



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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OUR VISION

Quality evaluation that makes a difference



OUR MISSION

To strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use



OUR VALUES

Our Code of Ethics guides the activities and behaviour of our members. In essence the guiding principle is:

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.

President's report

EYE OF THE STORM

***Had a dream, I was born
To be naked in the eye of the storm
And now it's standing right in front of me
What's it going to do to me, who knows?***

Had a Dream (Sleeping with the Enemy),
Roger Hodgson 1984

Those familiar with me know of my love of pop culture and habit of appropriating it for presentations and the odd paper (particularly lines and titles from songs). I confess I was a bit stumped for a while trying to think of something that would accurately reflect 2020–2021.

Some suggestions made to me included Jailhouse Rock (Elvis), Another One Bites the Dust (Queen), Take the Long Way Home (Supertramp), Eye of the Tiger (Survivor)...even Apocolypso (Mental as Anything)! But (late) inspiration struck in the form of Roger Hodgson's post-Supertramp debut album. Its title and the opening stanza of its first single seemed to aptly summarise the year that has been, and provide a hopeful metaphor for the future.

Australia (along with our extended family in New Zealand) entered 2020–2021 still experiencing lockdown. Successful (if at times hard fought) suppression strategies progressively saw all jurisdictions effectively COVID-free by early 2021, experiencing near pre-pandemic conditions with vaccines starting to become available. It looked as though the worst might have been over. But there were warning signs via outbreaks and a slower than planned vaccination rollout. With the rise of the Delta variant, June saw the east coast beginning a path back into lockdown.

In this uncertain context, the challenge for the AES was to adeptly move with and respond to the continually emerging (and often disruptive) environment – while trying to make educated judgements as to what might be 'over the horizon'.

This was the case with aes21. Having already postponed our 2020 Brisbane Conference, the Board was again faced with an opaque scenario



AES President John Stoney

as the year progressed. After much consideration, it was resolved there was too much uncertainty. Once more our Brisbane Conference was postponed, with time proving it was the right call. I again acknowledge and thank the Brisbane Conference Committee for their valued advice, resilience and commitment.

Against this background much was still achieved during 2020–2021. Under our four domains:

Vitality

- Our digital pivot being fully implemented, providing the foundation for both normal and new activities to be undertaken
- The AES member survey, which provided valuable insights into members' views on initiatives and activities that the AES could undertake during and post COVID
- FestEVAL in September 2020 providing a virtual opportunity for the evaluation community to still come together
- The mid-term review of the AES strategic priorities, affirming these as still fit for purpose with minor updates
- Financial health remaining strong with a projected deficit instead being a profit, enabling further investment in strategic projects and member services.

Cultural capacity

- The second AES submission to the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
- The Cultural Safety Framework strategic project, led by the Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee with a cross-cutting project team, which will provide crucial guidance to evaluators seeking to undertake their work in a manner that is culturally safe across all phases of the evaluation process.

Pathways

- Our workshop program successfully transitioning to be fully delivered online
- The Group Mentoring Pilot strategic project which trialled an innovative online group mentoring model
- Development of an AES competency self-assessment tool
- AES Awards being extensively reviewed, resulting in refreshed categories being announced for 2021
- The *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* continuing to support members and the broader sector. I would particularly acknowledge the work of the editorial team during the year.

Relationships

- Commenced work on a State of Evaluation strategic project, which will seek to identify and better understand trends and patterns in the commissioning and use of evaluation across Australia

To have successfully navigated this period is reflective of a collective effort across the organisation involving Board, Committee, Working Group, Regional Committee, project team, EJA, Fellows and Special Interest Group members. It also reflects the efforts and resilience of our CEO, Bill Wallace, and Membership and Events Officer Michelle Wightwick who themselves have experienced numerous and at times extended lockdowns. Thank you all.

At the time of writing, we again face pandemic-related challenges, with a range of impacts – economic, health, societal and psychosocial. I'm conscious many members continue to be in and/or have experienced numerous lockdowns. People are understandably tired and there is a sense of 'aren't we there yet'?

Storms – even Category 5 ones – eventually pass. People – and our evaluation community has demonstrated this – are resilient, creative and capable of individual and mutual healing and recovery. My hope is that as 2021–2022 progresses we as a country will transition to a new normal where many (if not necessarily all) aspects of pre-pandemic life returns – hopefully even with some improvements.

As for the AES, our membership base is not just sound in terms of numbers but also engagement and energy. Our balance sheet has remained strong. Some significant, foundationally important work has been undertaken. We are well placed to move into the new world, continuing to meet members' needs and our mission.

John Stoney
President

Treasurer's report

Introduction

Amidst the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board continues to monitor and mitigate the financial risks. I'm pleased to share that the AES returned a surplus at the end of June – instead of making a loss as originally planned (see explanation below). This is very reassuring: the surplus has strengthened an already healthy balance sheet, meaning we will continue to operate with certainty and provide services in a sustainable way.

Summary of the 2021 financial year results

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, the AES achieved a net profit of \$62,576. This was against a budget loss of \$64,900 and builds on the \$51,124 surplus for 2020.

As was the case in 2020, the Board deliberately budgeted for a loss in 2021. The rationale was the expected decline in revenue due to reduced activity resulting from the pandemic. In planning for the 2021 budget, the Board took the prudent decision not to run a conference in September 2020. The Board also budgeted for lower revenue generated by the workshop program with face-to-face events unlikely, particularly during the first six months of the financial year. Finally, the Board felt that, with the uncertainty in the economy, there may be a decline in membership and budgeted for a 10% decrease in membership fees. At the same time, the Board chose to limit spending on special projects to \$20,000 and reduce Board costs by not having face-to-face meetings.

However, we outperformed our budget by \$127,476 (+196%). This is an excellent result and puts the AES in a strong financial position for the coming year. This was due in part to the Board's decision to reduce our revenue expectations, which did not eventuate for workshop or membership revenues. It was also the result of reduced costs for Board activities and receiving government assistance of \$90,912, that is, \$35,812 higher than budget.

The revenue from workshops was close to 53% higher than budget due to increased activity and the gross margin for virtual workshop delivery

was higher than planned. Additionally, the drop in membership did not eventuate, with membership revenue being 30% more than budget.

Interestingly, the virtual workshop program made a profit of \$131,539, which was higher than expected. However, this was not enough to cover the loss of conference surplus. This demonstrates the importance of the government assistance to the AES during this pandemic.

Because of the positive position against the budget, the Board made the decision to allocate an additional \$38,038 to the Cultural Safety Framework project to be completed ahead of schedule.

Overall, our operating income for 2021 was \$566,314 (including government assistance), against a budget of \$395,300. Costs were \$503,738 against a budget of \$460,200. As mentioned, the result was an overall net profit of \$62,576.

The better than forecast surplus is a comfort to members. Equity (members' funds) has increased by 11% (\$62,576) and is currently \$566,313 (June 2021). This compares to \$500,637 at the same time last year. Clearly, AES is in a favourable financial position to be able to operate in a difficult year ahead.

Profit and loss compared to the budget

- Income of \$566,314 is 44% higher than budget.
- Expenditure is 9% lower than budget (-\$43,546), mainly due to lower administration expenses.
- The surplus for the year of \$62,576 exceeds our forecast loss of \$64,900 by \$127,476.

Profit and loss compared to last year

- Operating income of \$566,314 is 37% higher than in June 2020 due to increased membership, workshops and government assistance.
- Membership income (\$209,224) is up 9% on last year.
- Operating expenditure decreased by 2% on last year.

- Net profit increased year on year, \$62,576 (June 2021) against \$51,124 (June 2020), an increase of 18%.

Balance sheet analysis compared to last year

- Cash balance has increased by \$96,175 (19%) compared to last year and was \$594,422 at 30 June 2021.
- We are holding venue (and other) deposits for 2022 (Adelaide) and 2023 (Brisbane) conferences on the balance sheet to a value of \$50,528.
- Total assets have increased by 13% compared to last year (increased cash, venue deposits).
- Total liabilities have decreased by 11% compared to last year (lower unearned income).

