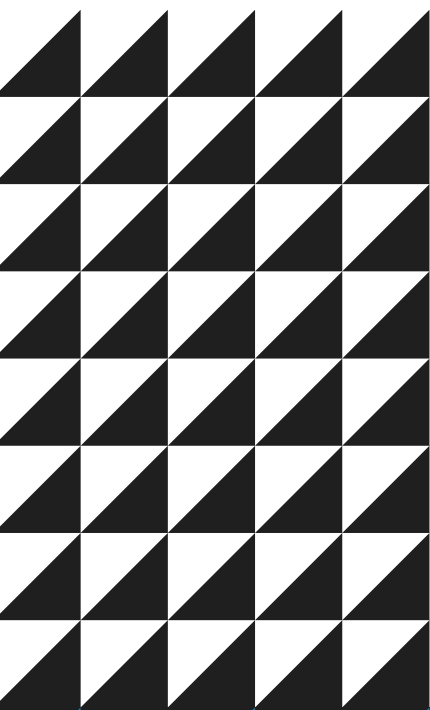


2023–2024

Annual report

Contents

President's report	3
Treasurer's report	7
ABOUT US	9
Who we are	10
Member benefits	11
Corporate governance	12
Board and staff	13
THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS	15
AES International Evaluation Conference	16
Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)	19
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	20
First Nations Committee	21
Pathways Committee	22
Vitality Committee	23
Relationships Committee	24
MEMBER NETWORKS	25
Membership trends	26
Regional networks	27
Awards for Excellence in Evaluation	34
Special Interest Groups	36
Fellows of the AES	40
FINANCIAL REPORTS	41
Finance summary	41
Annual Financial Report	43
Auditor's report	53





→ OUR VISION

Quality evaluation that makes a difference

→ OUR MISSION

To strengthen and promote evaluation practice, theory and use

→ OUR VALUES

Recognition

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

Inclusion

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

Relationships

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

Sustainability

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

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

President's report

Rukuhia te wāhi ngaro, hei maunga
tātai whetū | Explore the unknown,
pursue excellence

Tēnā koutou, wunya, greetings everyone.

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

The 2023–2024 year has been a year of advancement for the organisation. An exciting aes23 International Evaluation Conference was hosted in my home state of Queensland. Participant numbers were once again very high, and Brisbane Meanjin provided opportunities for learning with exciting keynotes and a broad range of offerings. The conference provided reflection as we were invited to consider whose logic and whose reality it is as we embark on evaluation. The conference evaluation noted that networking was regarded highly for delegates as professional and social connections were made.

AES members provided thoughtful input into the development of a set of organisational values (www.aes.asn.au/about-us) that were this year adopted by the Board. The values of **Recognition, Inclusion, Relationships** and **Sustainability**



AES President Kiri Parata at the aes24 Welcome Function in Brisbane
Photo: Albie Colvin

are supported as a way of capturing how AES members already operate as a collective. Organisational values are a set of core beliefs held by an organisation and offer purpose and direction while setting the tone for interactions with members and partners. To embed the organisational values the AES Board and member groups will dedicate time to regularly discuss ways to operationalise and express these values. We encourage members to recognise these in the way we work, with purpose, and as a collective.

AES members provided thoughtful input into the development of a set of organisational values [...]. The values of Recognition, Inclusion, Relationships and Sustainability are supported as a way of capturing how AES members already operate as a collective.



From L-R: AES Fellow Scott Bayley, Megan Williams (Yulang Indigenous Evaluation), former AES Board member Doyen Radcliffe and The Hon Andrew Leigh MP during the Closing Plenary panel discussion | Photo: Albie Colvin

Recently the AES Board embarked on a membership consultation for a new strategy. Thank you to all who participated in sharing your views about the future direction of the organisation. In August 2024 the Board adopted the domains that will be the focus of the 2024–2028 strategy. Under the four domains of **Culture, Pathways, Leadership** and **Vitality** the Board and staff alongside committees and regional network groups look forward to delivering on the goals and priorities of the plan.

