter Ryan
Ania Wilczynski

New Zealand

The highlight of the year in terms of professional development has been the developing relationship with the Council for International Development. The Council has a range of member organisations, many of which are too small to support training and development in evaluation, but which require evaluative skills and information to inform their development work across the Pacific. With AES board agreement, it has been decided to proceed with a pilot version of an evaluation training seminar.

The Wellington chapter continued to provide free lunchtime seminars for members. Examples included a seminar on evaluative reasoning and biases in thinking, and a seminar on professional guidance for evaluators.

Saville Kushner, who recently left an evaluation role with the University of Auckland,

discussed his views on the profession at a seminar for Wellington members. His visit highlighted a continuing issue of limited university education in the field of evaluation in New Zealand.

The region's social highlight was an evening session called 'Evaluating beer and wine', led by a writer and judge on both wine and beer. The focus was on evaluative criteria used by competition judges.

One objective for the coming year is to make better use of the region's page on the AES website, bringing material up to date. We would like to establish a way to automatically inform New Zealand-based members when new announcements are made or new material published. We will work with AES office staff on this effort.

Committee members

April Bennett
Sally Faisandier
Elisabeth Poppelwell
Mathea Roorda
Kara Scally-Irvine
Liz Smith
David Turner (Convenor)

Member networks

Northern Territory (NT)

The NT AES branch built upon existing partnerships with the Menzies School of Health Research and the Australian Health Promotion Association to deliver a series of seminars that were based on the requests of members. Cross promotion, wider reach, extending networks and learning from the different professional perspectives were some of the benefits of these mutually beneficial partnerships.

A seminar on social media held in June 2016 provided an opportunity to learn about how a health promotion research project had used a variety of tools for evaluation. The presentation by Dr Marita Hefler from the Menzies School of Health Research explored the issues to be considered by practitioners wishing to use social media in evaluation. Participants enjoyed hearing about the potential for social media to be a tool for data collection, a forum for communities of practice, and a means of communication for commissioning organisations, evaluation practitioners and beneficiaries.

The opportunity to contribute to the research project titled 'Strengthening evaluation practices and strategies in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand' was also valued as a means

to strengthen the cultural safety of evaluations carried out in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand. There was a lot of interest in the research from the group and people were keen to participate. The NT branch of the AES was pleased to be able to promote the research throughout the local network. It is anticipated that this research will contribute to providing the AES with a road map for action that has had input from Northern Territorians from a wide range of organisations, professions and backgrounds.

The NT AES branch looks forward to bringing some of these professional development opportunities to members and prospective members in 2017: ethics in evaluation; evaluations with a value for money focus; methods to incorporate design theory into program planning; and communicating evaluation findings. To deliver this for our members, the branch is committed to strengthening the connections with existing collaborators, consolidating the working relationship and scoping out the potential for new partnerships.

Committee members

Nea Harrison
Alison Rogers (Co-convenor)
Catherine Street (Co-convenor)

Queensland

Queensland's flagship continues to be the free lunchtime seminar series. In the last financial year 360 people attended the 10 events. Of those who evaluated the seminars, approximately three-quarters rated the usefulness and quality of the presentation either 4 or 5 out of 5. With permission these seminars are audio-recorded and loaded onto the AES website in the member's area. Importantly we see some non-members who attend these events, become members at a later stage. Additionally a proportion of the 2017 presenters volunteered after attending an earlier seminar.

We offered several workshops with two being held, and both being well received. A symposium was held in collaboration with Australian Market and Social Research Society with an attendance of approximately 100 people.

Notably, the AES was approached as a stakeholder by the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet with regard to the development of a whole-of-government approach to evaluation.

Queensland's strength is the energy and dedication of a large and active committee. The goal is to continue channelling this energy into providing Queenslanders with opportunities for professional development in evaluation.

Member networks

Planning for our 2018 professional development events is well underway, as well as some succession planning for the committee roles in 2018.

Committee members

Buthaina Al Kindi
Lewê Atkinson
Kylie Brosnan
Natasha Doherty
Jo Durham
Susan Hickey
Dr Jennifer Moffatt (Convenor)
Zhan Patterson
Carol Quadrelli
Sarah Renals (Secretary)
Jesse Taylor
Brent Turner
Rhianon Vichta

South Australia (SA)

This was a year of establishment for the committee. There had been a lapse in the SA program for nearly a year that initially saw an interim committee established in early 2016 that was then formalised on 1 July. As a new committee we had to re-establish a program and re-engage with members.