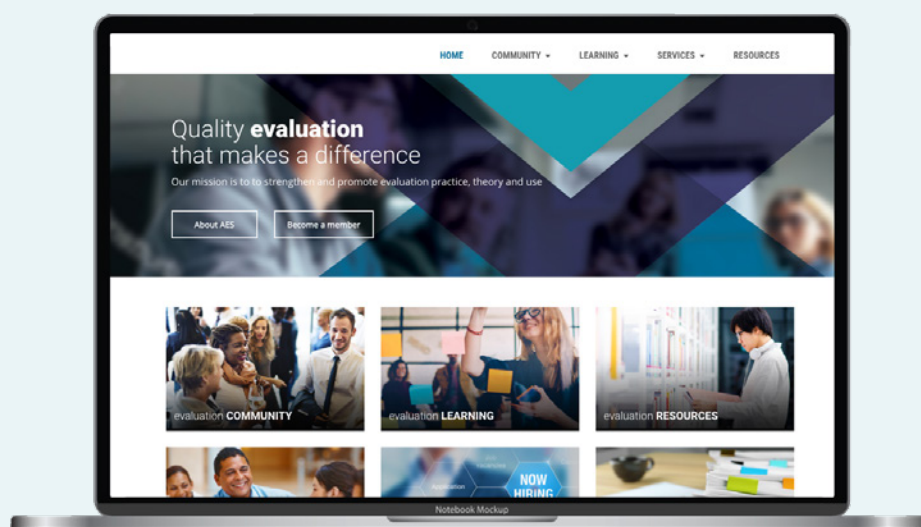
- Total equity (members' funds) has increased by 11% (\$62,576) and is currently \$563,313 (June 2021). This compared to \$500,637 at the same time last year.

Looking forward

Due to the loss of conference income this year and the allocation of \$40,000 to strategic projects as a future investment, we forecast a loss of \$88,400 for the next financial year. We are of the view that this is sustainable given the strong balance sheet. We project that the accounts will be back in surplus in the next financial year.

Carina Calzoni
Treasurer

The launch of a new website for AES



In 2020–2021 we successfully launched our new website during FestEVAL in September.

ABOUT US



Who we are

The Australian Evaluation Society (AES) is a professional organisation for people involved in evaluation, including evaluation practitioners, managers, teachers and students of evaluation, and other interested individuals.

We have over 1,000 members involved in all aspects of evaluation and performance measurement. The AES is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a Chief Executive Officer and staff.

Our members represent diverse professional sectors and areas of evaluation practice and meet regularly through regional networks, Special Interest Groups, discussion groups and an annual conference.

The AES offers professional development through an annual international conference, a peer-reviewed evaluation journal, and regular workshops and seminars.

Objects of the AES

- Establish and promote ethics and standards in evaluation practice
- Encourage advances in the theory and practice of evaluation
- Provide education and training related to evaluation
- Provide forums for networking, professional development and the discussion of ideas
- Increase understanding of evaluation and advocate for quality evaluation
- Be inclusive of Indigenous and all cultural perspectives
- Have governance systems that reflect and incorporate best practice
- Provide a forum that allows the diverse voices of the community to be heard, including those who commission the evaluations, those who carry them out and the evaluands
- Undertake other activities consistent with these aims.

Member benefits



Recognition and support

Belonging to the longest established professional evaluation organisation in the region, with a network of over 1,000 practitioners, commissioners and academics involved in all aspects of evaluative enquiry and performance measurement.



Code of ethics

Members abide by the AES Code of Ethics, and are guided by and support the AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.

Members are encouraged to rely on the Code when faced with situations that require them to balance competing ethical principles.



Professional learning opportunities

Opportunities are available to learn from leading local and international expert evaluators through the annual conference and professional learning activities. Members keep up-to-date through AES publications, workshops, seminars, discussion groups and conferences.



Networking

Members make contacts with colleagues in evaluation by joining in regional group meetings and other activities for training, networking and discussion of current evaluation topics.



Publications

Online, member-only access to the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* (EJA) and six SAGE Publishing titles, and the AES Guidelines for the Ethical Conduct of Evaluations.



Members' centre

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

Members profile their evaluation services and consultancy through the online Consultants' Directory and receive tender information made available to the AES.



Annual international evaluation conference

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



International links

Members are part of an international network of evaluation societies.

Corporate governance

How we are governed

The Australian Evaluation Society is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Since May 2015, the association has been a public company limited by guarantee after it transferred its registration as an association from the Australian Capital Territory. A Board of Directors provides overall governance and strategic direction for the organisation. The Board is legally responsible for governing the organisation. The Chief Executive Officer manages operations and has delegated responsibility for implementing the directions and decisions of the Board.

Accountability of the Board

The Board is accountable to the membership of the AES. All members of the Board must adhere to the requirements of the ACNC and the *Australian Corporations Act 2001*, as well as the provisions set out in the AES Constitution and policies.

Appointment of the Board

Following adoption of the new Constitution at the Special General Meeting in February 2015 and subsequent re-incorporation from the 2015 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 First Nations people and taking into account the overall mix of knowledge, skills and attributes of Board members.

Role of the Board

The Board is subject to the provisions of the *Australian Corporations Act 2001*, its obligations to the ACNC and the AES Constitution. The Board may delegate certain powers to committees of members. All Board positions are unpaid.

Indemnity of the Board

The AES has directors' and officers' insurance and professional indemnity for all Board members.

Board and staff

Board members 2020–2021

President

John Stoney

Vice President

Sue Leahy (to September 2020)

Kiri Parata (from October 2020)

Treasurer

Carina Calzoni

Ordinary Board members

Sharon Clarke

Susan Garner (to September 2020)

Doyen Radcliffe

Anne Stephens (appointed November 2020)

Charlie Tulloch

Meeting attendance

Carina Calzoni	5 of 5
Sharon Clarke	5 of 5
Susan Garner	2 of 2
Sue Leahy	2 of 2
Kiri Parata	3 of 3
Doyen Radcliffe	4 of 5
Anne Stephens	2 of 2
John Stoney	5 of 5
Charlie Tulloch	5 of 5

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Bill Wallace

Membership and Events Officer

Michelle Wightwick

President: John Stoney

John's early career involved a decade in frontline juvenile justice and child protection work, before joining the Australian Public Service. An internal evaluation practitioner within the Australian Government for nearly 15 years he has responsibility for commissioning and project managing evaluations, supporting individual and organisational capability and capacity building, providing technical advice to policy and program managers, and high-level advice on evaluation matters to senior officials.

Undertaking the Master of Evaluation at the University of Melbourne led to being an online lecturer in the Master and Graduate Certificate programs. John is currently a Fellow at both the University of Melbourne and Charles Darwin University, reflecting his interests in evaluation theory and praxis, evaluation capability and capacity building, evaluation use and strategic evaluation.

John's involvement in the AES commenced through regular attendance at conferences, evolved to membership of the AES Canberra Regional Network Committee, AES Board and the aes17 Conference Committee. His primary roles in the AES are President and Chair of the Relationships Committee.

Vice President: Kiri Parata

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

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

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

Kiri's professional roles have included project management, Indigenous health research and evaluation and relationship management. Kiri is currently a PhD candidate with Massey University, New Zealand, investigating ancestral values, relationships with whenua (land) and wellbeing implications.

Since 2017 Kiri has been privileged to serve as an ordinary Board member initially, a member of the AES Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee, and Vice President since 2020. During this time Kiri has supported the Board's strategic commitment to strengthen and build Indigenous capacity in the evaluation sector.

Two significant Board achievements during this period have been the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan and the soon-to-be launched Cultural Safety Framework. Kiri brings a sound and strategic approach to her roles and draws on her community development background and her commitment to social justice in her work.

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

Treasurer: Carina Calzoni

Carina is Managing Director and Principal Consultant at Clear Horizon. She has a Masters of Evaluation as well as qualifications in Public Policy and Applied Science and has 20 years of professional experience working within and consulting to government and not-for-profit organisations. The combination gives her the breadth of skills and knowledge to work adaptively across a range of specialist fields.

As a Principal Consultant she has been involved in many complex evaluations involving qualitative and quantitative methods, and program design and planning. She has an in-depth understanding of public policy and program design and implementation. She is a strong advocate for utilisation-focused approaches that support organisational learning and contribute to positive social and environmental change. She is passionate about helping organisations to see the real value of good measurement and evaluation practice.

Since 1999 Carina has been an active member of the AES. She was WA regional representative for ten years (2008–2018), she has delivered many AES training courses, and in 2016 she convened the AES International Evaluation Conference in Perth.