As strong advocates for a central Commonwealth evaluation function, we welcomed the establishment of the Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) on 1 July 2023. ACE is led by Eleanor Williams, a valued colleague, longstanding member and recent AES Board member. We were thrilled to welcome Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, the Hon Andrew Leigh MP, who has been a longtime advocate for evaluation and drove the establishment of ACE, as a keynote speaker and panelist at the aes23 conference. We will continue to engage with ACE and collaborate wherever possible.

In 2023, the AES was delighted to induct two new Fellows, John Guenther and Marion Norton. This brings the total number of AES Fellows to 29. Three Fellows are currently participating in the AES mentoring program. A review of the AES Fellows was conducted during this year with several recommendations supported by the AES Board. The AES organisational value Sustainability states that *we are stewards of our profession and respect our past, know our story and nurture a sustainable future through learning, being courageous and enabling growth*. The Fellows are an integral part of our organisation, and we honour their wisdom and guidance.

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

Vitality

- A successful three-day online FestEVAL 2024 event with approximately 300 registrations and active participation from 150 attendees. FestEVAL underscored the importance of integrating AI into evaluation practices, offering practical solutions and engaging discussions.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to play a pivotal role in the AES and provide members with opportunities to engage, debate and network on a range of issues. We currently have the following SIGs operating: Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network (APSEN), Systems Evaluation SIG; Design and Evaluation SIG; and Multicultural Evaluation SIG.
- Eight regional networks continue to host engaging events, including the very popular online seminars and networking functions. Notable networking activities included the ACT's in-person 'Evaluation Bingo' and WA's outdoor beer garden function, both promoting interactive and lively discussions. Additionally, Victoria and SA conducted AI-focused seminars, enhancing members' practical skills. Regional activities have contributed to raising the profile of the AES and helped raise member numbers by 4%.
- Efforts have been made to retain and engage members through new initiatives, such as welcoming new members and planning events that cater to diverse member needs. The introduction of seasonal offerings and strategic partnerships has bolstered member involvement.

Culture

- The domain name changed from Cultural Capacity to Culture this year with the advisory committee also changing its name to First Nations Committee. The large group of Indigenous committee members come from within Australia and the wider South Pacific region.
- With the support of the First Nations Committee the AES has recognised that a Reconciliation Action Plan may not serve us as well as it could. The AES is proud of the many approaches we have operationalised to support First Nations evaluators. These

practices have become part of the way in which we work. We will explore ways to capture this as an action plan.

- The Board has embarked on furthering our understanding of cultural safety in all that we do and has for the past year actively been working on trauma informed practice in our governance practices.
- The success of the conference support grants for emerging Indigenous evaluators resulted in increased scholarship grant recipients for the aes23 conference. This was achieved with the support from external agencies and the generosity of a number of AES members.
- AES First Nations Cultural Safety Framework workshops are firmly part of our professional development offerings. A review of the workshop from First Nations Peoples perspective was undertaken this year.

Pathways

- Following a review of gaps in the AES Professional Learning Program, an open call for new offerings received a strong response and has resulted in a refreshed schedule of workshop offerings.
- The self-assessment tool for the AES competencies is now available to members on the AES website (www.aes.asn.au/evaluation-resources/evaluator-competencies) and a series of papers on the competencies self-assessment have been submitted to the *Evaluation Journal of Australasia* (EJA).
- The AES Mentoring Program is now an integral part of the AES member offerings. AES members continue to engage as mentors, associate mentors and mentees, providing positive feedback and insight into the power of the program for creating professional networks, learning and building confidence.
- The EJA publication schedule has been well maintained and the performance metrics provided by SAGE show that readership of full-text downloads continues to increase considerably year on year.
- The EJA editorial team has been stable over the 2023–2024 period. It currently consists of an Editor, four Associate Editors, a Managing

The collective sharing of knowledge and expertise across a wide range of activities speaks volumes about the commitment of AES members. The dedication and engagement from members results in a community of evaluators contributing to a vital and flourishing organisation.

Editor, and an Editorial Assistant. An Editorial Advisory Board consisting of 21 members has met during this reporting period and its members are making a welcomed and valuable contribution.

- The AES Awards and Recognition Working Group has continued to engage in the assessment and promotion of excellent evaluation practice, and in 2023 identified four recipients across three categories.