Throughout the year the committee established the terms of reference and operating model. A modest seminar program for 2016/17 with a platform for the next 12 months was also developed. However, three committee members resigned due to the time commitment required to be on the committee. Currently we have a committee of four and need to increase this to ensure that we have the capacity to sustain a program and that the workload on individual members is sustainable.

Looking ahead, our aim is to consolidate a seminar program that provides value to our members with the explicit objectives of increasing attendance at seminars and expanding our network with complementary professional organisations. To achieve this we plan to: hold seminars on topics that members have identified an interest in; trial the use of video or equivalent technology to have interstate speakers present at seminars; hold at least one seminar in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration; and experiment with different approaches such as facilitated Q&A on topics of interest.

Committee members

Ruth Fernandez (Secretary)
Michelle Jones
John Pilla (Convenor)
Patricia van Baumgarten

Victoria

This year, the Victorian Committee supported the reinvigoration of the state government evaluation community of practice. While our support was 'hands off', we observed positive progress in the establishment of the community of practice, which has its own momentum, a forward agenda and approximately 20–30 people in Victorian government roles willing to host and organise meetings, held about every six weeks. A funded position to coordinate the community of practice—an idea put forward by the Victorian Committee—remains a possibility in general,

but specifically with the Institute of Public Administration recently expressing interest in providing some support to the community of practice, including incorporating the community of practice into the existing Institute of Public Administration community of practice structure.

The committee continues to strengthen, with clearly defined roles that are evenly distributed across members, and members actively and enthusiastically participating in the tasks of the committee. Our engagement with new members via personal contact with each new member, as well as at the monthly seminars, has been well received and also provides the committee with a useful temperature check on what members are expecting, enjoying or struggling with. We take this opportunity seriously, including new member engagement as a standing item on the bi-monthly meeting agenda.

At our June meeting we committed to establishing a regional sub-committee in response to membership expectations/wishes for more engagement with the seminar program. This will be led by Sarah Mason of the Centre for Program Evaluation, University of Melbourne, who recently re-located to Castlemaine, and supported by Anne Crawford. We also hope to attract a Centre for Program Evaluation masters student to the committee to both provide experience and also support the committee to fulfil its functions.

Member networks

In general, we'll continue to improve our function in responding to members' needs, in terms of diversity of seminar offerings, and support and advice to members.

Committee members

Anne Crawford
Farida Fleming
Kate Gilbert
Stefan Kaufman
Sarah Mason
Lee-Anne Molony
Ian Patrick
Emma Pritchard
Anthea Rutter
Kari Sann

Western Australia (WA)

2016–17 was a big year for the WA Region. The highlight by far was hosting the 2016 AES Conference in September. The conference was a huge success, testament to the conference committee's consistent effort and hard work over two years. The conference led to the engagement of new people in evaluation as well as renewing the enthusiasm for evaluation locally. Since the conference, the committee have been active in building on this momentum by continuing the lunchtime seminar series and delivery of workshops.

In March, Dr Roanna Lobo (Measurement Evaluation Project Manager at St Bartholomew's House and a researcher and lecturer in the School of Public Health at Curtin University) and Tom Tolchard (an ex corporate refugee now working as the Impact and Innovation

Specialist at Foundation Housing) presented a lunchtime seminar on moving towards outcomes measurement and an evaluative organisational culture in the not-for-profit sector. The seminar covered the approaches and methods used, their achievements, and lessons learned. It was well attended with over 40 participants.

In April, Heather Aquilina, Director of Evaluation and Review from Shelby Consulting presented on the topic 'Outcome mapping: bridging the activities-outcome gap with observable measures'. Approximately 25 people attended the seminar which explored the incorporation of some of the elements of Outcome Mapping methodology to assist with bridging the gap between traditional quantitative measures and qualitative stories, to provide objective intermediate measures based on observable behaviours.

In June, Dr Dorothy Lucks, SDF Global presented on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the role of evaluation. Dorothy began the seminar explaining the background to the SDG and Australia's commitments, which provide new and exciting opportunities for cutting edge, and inclusive approaches to improving economic, social and environmental processes. This interactive workshop attended by 15 participants, considered whether we are taking advantage of the opportunities of the SDG

and using monitoring and evaluation practices to link into what is happening locally and globally.

These seminars have not only provided an opportunity for presenters to share their thoughts and ideas about evaluation with a diverse audience, they are also helpful for facilitating new networks with people working across a range of disciplines, and have continued to attract people new to evaluation.

In addition to the seminars, the WA region has delivered four one-day introductory evaluation workshops in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration: Introduction to program logic; and Introduction to monitoring and evaluation. Feedback on the Introduction to program logic workshop led to some minor changes in 2017 which has helped to ensure this workshop is in line with the needs of WA participants. Generally feedback on all workshops has been very positive.