Since 2019 Carina has enjoyed the privilege of being the Treasurer on the current AES Board. She brings to this role a solid knowledge of the evaluation industry and experience in directorship. To complement her practical skills, Carina 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).

FestEVAL

CELEBRATING EVALUATION
21-25 September 2020

AUSTRALIAN
EVALUATION
SOCIETY

Guest speakers



Nicole Tujague

Sessional Lecturer, Griffith College of
Indigenous Australian Peoples, Southern
Cross University, Lismore, NSW

Nicole is a descendant of the Kabi Kabi
nation from Mt Eskdale, Queensland and
the South Sea. [More](#)



Eleanor Williams

Director, Centre for Evaluation and
Research Evidence, Department of Health
and Human Services, Victoria

Eleanor is a public policy and evaluation
professional with over 15 years working
with the. [More](#)



Michael Quinn-Patton

evaluation author, practitioner and teacher
Michael is an independent evaluation
consultant based in Minneapolis, USA. He
is former President. [More](#)



Simon Kuestenmacher

Director, The Demographics Group
Simon Kuestenmacher is a Co-Founder
and Director of The Demographics Group
which is headed by. [More](#)

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

FestEVAL

CELEBRATING EVALUATION

In March 2020 the Board made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 AES International Conference planned to be held in Brisbane in September in view of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions across Australia. While deciding against moving the conference online, we felt it was important to deliver some form of activity during the month of September – to keep our ‘slot in the calendar’, provide a space for members to come together and to deal with some core AES business.

Thus, FestEVAL was born – a week of free online activities celebrating evaluation during the month of September. Coordinated by a working group of the Vitality Committee, FestEVAL aimed to involve all AES member groups in its activities.

The FestEVAL working group developed the program in a short time frame and with the following goals:

- to make the week as light and fun as possible
- to build on the success and energy of earlier member engagement sessions
- to provide opportunities for AES members to engage with others in the profession
- to support the AES in conducting its core business, including the AES Annual General Meeting.

FestEVAL attracted 780 registrations with 2,000 attendances across 26 sessions and participants from at least 14 countries. The program included opening and closing plenary sessions, Special Interest Group meetings, the AES Annual General Meeting, various thematic presentations and five nightly FestEVAL Club sessions offering informal networking.

The week began with a Virtual Afternoon Tea for young and emerging evaluators. The session opened with four provocations to stimulate thinking about the role of evaluation and ways it may need to evolve to improve evaluator effectiveness. The line-up included leading thinkers Nicole Tujague, Michael Quinn-Patton, Eleanor Williams and Simon Kuestenmacher.



Each day FestEVAL featured a number of sessions focusing on different topics. Celebrations continued into the evening with FestEVAL Club, designed to be ‘a relaxed place to drop in and chat with colleagues about evaluation issues’.

An evaluation of FestEVAL found that ‘in general, participants found positive value in their FestEVAL experiences, and FestEVAL was considered a suitable platform for conducting AES core business’.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved in FestEVAL, particularly the working group members: Frances Byers, Natasha Doherty, Rebecca Duell, Julie Elliott, Susan Garner, Donna Holden, Dorothy Lucks, Jade Maloney, Greg Masters, Marie Nissanka, Carol Quadrelli, Nolan Stephenson, Charlie Tulloch, Bill Wallace and Michelle Wightwick.

Evaluation of 2020 AES FestEVAL

Tara Collins, Master of Evaluation candidate at the University of Melbourne conducted the evaluation of FestEVAL. Our sincere thanks are extended to Tara for her sterling effort in gaining insights into the outcomes of FestEVAL and identifying areas for improvement.

We would also like to acknowledge Dorothy Lucks who assisted in the scoping, design and analysis.

Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)

Throughout 2020–2021 *EJA* continued to be a key resource for members and the broader evaluation sector. Four issues were published that covered a broad range of topics.

The September 2020 issue covered evaluation-based policymaking (an updated version of Professor Garry VanLandingham's 2019 keynote address) and included three practice papers: 'Integrating recovery-oriented and realistic evaluation principles into an evaluation of a Partners in Recovery programme' (Harris, Barry, Sleep, Griffiths & Briggs), 'Evaluating telephone and online psychological support and referral' (Hawkins, Odgers, Reeves & McCoy) and 'Using participatory methods to evaluate the impacts of an early intervention programme on children and young people' (Evans-Locke & Hsu).

December 2020 opened with the highly topical 'Analysing the impact of the Australian health sector emergency response plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): a proposed approach' (Buck), and also included the practice paper 'Evaluating our evaluability: lessons from Ngala, Western Australia' (Adusei-Assante, Bennett, Simpson, Hindmarsh, Harvey & McMeekin), and an academic paper examining 'Evaluation in the Australian Public Service: formerly practised – not yet embedded' (Graves).

March 2021 presented three very unique articles offering different ways of thinking in the evaluation field. In the articles 'Generalising from qualitative evaluation' (Guenther & Falk), 'Practical application of cost utility analysis in summative evaluation' (Trompf & Kotvojs) and 'Baselines and monitoring: more than a means to measure the end' (Kelly & Reid) the authors seek to strengthen and inform evaluation theory and practice by extending evaluative thinking through tools and knowledge sharing.

June 2021 brought a strong advocacy feel from the social justice and capacity-building perspectives via 'Valuing beneficiary Voice: Involving children living in out-of-home care in programme evaluation' (Knight & Kingston), 'We

are women! We are ready! Amplifying women's voices through feminist participatory action research' (McDiarmid, Pineda & Scothern) and 'Performance measurement evaluation and accountability in public philanthropic foundations' (Williamson & Kingston).

Throughout all four issues there were book reviews ranging from the *Little Quick Fix* series (SAGE): *Little Quick Fix: Write a questionnaire* and *Little Quick Fix: Do your interviews through Practical mapping for applied research and program evaluation* to *Changing bureaucracies: adapting to uncertainty, and how evaluation can help*. There were also several evaluator profiles.

Behind the scenes, 2020–2021 was also a year of transition. *EJA* welcomed two new Assistant Editors in Jeffery Adams and PhD candidate Kylie Kingston. It progressively said goodbye across the year to its three longstanding editors: Liz Gould, Carol Quadrelli and Bronwyn Rossingh. All three made a strong and extensive commitment to *EJA*, doing much to encourage emerging authors as well as embedding *EJA* into SAGE. On their watch there was an increase in readership which saw *EJA* becoming ranked in two SCImago categories: 'Development' and 'Sociology and Political Science'. Their contribution to the AES at a challenging time for members and to *EJA* at a critical stage of its evolution is gratefully acknowledged.

A review of *EJA* was also undertaken in 2020–2021, which identified that the resourcing and governance structures underpinning *EJA* needed to be strengthened to ensure its long-term quality and sustainability. A project implementation team was convened to support these improvements, which are anticipated to be completed in 2021–2022.

Acting Editors

Jeff Adams
Kylie Kingston

Editorial Assistant
Michelle Wightwick

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The AES strategic priorities 2019–2022 include four strategic domains: cultural capacity, pathways, vitality and relationships. To support the strategy the AES has four strategic advisory committees: Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee, Pathways Committee, Vitality Committee and Relationships Committee.

CULTURAL CAPACITY

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

PATHWAYS

Clear professional and career pathways

VITALITY

An organisation meeting diverse member needs today and tomorrow

RELATIONSHIPS

Collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the field of evaluation



Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee

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

During 2020–2021 the Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee continued to work collectively across the four domains of the AES strategic priorities and in line with the vision, mission, values and aims of the AES.

With the COVID-19 pandemic ever present, and with repeated lockdowns in many states and territories, we continued to meet online.

The main task of the Indigenous Culture and Diversity Committee was the development of the Cultural Safety Framework which will be launched during FestEVAL 2021 in September. The committee worked alongside beyond... (Kathleen Stacey & Associates) Pty Ltd and it was a very fulfilling experience for all parties. The framework will be a tremendous evaluation tool providing value not only to AES members but will also have a flow-on effect to evaluation societies around the globe.

In December 2020 committee members had a very informative meeting with Christine Dernee from Reconciliation Australia to advance the next stage of our Reconciliation Action Plan. We soon realised that having two big strategic projects 'on the burner' at the same time was not going to work due to work priorities and time constraints. It was therefore decided to postpone work on the Reconciliation Action Plan until the completion of the Cultural Safety Framework.