Relationships

- A significant focus for this year has been the dissemination of the State of Evaluation in Australia Report that was developed last year. The Relationships Committee has worked closely with the Board and the Chief Executive Officer to engage with organisations involved in evaluation in Australia. Online workshops for AES members, interactive sessions with the AES regional networks and meetings with Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) have taken place.
- The AES is interested in supporting the exploration of an Australian First Nations Evaluation body. Discussions are occurring.
- Cross Tasman relationships with Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA), Mā Te Rae Māori Evaluation Society and the Pasifika Fono continue through conference attendances and mutual conversations.
- Kwadwo Adusei-Asante is the South Pacific regional representative to the International Organisation for Co-operation in Evaluation (IOCE) Board.
- AES continues to stay abreast of major shifts in the evaluation sector and has formed various strategic relationships to promote evaluation.

During my three year term as President and six years on the AES Board I have enjoyed working with such an inspiring group of colleagues. The AES leadership team comprises our highly experienced Chief Executive Officer, Bill Wallace, our Membership and Events Executive, Fiona Zlotnik and this year we welcomed Sonya Krzywoszyja as Administration Assistant. I'd like to publicly recognise the enormous value of Bill, Fiona, Sonya and my fellow Board members for their leadership, service and ongoing commitment to the AES.

As the proverb at the beginning of my report suggests, it takes courage to explore the unknown and pursue excellence. As I reflect on the accomplishments of the AES over the past year, we have witnessed several examples of this in practice. The collective sharing of knowledge and expertise across a wide range of activities speaks volumes about the commitment of AES members. The dedication and engagement from members results in a community of evaluators contributing to a vital and flourishing organisation. An organisation that is willing to take risks when we should, and pursue excellence always.

The upcoming year will be my final year as the AES President. I'm proud to have continued work that started before me, and to lead a relational Board who remains committed to its members. I believe we are a Board that is connected to purpose and works to our organisational values. Ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa. Thank you one and all.

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

Kiri Parata
President

Treasurer's report

Introduction

The reforms and changes implemented over the past year have supported a period of consolidation for the AES following a period of growth post-Covid. A modest increase in membership fees, aided by strong returns from the Brisbane conference (aes23) and our workshop program, facilitated an increase in the organisation's number of staff. This has enabled the AES to expand its range of services and responsiveness to its membership. These services have included: increased support offered to committees, improved co-ordination and promotion of the workshop program, and another successful FestEVAL program. The organisation returned a strong though more modest profit compared to the previous financial year – one that represents a degree of fiscal responsibility and which continues to deliver value for our members.

Summary of the 2024 financial year results

The organisation recorded a full year profit of \$71,945 as at 30 June 2024 against a budgeted surplus of \$3,580. This represents an additional \$68,365 to support important AES activities. The higher than expected surplus is the result of stronger revenue from a growing membership and a successful workshop program, as well as planned reductions in project spending. The potential surplus was partially offset by higher costs related to increased staffing and relocating the AES Office from The University of Melbourne to its new 'home' in Fitzroy.

The annual conference

aes23 in Brisbane produced a profit of \$172,467, which is slightly more than budgeted. Whilst conference income exceeded the budget amount by 18%, the overall result was more modest due to costs associated with the deferment of the Brisbane conference from 2020 to 2023, including the need to write off a \$19,445 deposit held by the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre since deferment. Despite this, the conference has remained one of the important revenue sources for the AES this financial year.

Membership

Membership numbers at 30 June 2024 were 1,191 – a 4% increase from the previous year (1,149). The increased number of members, along with the 1 July 2023 fee increase, resulted in 5% (\$12,491) higher than budgeted membership income (\$247,491). This aligns with the Board's strategy to lift membership income to increase organisational capacity.

Workshop program

The online-only workshop program continues to be an important and growing revenue stream for the organisation. This growth reduces our reliance on the conference as our only large profit centre and contributes to achieving our mission and objectives. A combination of new workshop offerings, increasing participation, and a fee increase enabled us to exceed our workshop surplus target by 38% (\$51,250). The workshop surplus of \$185,250 not only exceeded the previous year's figure by \$56,929, but it also surpassed the conference surplus for the first time.