Committee members

Heather Aquilina
Carina Calzoni
Angela Carr
Rick Cummings
Kylie Dalling
Christina Kadmos
Dorothy Lucks
Theo Nabben
Vicki Williams

Member networks

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Evaluation Capacity Building Special Interest Group

The first meeting of the Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB) SIG was held on 11 April 2017 via videoconference and was convened by Liam Downing. Thirty-five people attended, all of whom were AES members. There was agreement that the broadening in focus from higher education to ECB was the right move, and there is a great deal of interest in moving forward with this group.

Further work for the convenor includes building an online collaboration space, which the convenor plans to launch shortly and finalising the makeup of the core group and election of the conference proposal coordinator. This will be completed before the conference this year, with discussions among these key members to be undertaken at the conference. The convenor plans to launch the group informally at the Conference in Canberra through either a breakfast or dinner slot, to allow for members of the group to meet face-to-face.

Design & Evaluation Special Interest Group

The Design & Evaluation (D&E) SIG recognises the need for evaluators to be aware of and understand some of the emerging concepts, terms and approaches that may be of relevance to their work. This includes the increased interest in the field of 'design' and its application to programs, projects, services and policies.

A key highlight in the early stages was the development of a working definition of 'design' from the group's perspective, 'a purposeful and systematic process to create positive change'.

Since the first SIG meeting at the AES conference in Perth in September 2016, the membership group has continued to grow across different channels, including a LinkedIn group with 79 members and a direct mailing list with 70 contacts.

The D&E SIG has been responding directly to topics of interest identified by its members. This includes two webinars led by its committee members, the first focusing on how evaluators can work with social innovators (via an interview with Mark Cabaj) and the second looking at the ways in which evaluators can draw on human-centred design when developing evaluative processes.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive to the topics presented through the SIG, 'I really enjoyed listening and thinking about what was being said and reflecting on how that plays out in my work environment' (D&E SIG member).

Member networks

So far the D&E SIG currently has three activities scheduled for the 2017 AES Conference, as well as a pre-conference workshop. Outside of the conference, SIG committee members are also working actively to offer different opportunities including workshops, webinars and sharing of resources through the LinkedIn group. There are two more webinars scheduled between now and the 2017 AES Conference further delving into the world of design and evaluation.

Committee members

Jess Dart (Chair)
Tom Hannon
Matt Healey (Secretary)
Vanessa Hood
Katrina Middlin
Elizabeth (Liz) Smith

Realist Special Interest Group

This was an interesting year for the Realist SIG, with fewer events than in previous years, in order to prepare for the first international conference of realist evaluators (and many other forms of realist practitioners including those conducting realist research, realist synthesis and rapid review) ever held outside of Europe. The conference in October means that SIG members will have access to international authorities and the latest realist thinking from around the world. It also means that AES members have an opportunity to showcase what is happening here and areas where international practitioners might want to learn from Australasia. We think the use of realist methods in Indigenous contexts may have particular impact here.

Next year, in addition to the conference, we are rolling out a new initiative for members that is currently being road-tested. Many of our activities to date have focused on realist theory—realist ‘book club’ reading and commenting on articles together or ‘realist movie nights’ and ‘matinees’ watching and commenting on video presentations from European conferences. We intended to trial a new initiative focusing on realist practice. We hope it will be at least as successful as our previous activities, and look forward to reporting on it next year—and on the additional SIG and AES members that resulted from the world’s first non-European international gathering of realists.

Member networks

AES LIFE MEMBERS AND FELLOWS

The AES Fellows are members who have made significant contributions to evaluation and the Society over a number of years. The Fellows have a special commitment to providing support for the development of members who are new to evaluation, and will continue to assist the Society in promoting evaluation knowledge and competence in the community wherever possible.

In 2016–17, three new Fellows were endorsed: Patricia Rogers and Anthea Rutter from Victoria and Scott Bayley from the Australian Capital Territory. It is particularly pleasing to recognise these longstanding members who have made significant contributions to professional learning in evaluation and to the growth of the Society. This brings the number of Fellows to 18, with an equal gender balance.

Fellows are expected to continue to contribute to the AES and the development of evaluation through activities such as membership on AES committees, conducting workshops, producing and reviewing articles for the *EJA*, and mentoring early career evaluators. In 2016–17, AES Fellows contributed in all these ways as well as conducting a session at the 2016 AES Conference in Perth on ethical issues in evaluation.