Doyen Radcliffe, Kiri Parata and Sharon Clarke continued to meet on the Friday prior to Board meetings to discuss agenda items and any other conversations or tasks raised. This ensured we had a collective voice around the table.

Due to the postponement of the annual conference, Indigenous Conference Support Grants were not awarded during the reporting period.

We would like to thank the AES and its members for continuing to support us on our journey of:

- increasing the participation of Indigenous peoples in evaluation
- leading and guiding the organisation in how to work alongside and with Indigenous peoples in evaluation.

Collectively, we all have many more kilometres to travel – let's make it a joyous one.

Lastly, a thank you to our Indigenous family for coming along to our meetings over the last twelve months in order to improve outcomes for our community. Without you all we could not have achieved what we have.

Committee members

Sharon Clarke
Kevin Dolman
Tony Kiessler
Doreen Mandari
Noel Niddrie
Kiri Parata
Doyen Radcliffe
Marica Tabualevu
Nicole Tajague
Min Vette
Mark Watego
Nan Wehipeihana

Pathways Committee

Clear professional and career pathways

During 2020–2021 the Pathways Committee reached significant milestones for activities set out in the AES strategic priorities.

Key projects included:

- the completion of the Group Mentoring Pilot
- the revision and testing of the Evaluators Professional Learning Competency Framework and the development of a reporting template.

Furthermore, the Pathways Committee developed a list of training themes in preparation for a call for expressions of interest from facilitators to deliver new online workshops. This demonstrates members' willingness to support and drive professional development and career pathways for AES members.

The committee worked as a strong and galvanised team, meeting on a monthly basis. Committee members volunteered significant time and energy to these key projects. The Committee Chair changed in the first quarter of the year with a smooth transition.

The Pathways Committee aims to complete the current key projects during the next twelve months:

- the implementation of the Group Mentoring Pilot as a permanent member service – pending formal evaluation recommendations and acceptance by the AES Board

- the development of a number of resources for the Group Mentoring Pilot and the Evaluators Professional Learning Competency Framework. We plan to publish these in a variety of formats, such as blog posts, contributions to EJA and videos.

Committee members

George Argyrous
Fran Demetriou
Julie Elliott
Amy Gullickson
Sue Leahy
Del Lloyd
David Roberts
Taimur Siddiqi
Anne Stephens (Chair)
Jill Thomas
David Turner
Bill Wallace
Michelle Wightwick

Vitality Committee

An organisation meeting diverse member needs today and tomorrow

Over the past twelve months, the Vitality Committee reached significant milestones for activities set out in the AES strategic priorities.

Key outcomes included:

- to gain a better understanding of members' needs and the issues they and the communities they work with face
- to speed up digital transformation of the organisation with the aim of enhancing member services and improving the reach across our geographically diverse membership.

During the year the AES implemented a range of measures to maintain member services, despite the COVID-19-related suspension of face-to-face activities and the postponement of the 2020 annual conference.

The Vitality Committee commissioned AES member Duncan Rintoul to survey AES members and others from the evaluation sector. The objectives of the Engagement Survey 2020 were:

- to identify activities the AES could undertake in the immediate term to enhance member services and facilitate their access
- to seek member input on how to deliver these services in the longer term and post COVID-19 restrictions.

The survey attracted a very high response rate. A key finding was that almost everyone felt that the AES had responded 'fairly well' or 'very well' to the circumstances of the pandemic in its provision of activities.

The same feedback was given to the question of whether there was improved access to services for the geographically dispersed membership. However, in this particular area survey participants indicated that there was scope for further improvement.

The swift move to offering our members a range of online activities helped the AES sustain membership numbers during the year. We will ensure that we build on our online offerings, including FestEVAL, while recognising that members still wish to meet face-to-face. Another successful innovation was the development and delivery of cross-jurisdictional seminars.

A characteristic of a vital organisation is fostering a sense of belonging. During 2021–2020 the Vitality Committee will develop a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, which will also assist in attracting and retaining members.

Committee members

Carina Calzoni (Board/Chair)
Susan Garner (Chair)
Florent Gomez
Robert Grimshaw
Lisette Kaleveld
Greg Masters
Lee-Anne Molony
Marie Nissanka
John Pilla
Tanja Porter
Sunita Singh
Cat Street
Eleanor Williams

Relationships Committee

Collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the field of evaluation

2020–2021 was a year of collaboration for the Relationships Committee, leading to the formulation of an important strategic project: the State of Evaluation study.

Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee met regularly online, sharing observations on the changing nature and use of evaluation across Australia. These observations were augmented by the activities of other AES committees, including the Vitality Committee's Engagement Survey 2020 that helped to determine the impact of COVID-19 on the work of evaluators.

In September, as part of FestEVAL we facilitated a one-hour session with AES members where we explored how the Relationships Committee and the AES could best seek to promote evaluation practice and use. Findings fed strongly into the committee's mid-term review of the AES strategic priorities undertaken in February.

From these activities the committee identified the need to better understand trends and patterns in the use and influence of evaluation across Australia. The AES Board approved the Relationships Committee leading a State of Evaluation study, with the following objectives:

- to generate an evidence-based report into the use of evaluation and evidence-related activities across Australia

- to better understand the practice, benefits and perception of evaluation among those who commission or utilise evaluation
- to use the outputs to assist in starting a conversation about the role and value of evaluation, and how this can be further developed on behalf of AES members.

Looking ahead, the major goal of the Relationships Committee is to complete the State of Evaluation Strategic Project in 2021–2022. The committee will advocate for evaluation through relevant government reviews when and if opportunities arise. We will also seek to strengthen our partnerships with related evaluation associations and organisations.

Committee members

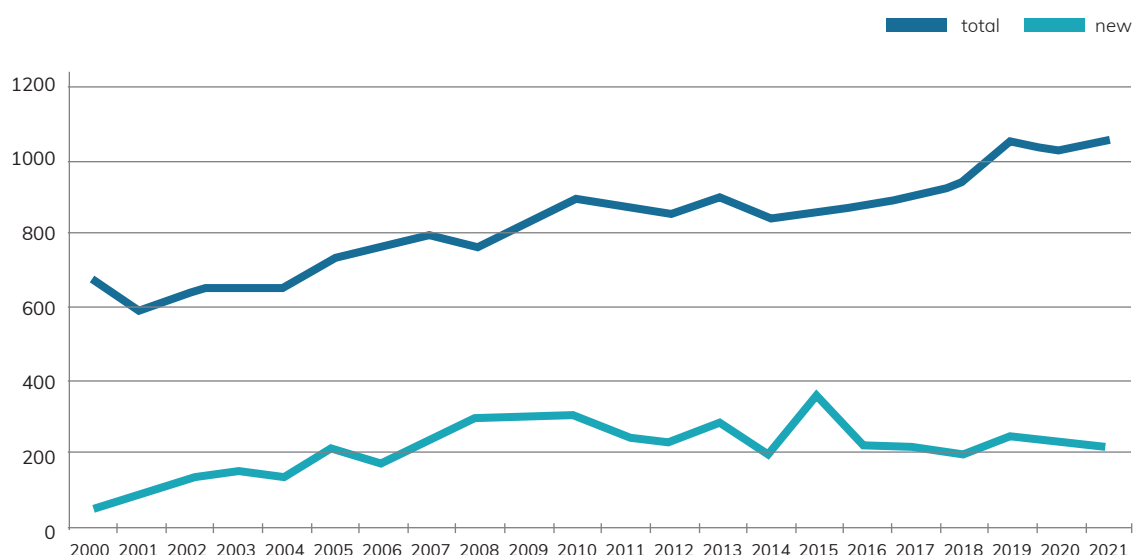
Rachel Aston (to January 2021)
Helen Bartley
Luke Condon
Jade Maloney
Tadgh McMahon
Lee-anne Molony
Kara Scally-Irvine
John Stoney
Elliott Tester
Charlie Tulloch