Profit and loss budget – our position against budget

Operating income (excluding conference income) of \$568,774 was 8% (+\$45,764) higher, and non-conference operating expenses of \$669,296 were 3% lower than budget. The main savings were achieved by not engaging a mentoring project officer (\$17,500), pausing project spending of \$40,000, and reallocating \$14,000 earmarked for the IC&D Committee administrative support to general staffing. Administration expenses were 17% higher than budget, mainly due to the increased number of staff and higher rent. The Brisbane conference returned a surplus of \$172,467 against a budgeted surplus of \$167,700. The overall profit of \$71,945 was \$68,365 higher than the budgeted surplus of \$3,580.

Profit and loss – our position compared to last year:

Operating income (excluding conference income) of \$568,774 was \$56,486 greater than at 30 June 2023. Operating expenditure increased by 11% on last year, due to increased expenditure on Board meetings and administration, mainly related to the move to our new premises. The workshop surplus of \$185,196 was up \$56,005 from \$129,191 at June 2023. Overall profit decreased year on year by \$11,011.

Balance sheet analysis June 2024 against June 2023

Cash balance increased by \$522,546 (71%) since the same time last year, mainly due to unearned conference and workshop income. We are holding venue and other deposits for the Melbourne (aes24) and Canberra (aes25) conferences of \$95,425. Total assets increased by 59%.

Total liabilities decreased by 133% as a result of higher unearned conference registration income (\$455,046) and higher unearned workshop income (\$14,795).

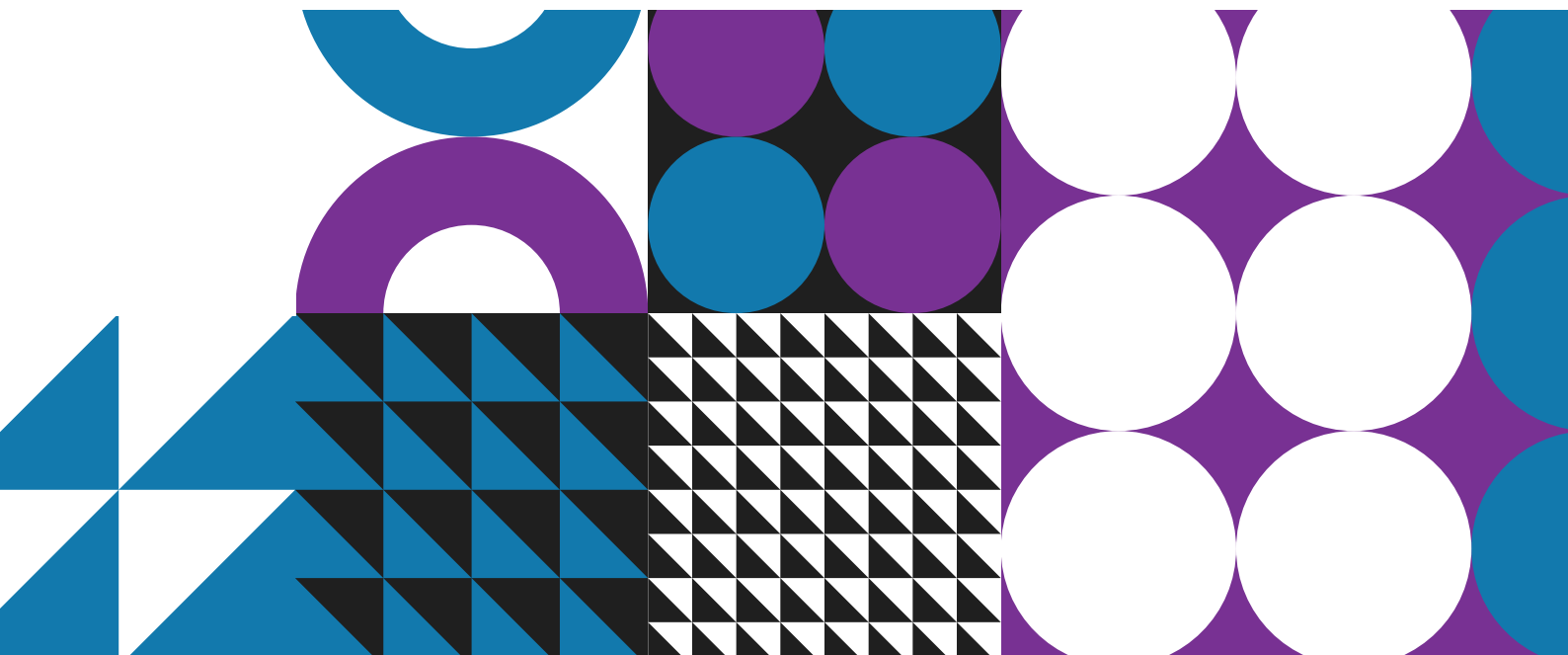
Total equity (members' funds) increased by 12% (+\$71,945). This amounted to \$675,256 as of June 2024 compared to \$603,311 in June last year.