During 2016–17, the Fellows reviewed the nomination and appointment process in an effort to enhance access for deserving members and to ensure the process is practical, fair and ethical. As a result, several changes were made to the AES Fellows policy and procedures. Of particular interest, there is no longer a limit on the number of Fellows who can be endorsed in a single year, nominations only need to address a minimum of three criteria, nominators may approach the nominee for detailed information to support the nomination, and the Fellows assessment panel will notify nominators of unsuccessful nominations with feedback on why the nomination was unsuccessful.

Fellows assessment panel

Anona Armstrong
Rick Cummings (Coordinator)
Liz Smith
Zita Unger

Life members

Anona Armstrong
Ian Trotman

AES Fellows

Anona Armstrong	Victoria, 2003
Scott Bayley	Aust. Capital Territory, 2016
Darrel Caulley	Victoria, 2005
Rick Cummings	Western Australia, 2013
Sue Funnell	New South Wales, 2003
Penny Hawkins	Wellington, 2009
Anne Markiewicz	Victoria, 2015
Chris Milne	New South Wales, 2003
Jenny Neale	Wellington, 2015
John Owen	Victoria, 2003
Patricia Rogers	Victoria, 2016
Anthea Rutter	Victoria, 2016
Colin Sharp	South Australia, 2003
Ralph Straton	Western Australia, 2004
Ian Trotman	Wellington, 2003
Zita Unger	Victoria, 2013
Yoland Wadsworth	Victoria, 2007
Jerome Winston	Victoria, 2004

Financial reports 2016–2017

Finance summary

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 <i>projected</i>
INCOME						
Workshops	138,738	127,208	135,284	176,447	147,498	160,000
Conference income	45,150	103,619	293,482	521,623	361,286	593,630
Memberships	131,231	121,876	144,115	143,385	156,997	139,000
Publications	22,268	14,662	22,573	16,622	17,913	17,300
Other Income	21,346	20,594	9,564	416	267	1,600
Total Income	358,733	387,959	605,018	858,493	683,961	911,530
EXPENDITURE						
Workshops	76,400	60,115	83,151	101,665	88,076	106,200
Conference & projects	5,000		192,228	413,914	309,797	457,697
Strategic projects					20,000	41,000
Memberships	7,418	2,138	2,209	2,338	1,520	3,000
Publications	21,348	20,026	28,591	21,320	24,040	25,000
Other expenses	41,571	32,410	4,136	1,875	924	
Sub-total	151,737	114,689	310,315	541,113	444,357	632,897
Administration & Governance	215,086	332,749	195,268	244,018	231,840	266,554
Total Expenditure	366,823	447,438	505,583	785,130	676,197	899,451
SURPLUS	-8,090	-59,479	99,435	73,363	7,764	12,079

Financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Revenue		683,961	858,493
Depreciation and Amortisation		924	1,875
Other Expenses		675,273	783,255
Profit before Income Tax	3	7,764	73,363
Total Comprehensive Income		7,764	73,363

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Special Project Income		
Publications Sales	17,913	16,622
Professional Fees		
– Workshops Income	147,498	176,447
– Conferences Income	361,286	521,623
– Membership Fees	156,997	143,385
Interest Received	267	416
	683,961	858,493
Expenditure		
Administration & Governance	231,840	244,018
Cost of Publications	24,040	21,320
Depreciation	924	1,875
Membership Services	1,520	2,338
Special Projects (incl Conferences and Support Grants)	309,797	413,914
Workshops	108,076	101,665
	676,197	785,130
Profit before Income Tax	7,764	73,363

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		594,000	477,588
Trade and Other Receivables	6	21,635	31,176
Other Current Assets		73,876	72,254
Total Current Assets		689,511	581,018
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	462	1,386
Intangible Assets	8	6,560	6,560
Total Non-Current Assets		7,022	7,946
TOTAL ASSETS		696,533	588,964
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	9	71,545	52,162
Provisions	10	7,790	11,258
Prepaid Income		321,581	237,691
Total Current Liabilities		400,916	301,111
TOTAL LIABILITIES		400,916	301,111
NET ASSETS		295,617	287,853
Equity			
Retained Profits		295,617	287,853
TOTAL EQUITY		295,617	287,853

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Retained Earnings		
Balance at 1 July 2016	287,853	214,490
Profit Attributable to Members	7,764	73,363
Balance at 30 June 2017	295,617	287,853

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

The financial statements cover Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd. as an individual entity. Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd. is a not for profit Association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* ('the Act').

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association 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 so as 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 recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(b) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(c) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

(d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment of losses.

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use. The Depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Office Equipment	66.60 %
Website Costs	33.30 %

(e) 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 Association 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 and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

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

Sale of Goods

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

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

Membership Subscriptions

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 income expenditure

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.