MEMBER NETWORKS

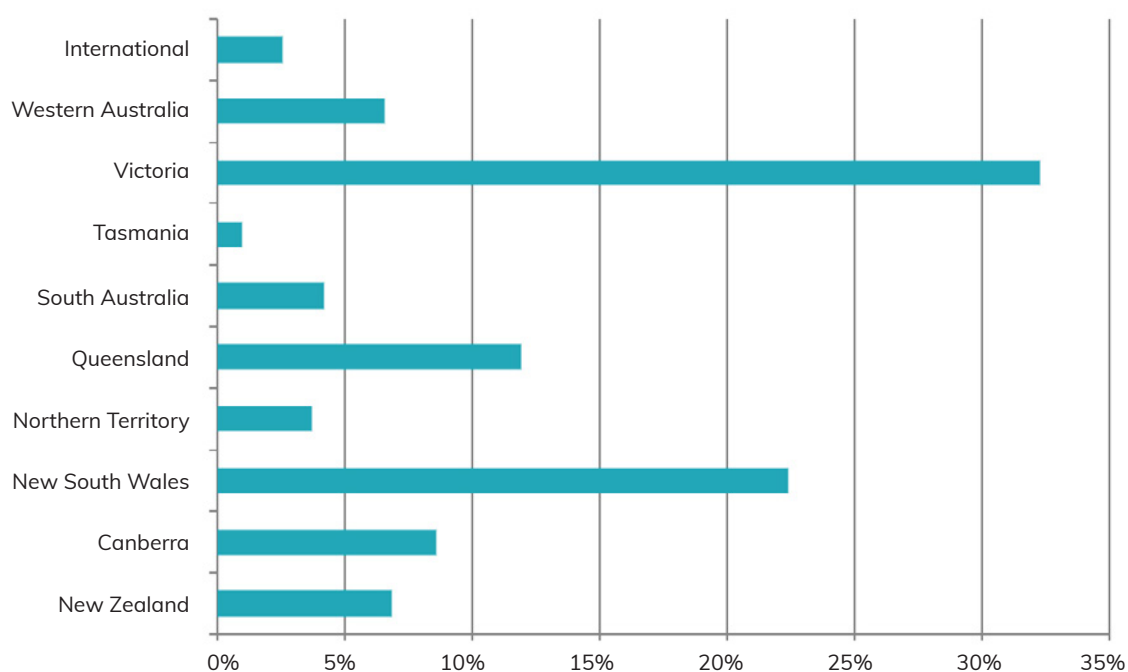


Membership trends

AES MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2000–2021



MEMBERSHIP BY REGION 30 JUNE 2021



Regional networks

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Aotearoa New Zealand Regional Network Committee was very active in the wider AES community with committee members involved in the Relationships Committee and the Vitality Committee. Regional committee members also participated in FestEval and in the consultation process for the development of the Cultural Safety Framework.

During 2020–2021 we organised several activities. In July we co-hosted a session on the implications of conducting remote evaluations. Facilitated by Kara Scally Irvine, the panel of speakers presented an informative session on the various challenges, innovative methods and implications of working during and after the pandemic.

The session provided insights into:

- working with Indigenous communities in Australia – presented by Doyen Radcliffe
- the complexities of engaging multiple stakeholders in a large multi-partner global human rights initiative – presented by Donna Leigh Holden
- methods used for remote evaluation and engagement of partners (in 14 locations) to evaluate an Indonesian agribusiness program – presented by John Fargher.

We bid the year farewell by co-hosting a very successful interactive end-of-year Zoom Christmas party alongside the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA).

During the year Liz Smith and David Turner resigned from the committee. We thank them for their long-standing commitment and support.

On 2 February we conducted a nation-wide planning session to gauge the needs of our members. While the turnout was low, three new potential members expressed interest in joining the committee for the new financial year. We are currently organising a planning day, including an intervention logic mapping session to articulate the committee's vision, goals and activities.

A significant highlight was a multimedia presentation by Professor Saville Kushner, presented virtually from Liverpool on 24 March. The presentation was titled 'True grit: impartiality, disinterest and the avoidance of truth in evaluation'. There was great praise for this presentation, which used art and movie clips to illustrate evaluative lessons that touched on concepts such as privilege and value pluralism. On 6 May Jane Rovins facilitated an open-ended dialogue on several field-based challenges that involved navigating issues surrounding gender mainstreaming in diverse contexts and evaluator burnout. On 15 June Lorrae Ward hosted an open discussion about the tensions between policy and evaluation in the public sector. We look forward to continuing with our monthly seminars to add value to the wider AES community.

In 2021–2022 we will actively engage in seminars and workshops hosted by evaluation groups based in New Zealand and overseas to share knowledge and build relationships across the wider research and evaluation sector. To complement these Zoom seminars we will facilitate a combination of virtual and face-to-face networking sessions. We will also look into opportunities to collaborate with ANZEA on some of our activities.

Committee members

Marie Nissanka (Co-convenor)
Elisabeth Poppelwell
Kara Scally-Irvine
Sunita Singh (Co-convenor)
Liz Smith (resigned in late 2020)
David Turner (resigned in early 2021)

CANBERRA

During 2020–2021 the Canberra Regional Network Committee provided a mix of online and face-to-face activities for members, as well as a relaxed forum allowing members to socialise.

The need to provide activities online encouraged us to think differently about the insights we have (or have access to) that may be of interest to the broader membership, and to experiment with hybrid delivery models rather than solely rely on face-to-face opportunities (which has historically been the preference).

Our program of activities included:

- lawn croquet and drinks for Christmas
- three reading group meetings under the banner 'Wise women of evaluation', exploring the writings of E Jane Davidson, Zenda Ofir, Nan Wehipeihana and Kate McKegg (upcoming)
- two lunchtime (hybrid delivery) seminars on the topics of embedding evaluation in the APS, complexity and evaluation, and realist evaluation (upcoming).

We continue to play an active role in wider AES activities, including through the Vitality Committee's national survey project, the Group Mentoring Pilot and other initiatives.

Over the coming six months we will focus on successfully delivering the remaining activities in our calendar. These include a networking event during FestEVAL and a Christmas function.

In early 2022 the Committee will develop a new calendar of events – the focus/theme is yet to be discussed but will likely reflect our desire to find new ways to connect with our local members.

Committee members

Gina Depretto
Julie Elliott
Susan Garner
Kim Grey
Lorraine Heywood
Samantha Myers
Ruth Nicholls
Tanja Porter
James Wunch

NEW SOUTH WALES (NSW)

Despite the continued challenges during 2020–2021, the NSW Regional Network Committee maintained its objective of offering monthly free events to its members on the last Thursday of each month. The events covered a wide range of topics, allowing members to:

- expand on their technical knowledge – economic evaluation (November), systems evaluation (June)
- network with their peers through interactive sessions
- explore new frontiers – connecting evaluation and Indigenous knowledges (May).

The committee also delivered on its ambition to connect with our members by:

- distributing an engaging newsletter (two editions in 2021) with information on events and showcasing selected EJA articles
- continuing our innovation push with a buddy program that is currently under development and is based on co-design sessions with a number of interested members.

Our ambition for 2021–2022 is to continue offering relevant evaluation content and avenues for connection between evaluators regardless of the stage of their evaluation journey. Topics are already identified for future monthly events and include Deliverology, the new NSW Government evaluation guidelines, and a panel discussion with commissioners/funders targeting NGO members.

We will continue to strengthen our local member base with initiatives such as the buddy program or organising ongoing check-in with members.

The committee relies on a strong group of 13 members across government, consultancies and universities, each volunteering their time to support the various network activities. We welcomed Laura Baker and Melissa Kaltner as new committee members in 2020–2021.

Committee members

George Argyrous
Laura Baker
Ben Barnes
Gavin Faunce
Florent Gomez (Convenor)
Melissa Kaltner
Brian Keogh
Linda Klein
Jade Maloney
Greg Masters
Ruth McCausland
Kath Vaughan-Davies
Keren Winterford

NORTHERN TERRITORY (NT)

During 2020–2021 the NT Regional Network benefited from the wide range of online events offered by other regional networks.

The committee delivered three online seminars in support of the pathways domain of the AES strategic priorities. The seminars were well subscribed with 120 participants and provided evaluators with opportunities to learn about evaluation theory, approaches and frameworks.

- In June 2020 Mark Galvin and Melissa Kaltner from EY presented 'Driving sustained change in child protection through action learning: a case study of open adoption from care'.
- In November 2020 Sam Abatto from Digital Insights and Margie MacGregor from CatholicCare NT and Chamber of Commerce NT (CCNT) presented 'Digital evaluation story'. The session saw strong engagement and participants asked many questions in relation to the systematic approach taken by CCNT to increase the use of engaging evaluation methods within the organisation, such as digital evaluation stories.
- In March 2021 Cat Street and Kim Robertson from Charles Darwin University presented 'Exploring the meaning of "success" in policy: lessons from historical Indigenous higher education in the Northern Territory'.

Quarterly network catch-ups commenced in alignment with the relationships domain of the AES strategic priorities: nine participants attended the first session on 30 March.

An informal setting was chosen to promote the development of relationships among AES network members and other evaluators. Our first topic was the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Evaluation Strategy. A rich discussion was held on the strengths and opportunities for implementation of this strategy in the NT context. Participants shared a number of related resources following on from the session.

The network has also been heavily involved in the planning of a cross-jurisdictional seminar that will share learnings of whole-of-government approaches to evaluation being implemented across Australia. This seminar is scheduled for 22 July 2021.

Over the next twelve months the NT Regional Network's aim is to continue harnessing available technology (Zoom) to increase access to our professional development events until face-to-face events can resume. Events planned for the next financial year include the promotion of important evaluation work occurring in the NT over the coming months, such as the recent release of the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy (RECS) and the evaluation of the Chronic Conditions Prevention and Management Strategy. We also aim to hold training events to upskill members and others in relation to basic evaluation skills, specifically developing theory of change and program logic.

Committee members

Christabelle Darcy (Co-convenor)
Catherine Street (Co-convenor)

QUEENSLAND

It is difficult to reflect on the year 2020–2021 without first noting the disappointment the Queensland Regional Network Committee faced when the tough but understandable decision was made not to proceed with aes21, the annual conference in Brisbane. We look forward to coming together in Adelaide in 2022 and then in Brisbane in 2023 – it will certainly be worth the wait!

The key highlight of the past year was the continued success of the rapid shift to digital delivery modes for all AES events. Members of the network committee assisted with the delivery of the virtual sessions for FestEval during September. Many members from across Queensland enjoyed participating in the virtual program.

The network committee held several virtual seminars throughout the year with a diverse range of presenters: Georgina Roberts and Evie Cuthbertson from Grosvenor Public Sector Advisory; Mark Robinson from the Institute for Social Science Research, University of Queensland; and Karlyn Pritchard and Todd Sansness from the Queensland Government Statisticians Office.

Digital delivery also enabled greater collaboration and engagement across the various AES regional networks. We supported the hosting of a wider

range of AES professional learning events and assisted in planning the delivery of a number of cross-jurisdictional virtual events.

Looking ahead to 2021–2022, it is these positive attributes of the past year – greater innovation and collaboration in delivering our activities and events – that we will seek to build on to better meet the needs of our members.

Committee members

Samantha Abbato
Buthaina Al Kindi
Natalie Arthur
Lewe Atkinson
Kylie Brosnan
Nicole Cherry
Hannah Cotching
Kiri Dicker
Natasha Doherty
Rebecca Duell
Jo Durham
Robert Grimshaw (Convenor)
Kerryn Hassall
Cherie Lamb
Mark Power
Carol Quadrelli
Sarah Renals
Rebecca Roebuck
Rhianon Vichta
Peter Weston
Jackson White

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (SA)

The SA Regional Network Committee achieved the following outcomes in relation to the AES strategic priorities.

Cultural capacity

Assisted by a Regional Network Committee member who works with the local Indigenous Health Council, the network aimed to ensure local events were culturally safe and wherever possible had an Indigenous 'lens'. While no specific events focusing on Indigenous evaluation were held during the year, all other events met cultural safety requirements.

Pathways

The network seminar program, complemented by workshops, was pivotal in assisting the professional development of our members and in promoting evaluation in the broader community.

Four local events were held; on three occasions we attempted to restart face-to-face seminars but had to cancel two of them due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Highlights of the year included:

- continued usage of the digital platform to introduce interstate speakers to the local environment

- a successful and well-attended local networking event that generated ideas for our future seminar program.

Vitality

We continued to focus on the priorities and feedback received from our 2019 member survey, which we were able to build on with ideas generated from our local networking event.

We diversified our delivery formats to ensure greater member engagement through local networking events. However, members continued to show a preference for virtual events given COVID-19.

Relationships

Additional to our seminar program, we continued to work with the SA Government evaluation group to ensure that we have complementary programs.

In 2021–2022, the SA Regional Network Committee will focus on two priority areas:

- *Working in a COVID-19 environment*
We will continue to diversify the delivery

formats used to provide members with networking opportunities and promote innovative ways evaluators could use to work differently in the current environment.

→ Cultural capacity

In the past the network committee was more opportunistic and less strategic. We aim to be more proactive in assisting local cultural capacity building. This will be facilitated with the help of a committee member who has strong links with Indigenous organisations, and through liaison with an Indigenous representative of the AES Board.

Committee members

Jane Austin
John Fargher (until November 2020)
Donna Holden
John Pilla
Emily Saurman
Jessica Stevens
Patricia von Baumgarten

VICTORIA

The Victorian Regional Network Committee went from strength to strength in 2020–2021. Highlights included the highly subscribed monthly program of seminars covering contemporary and innovative topics, renewal and diversification of committee membership, and sustained local network membership growth.

Vitality and pathways

The network's monthly seminar program enjoyed continued high attendance numbers. Several online seminars focused on responses to and opportunities realised as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 'Evaluation tech tools', presented by Dave Taylor from the Centre for Evidence and Implementation on the topic of online evaluation delivery
- 'Using data to drive evidence-informed responses', presented by Bev Phillips from the Crime Statistics Agency, building on momentum for data-driven decision-making during COVID-19

- 'Rapid evaluations during COVID-19', presented by Eleanor Williams.

A participant of Dave Taylor's session reflected: *'A great and informative session. Thanks to presenters and VIC AES – as always much appreciated. Thanks for the session – lots to take away and ponder over.'*

At the beginning of 2021, a shift in anticipation of what was on the horizon could be felt. The first seminar of the year captured this feeling with a thought-provoking session by Patricia Rogers on 'Footprint evaluation'. Patricia challenged participants to reflect on how evaluators could embed the consideration of environmental sustainability into their evaluations.

A participant reflecting the optimism many felt: *'More of these talks can affect our evaluation culture, this will then be taken up by those with whom we work, and then policies can be affected...and eventually evolve into mandatory requirements.'*

The final seminar of 2020 was a panel discussion on evaluator career pathways. Panel members were from across government, consultancy, academia and not-for-profit sectors reflecting the diversity of possible journeys.

Relationships and cultural capacity

During 2020 the Victorian Regional Network Committee bid farewell to three committee members: Kathryn Robb, Hayden Collins and long-time member and highly valued leader Lee-Anne Moloney. This led to the committee reviewing the diversity of groups and organisations represented. We welcomed four new members, and Eleanor Williams and Caroline Henwood took over as committee Convenors from the start of 2021.

The opportunity to renew the network committee membership provided an opportunity to include representatives from an Indigenous organisation, academia and the international development sector. New members include Kerry Brogan and Gabrielle Johnson from the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Ruth Aston from the University of Melbourne and Alice Muller from World Vision.

Looking to the future

In 2021–2022 the Victorian Regional Network Committee looks forward to capitalising on its renewed diversity. We aim to drive further membership growth and continue our program of seminars and information sharing to support evaluation excellence in the Victorian network and beyond.

Committee members

Ruth Aston
Kerry Brogan
Mandy Charman
Jess Hateley-Brown
Caroline Henwood (Co-convenor)
Kon Jew-Chung
Gabrielle Johnson
Alice Muller
Ian Patrick
Stuart Raetz
Charlie Tulloch
Eleanor Williams (Co-convenor)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (WA)

During 2020–2021 the WA Regional Network Committee progressed the use and benefits of an online space for our network members. Therefore, they were able to enjoy more training opportunities than were usually available to them. The network managed to run two face-to-face sessions – considerably less than pre-COVID-19.

The idea for an inaugural cross-jurisdictional seminar was initiated, with the topic 'Ethics in evaluation'. A team of evaluators from across four different states and territories is currently working on the delivery of this seminar.