(f) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
3. PROFIT	7,764	73,363
Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	924	1,875
Other Expenses	675,273	783,255
	676,197	785,130
4. PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		
Profit before income tax expense from continuing operations includes the following specific expenses:		
Charging as Expense		
Movements in Provisions		
Depreciation		
– Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	924	1,875
Net Expenses Resulting from Movement in Provisions	924	1,875
5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank	515,381	399,237
Anz V2 Bank Account	78,619	78,351
	594,000	477,588
6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Trade Debtors	21,635	31,176
Total Trade and Other Receivables	21,635	31,176

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivable in the financial statements

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Office Furniture & Equipment	7,104	7,104
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	6,642	5,718
	462	1,386
Total Plant and Equipment	462	1,386
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	462	1,386
8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Non-Current		
Formation Expenses	6,560	6,560
Website Development	12,020	12,020
Less Accumulated Impairment	12,020	12,020
Total Intangible Assets	6,560	6,560
9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Sundry Creditors	4,427	4,088
Trade Creditors	25,426	6,032
Anz Visa Card	5,204	6,255
Payg Tax Withholding accrued	4,900	11,384
Provision for GST	31,588	24,403
	71,545	52,162
Total Trade and Other Payables	71,545	52,162
10. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	7,790	11,258
	7,790	11,258

11. STATUTORY INFORMATION

The registered office of the association is:
Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd., Level 4, 100 Leicester Street Carlton Vic. 3053

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 30 June 2017 has been received and is included with the financial statements.

The committee members present their report on the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee Members

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

Gwendolyn Alderman
Jessica Jane Dart
Elizabeth Smith
Sharon Clarke
Amohia Boulton
John Stoney
Doyen Radcliffe
Dan Borg

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were: Promote Ethics and Standards in evaluation practice in Australia and New Z. Advancing Social or Public Welfare.

Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The profit of the association after providing for income tax amounted to \$7,764.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Gwendolyn Alderman



Jessica Jane Dart

Dated 15 August 2017

**AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.


In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd. as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Gwendolyn Alderman



Jessica Dart

Dated 15 August 2017

Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd.
Compilation Report To Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, and the income statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the additional information contained in the detailed profit and loss. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in the notes to the accounts.

The Responsibility of the Committee of Management

The Committee of Management of Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd. is 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 the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the Committee of Management, we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

We have applied professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements on the basis of accounting described in the notes 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 for the benefit of the Committee of Management who is 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.

V P Cannizzaro & Co

Fellow Certified Practising Accountant and Chartered Tax Advisor
Ground Floor, 19-21 Argyle Place South Carlton Victoria 3053



Vito Cannizzaro
08 August 2017

Auditor's report

BPR AUDIT PTY LTD
AUTHORISED AUDIT COMPANY
SUITE 16 333 CANTERBURY ROAD
CANTERBURY VIC AUSTRALIA 3126
TELEPHONE 61 3 9836 8824
INFO@BPRAUDIT.COM.AU
WWW.BPRAUDIT.COM.AU
ABN 32 089 855 747



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd (the Company), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, income and expenditure statement and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

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 Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (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 confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the members of the management committee of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the members of the management committee as at the time of this auditor's report.

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 management committee members' financial reporting responsibilities under the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME
APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Responsibilities of the Members of the Management Committee for the Financial Report

The members of the management committee of the Company 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 Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the members of the management committee 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 members of the management committee are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members of the committee either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

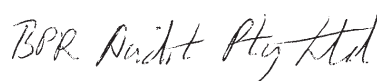
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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 report.

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 Company'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 committee members' 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 Company'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 Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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.



BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Suite 16, 333 Canterbury Road
CANTERBURY VIC 3126



Bernie Rohan
Director

Dated: *16th August 2017*

BPR AUDIT PTY LTD
AUTHORISED AUDIT COMPANY
SUITE 16 333 CANTERBURY ROAD
CANTERBURY VIC AUSTRALIA 3126
TELEPHONE 61 3 9836 8824
INFO@BPRAUDIT.COM.AU
WWW.BPRAUDIT.COM.AU
ABN 32 089 855 747



**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF
AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017, there have been:

- a. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

BPR Audit Pty Ltd

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Suite 16, 333 Canterbury Road
CANTERBURY VIC 3126

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernie Rohan', written over a horizontal line.

Bernie Rohan
Director

Dated: *16th August 2017*



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APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS LEGISLATION

Australasian Evaluation Society Ltd
Level 4, 100 Leicester Street
Carlton VIC 3053

ABN 13 886 280 969
ACN 606 044 624