Looking ahead to 2021–2022

Smaller groups with more focused interests are emerging, such as a discussion and reading group running for the next few months. This aligns with the objective of meeting diverse member needs as set out in the AES strategic priorities.

With online tools allowing greater flexibility in terms of scoping of events – and even in defining what constitutes an event – the network committee aims to facilitate a diversity of opportunities. Rather than always being responsible for hosting an event, we plan to provide a forum that allows members with similar interests to meet as well as create their own events.

Committee members

Penny Cooke
Rick Cummings
Kevin Dolman
Christina Kadmos
Lisette Kaleveld
Dorothy Lucks
Theo Nabben
Nolan Stephenson

Operational Working Groups

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION WORKING GROUP

The Awards and Recognition Working Group supports the strategic priority of developing clear professional and career pathways. The suite of awards helps the recognition of evaluation as a desirable and rewarding career choice and identifies examples of excellence in professional practice.

The Awards and Recognition Working Group took the opportunity in 2020 to review the existing AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation. The need to review the awards was identified internally within the working group and through examination of awards of other international evaluation societies. Three working group members undertook the review, which involved interviews with key stakeholders and a review of documented practice of other international evaluation societies. The Awards and Recognition Working Group recommended a series of changes to the awards aimed at increasing their strategic focus. The review recommendations were accepted by the AES Board.

The review also recommended an increased focus on learning from awardees. The Awards and Recognition Working Group noted that a learning subcommittee would be formed in 2021 and would be responsible for working with awardees.

The Awards and Recognition Working Group also documented its systems and procedures in 2020 through the development of a policies and procedures manual.

The Awards and Recognition Working Group focused on implementing the revised award categories in 2021. This involved a significant amount of administration, including the revision

of the *Information on nominations* guide and the 'Frequently asked questions' section of the awards page of the AES website, as well as the conversion to an online submission format.

The working group promoted the revised award categories through its 2021 communications campaign, including the development of a motion graphic. We received a significant number of nominations (16) in 2021, including six nominations for the new Award for Enhancing the Social Good. The Awards and Recognition Working Group is in the process of finalising its recommendations, which include numerous examples of excellent practice. These will provide significant learning opportunities for members.

In 2021–2022 the Awards and Recognition Working Group will focus on ongoing minor refinements to the assessment process of the awards and recruit new members given the resignation of two working group members, including the former Co-chair Wei Leng Kwok.

Group members

Dana Cross
Rick Cummings
Kevin Dolman
Farida Fleming
Wei Leng Kwok
David McDonald
Ian Patrick
Gill Potaka-Osborne

Special Interest Groups

DESIGN AND EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

During 2020–2021 the Design and Evaluation Special Interest Group (SIG) responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in support of the broader efforts of the AES.

A highlight of the year, and mirroring the success of FestEVAL, the Design and Evaluation SIG ran a Learning Sprint with four sessions over four days in November 2020. Nearly 300 participants registered for at least one session. Session themes reflected the intent of the SIG. The program included an initial panel session on the Sprint theme 'Power, systems, scaling' with experts commenting on the trends in the fields of design and evaluation. Session two focused on how some of the tools of co-design assist in the redistribution of power. In session three participants investigated how designers and evaluators work together to scale innovations. Session four explored different systems practices that inform how interventions are designed and evaluated.

Post Sprint feedback was positive and attendees reinforced the benefit of a mix of approaches and content spanning from the thought-provoking to the practical:

'Overall, a great event, very useful to go over things again and get a bit of an update on some emerging issues and approaches. I enjoyed the sessions. Thank you!'

'Fantastic session, really enjoyed the interactive nature and the fact the presenter collected data from us ahead of time to demonstrate a common systems method, which they then shared with us and allowed us to play around with.'

Through this engagement, the Design and Evaluation SIG continued to grow with nearly 250 members signed up to the mailing list or being part of the LinkedIn group. We also made further inroads in other priority areas and forged connections with designers as demonstrated through the Learning Sprint.

Our continued efforts in recognising the overlap with designers and the benefits of collaboration align with the relationships domain of the AES strategic priorities. Our emphasis on incorporating diversity of content is valuable and beneficial to AES members in alignment with the vitality domain of the AES strategic priorities.

In 2021–2022 we will seek expressions of interest to join the organising committee for the next twelve months. The committee will take some of the lessons of the 2020 Learning Sprint and seek to develop and deliver further multi-practice opportunities for the benefit of AES members and collaborators more broadly.

Group members

Jess Dart
Matt Healey
Christina Kadmos
Shani Rajendra
Mardi Trompf
Emily Verstege

SYSTEMS EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Systems Evaluation Special Interest Group (SIG) was approved by the AES Board on 26 November 2020. Over the following months, the Co-chairs developed a vision, mission, set of values and draft work plan for the year.

The vision of the Systems Evaluation SIG is for evaluators to be able to pivot between prevailing evaluation practices and those informed by the language, concepts and theories of systems thinking. Our mission is to facilitate a respectful discourse that provides space to discuss different conceptions of systems with a mindset of a 'mutually disputatious community of respectful truth seekers' committed to finding common ground and exploring differences. We have chosen the way of 'absolute candour' while maintaining humility. Given the diverse range of settings and the way systems and complexity thinkers work, a key driver of the SIG will be building on the strengths and overcoming the weaknesses of the various systems and complexity knowledge bases across the field of evaluation.

The SIG met formally for the first time in January. A registration survey was developed and distributed by the AES on 26 March. There are currently 145 registered members.

The first SIG event was held on 1 May. The focus was an introduction to systems evaluation, a brief history and 'map' of the vast world of systems thinkers to recognise the different intellectual lineages and that this field is not univocal. We also included a practical example of systems thinking in practice for hotel quarantine in Victoria. The session was attended by around 40 participants.

In 2021–2022 we aim to continue to provide online events for SIG members to learn, discuss and develop relationships among diverse people – a true systems approach.

The second event is planned to be held on 2 July 2021. It will focus on systems thinking in evaluation practice. To help us explore whether we need to rethink this component of evaluation theory, we have invited Professor Ray Ison to present. Ray is an Australian–British cybernetician and systems scholar/scientist, Professor of Systems at the Open University in the UK, and currently President of the International Federation for Systems Research (IFSR). We have a third event planned on 27 August. Future events are to be held every month or every second month.

Feedback indicated participants found the sessions fascinating but we may have tried to cover too much in the 90-minute sessions. There are many interpretations and applications of systems thinking and complexity thinking, as well as different levels of experience and expertise. One of the challenges of this type of community of practice is hitting the right balance between not overwhelming emerging systems thinkers and inspiring the ongoing curiosity of those with deep levels of expertise.

We will also explore other means of providing value to members with more opportunities for peer-to-peer learning (such as a virtual book club) and with an online presence. For more information about our planned activities and to provide input or obtain the registration survey please email: systems.sig@aes.asn.au

Group members and Co-chairs

Lewe Atkinson
Julie Elliott
Andrew Hawkins
Brian Keogh

AES Life Members and Fellows

In line with the AES pathways domain of the strategic priorities, AES Fellows Alan Woodward, Penny Hawkins, Scott Bayley and Rick Cummings participated as mentors in the AES Group Mentoring Pilot that ran from February to July. Twenty-two AES members participated as mentees. The pilot is being evaluated by a group of graduate students at the Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne as part of their capstone unit. The final evaluation report is not yet finished but the interim findings suggest the project has been highly successful. Plans are underway for a session about the mentoring project at FestEVAL 2021.

Following on from work done in 2019–2020, Anthea Rutter added four more interviews with Fellows, bringing the total to fourteen interviews. These are available on the AES Blog.

Given there was no call for members to nominate Fellows in 2019–2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunity to nominate was strongly promoted this year. It appears this has worked with five nominations received by mid-July.

Fellows Coordinating Committee

Anona Armstrong
Rick Cummings (Coordinator)
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, Emeritus
Zita Unger	Victoria, 2013
Yoland Wadsworth	Victoria, 2007
Gill Westthorp	Tasmania, 2018
Jerome Winston	Victoria, 2004
Alan Woodward	New South Wales, 2019

The background of the slide is composed of two solid colors: a teal color in the upper right and a dark blue color in the lower left. A diagonal line separates the two colors, running from the bottom left towards the top right.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance summary

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Budget
INCOME							
Prof development	176,447	147,498	172,780	324,542	158,392	244,257	240,000
Conference income	521,623	361,286	593,572	488,755	717,016	–	–
Memberships	143,385	156,997	167,487	186,475	191,531	209,224	205,000
Publications	16,622	17,913	14,463	20,814	23,043	22,014	22,500
COVID-19 subsidies					43,116	90,812	–
Other Income	416	267	197	197	119	7	5
Total Income	858,493	683,961	948,499	1,020,783	1,133,217	566,314	467,505
EXPENDITURE							
Prof development	101,665	88,076	111,626	186,757	111,229	112,718	115,000
Conference/projects	413,914	309,797	426,880	388,087	572,167	–	–
Strategic projects		20,000	1,326	28,516	29,090	21,582	41,500
Memberships	2,338	1,520	2,084	3,169	3,457	3,060	5,000
Publications, inc EJA	21,320	24,040	33,120	30,734	53,173	54,425	61,000
Other expenses	1,875	924	–			7,576	8,000
SUB-TOTAL	541,113	444,357	576,036	637,263	769,116	199,361	230,500
Admin/Governance	244,018	231,840	295,050	308,037	312,977	304,377	325,500
Total Expenditure	785,130	676,197	870,086	945,300	1,082,093	503,738	556,000
SURPLUS / (LOSS)	73,363	7,764	78,413	75,483	51,124	62,576	(88,485)

Income, expenses and surplus 2014–2021



Financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Revenue		566,314	1,133,217
Depreciation and Amortisation		7,576	5,800
Other Expenses		496,162	1,076,293
Profit before Income Tax	3	62,576	51,124
Total Comprehensive Income		62,576	51,124

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Publications Sales	22,014	23,043
Professional Fees		
Workshops Income	244,257	158,392
Conferences Income		717,016
Membership Fees	209,224	191,531
Interest Received		
– Interest Received – Bank account	7	119
Government Subsidies		
– Government Subsidies (COVID-19)	90,812	43,116
	566,314	1,133,217
Expenditure		
Administration & Governance	304,377	307,177
Cost of Publications	54,425	53,173
Depreciation	7,576	5,800
Membership Services	3,060	3,457
Special Projects (incl Conferences and Support Grants)	21,582	601,257
Workshops	112,718	111,229
	503,738	1,082,093
Profit before Income Tax	62,576	51,124

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 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		594,342	498,163
Trade and Other Receivables		9,327	24,541
Other Current Assets		113,892	111,631
Total Current Assets		717,561	634,335
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	7,705	11,371
Intangible Assets	8	16,298	11,560
Total Non-Current Assets		24,003	22,931
TOTAL ASSETS		741,564	657,266
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	9	36,298	36,154
Provisions	10	28,218	25,044
Prepaid Income		113,835	95,431
Total Current Liabilities		178,351	156,629
TOTAL LIABILITIES		178,351	156,629
NET ASSETS		563,213	500,637
Equity			
Retained Profits		563,213	500,637
TOTAL EQUITY		563,213	500,637

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Retained Earnings		
Balance at 1 July 2020	500,637	449,513
Profit Attributable to Members	62,576	51,124
Balance at 30 June 2021	563,213	500,637

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.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from Customers		588,990	1,208,600
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(484,172)	(1,309,946)
Interest Received		7	119
Net Cash Outflow from Operating Activities	6	104,825	(101,227)
Cash Outflow from Investing Activities			
Fixed assets acquired		8,646	13,456
Net Cash Inflow from Investment Activities		8,646	13,456
Net Increase in Cash Held		96,179	(114,683)
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 July 2020		498,163	612,846
Cash and Cash Equivalent as at 30 June 2021		594,342	498,163

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Board of Directors, 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 107 Statement of Cash Flows, 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 diminishing value 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 %
Art Paintings	5.00%

(e) Income Tax

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

(f) 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.

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.

Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight line basis.

(g) 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.

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 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
3. PROFIT		
Expenses		
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	7,576	5,800
Other Expenses	496,162	1,076,293
	503,738	1,082,093
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	7,576	5,800
Net Expenses Resulting from Movement in Provisions	7,576	5,800
5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank	515,203	419,031
Anz V2 Bank Account	79,139	79,132
	594,342	498,163
Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	594,342	498,163
	594,342	498,163
6. CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit after Income Tax		
Profit after Income Tax	62,576	51,124
Adjustments for Non-Cash Components in Profit		
Depreciation	7,576	5,800
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease in assets	12,955	64,546
Increase in Liabilities	18,544	(241,392)
Increase in Provisions	3,174	5,239
Net Cash Inflow from operating activities	104,825	(114,683)

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 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Office Furniture & Equipment	21,704	19,335
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	16,154	10,232
	5,550	9,103
Art Collection	2,500	2,500
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	345	232
	2,155	2,268
Total Plant and Equipment	7,705	11,371
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	7,705	11,371
8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Non-Current		
Formation Expenses	11,560	11,560
Website Development	18,299	12,020
Less Accumulated Amortisation	13,561	12,020
	4,738	11,560
Total Intangible Assets	16,298	11,560
9. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Sundry Creditors	9,915	5,048
Trade Creditors	5,000	12,175
ANZ Visa Card	5,942	6,664
PAYG Tax Withholding accrued	4,604	6,948
Provision for GST	10,837	5,319
	36,298	36,154
Total Trade and Other Payables	36,298	36,154
10. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for Annual Leave	10,363	9,861
Provision for Long Service Leave	17,855	15,183
	28,218	25,044

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 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$

11. STATUTORY INFORMATION

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

12. Covid-19

The global Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent restrictions imposed by the Australian and other overseas governments have caused disruption to businesses and economic activity.

The Australian Evaluation Society has managed, and continues to actively manage, the risks arising from Covid-19. This includes reducing planned spending and moving fee-paying activities online. We have sufficient cash on hand and cashflow to operate for at least another two years. There have not been any significant adverse operational or financial impacts as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to date and any known impacts to date have been reflected in the 30 June 2021 financial statements.

As at the date these financial statements are authorised for issue, the directors of Australian Evaluation Society consider that the financial effects of any potential changes cannot be reasonably estimated for future financial periods. As the situation remains fluid, due to the evolving changes in government policy and business and customer reactions thereto, the directors consider that the general economic impacts arising from Covid-19 and lower levels of forecast activity are likely to negatively impact the financial results of Australian Evaluation Society over the near term, in particular, the year ending 30 June 2022.

Based on the current assessment as of the date of signing the financial report, the directors have concluded that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate as the negative impact of the pandemic on the organisation is expected to be manageable.

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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 2021 has been received and is included with the financial statements.

The Board of Directors present their report on the association for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Board Members

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

John Stoney
Carina Calzoni
Doyen Radcliffe
Sharon Clarke
Kiri Parata
Sue Leahy
Susan Garner
Charlie Tulloch
Anne Stephens

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 \$62,576.

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



John Stoney



Carina Calzoni

Dated 31 August 2021

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LIMITED STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board 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 Board of Directors the financial statements:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Australian Evaluation Society Limited as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Australian Evaluation Society Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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



President: John Stoney



Treasurer: Carina Calzoni

Dated 31 August 2021

Australian Evaluation Society Limited

Compilation Report To Australian Evaluation Society Limited

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Australian Evaluation Society Limited, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, 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 Board

The Board of Australian Evaluation Society Limited 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 Board of directors, 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 the board 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 Board of directors who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

V P Cannizzaro & Co

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



Vito Cannizzaro
27 August 2021

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audit
Your Independent External Expert

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

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd (the Entity), which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and not for profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Australian Evaluation Society Ltd to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and not for profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of Matter – Impact of Covid-19

We draw attention to Note 12 to the financial report, which describes management's current understanding of the impact of global Covid-19 pandemic and the related to the operations of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd. The note discloses the key management assumptions to reach the conclusion that the impact of the pandemic on the Entity is manageable and the going concern basis of accounting is still appropriate. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity'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 management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME
APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS LEGISLATION

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 Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going 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 those charged with governance 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.



Bernie Rohan
Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Reg. No. 311673
G03, 12-14 Cato Street
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

Dated: Aug 31, 2021

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021, 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.

Bernie Rohan
Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
Reg. No. 311673
G03, 12-14 Cato Street
Hawthorn East VIC 3123

Dated: Aug 31, 2021



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