Looking forward

The AES enters the new financial year in a strong financial position. We have successfully diversified our revenue streams, reduced our reliance on the annual conference and returned funds to the balance sheet. These additional funds enable the organisation to focus on implementing the new strategic plan, on investing in member services, as well as on growing revenue. As a result, the Board has approved a future-focussed budget investing substantially in the new strategy, projecting a deficit of \$30,090. We project a return to surplus in the year ending 30 June 2026.

Tony Kiessler
Treasurer

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.



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 organisation has been a public company limited by guarantee after it transferred its registration as an association from the Australian Capital Territory. A Board of Directors provides overall governance and strategic direction for the organisation. The Board is legally responsible for governing the organisation. The Chief Executive Officer manages operations and has delegated responsibility for implementing the directions and decisions of the Board.

Accountability of the Board

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

Appointment of the Board

Following adoption of the new Constitution at the Special General Meeting in July 2023, the Board consists of six Directors, all elected by the membership. The Board elects the office bearers, President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, from amongst the Directors. The Board has the discretion to appoint up to three ordinary Board members, ensuring that at least two members of the Board are First Nations people and taking into account the overall mix of knowledge, skills and attributes of Board members.

Role of the Board

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

Indemnity of the Board

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

Board and staff

Board members 2023–2024

President

Kiri Parata

Vice-President

Anne Stephens

Treasurer

Carina Calzoni (to March 2024)

Tony Kiessler (from March 2024)

Directors

Nicole Tujague

Jade Maloney

Andrew Hawkins (from September 2023)

Meeting attendance

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

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Bill Wallace

Membership & Events Executive

Fiona Zlotnik

EJA Managing Editor

Jeff Adams

Administrative Assistant

Sonya Krzywoszyja

President: Kiri Parata

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

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

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

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

Kiri is a PhD candidate with Massey University, Aotearoa New Zealand, investigating the application of ancestral values when engaging with whenua tīpuna (ancestral lands) for enhanced wellbeing.

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

Significant Board achievements during this period include: the development of the Cultural Safety Framework, development of two strategic plans, constitutional changes, a Diversity and Inclusion Statement and this year the adoption of the AES organisational values. Kiri brings a sound and strategic approach to her roles and draws on her community development background and her commitment to social justice in her work.

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

Vice-President: Anne Stephens

Anne Stephens, (PhD, MBA) is a Sociologist, the Director of Ethos of Engagement Consulting and CEO of Violence Prevention Australia. Anne specialises in gender and social research, and systemic evaluation methodology and practice. Anne has worked in senior positions with the Australian, Queensland and Victorian governments, as well as for Australian and International NGOs in evaluation consultancy.

Anne is the author of *UN Women's Inclusive Systemic Evaluation for Gender Equality, Environments and Marginalized Voices (ISE4GEMs): A New Approach for the SDG Era* (2018), *Evaluating Impact in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: UN Women Guidance Note*, and *The Guidebook for Monitoring Gender-Sensitive and Victim-Centred Approaches to Trafficking in Persons for ASEAN-ACT* (2024). Anne has over 70 journal articles, evaluation reports and conference papers. Anne participates at Australian, the American and European Evaluation Society conferences and training events.

Anne's social and theoretical work has been used in community and government for family violence prevention; adult and infant head trauma prevention; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander vocational training for workforce development; and substance use harm reduction and treatment. She is a current recipient of an ANROWS research grant to investigate practitioner practices for the prevention of violence (2024–2027).

She is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Research at James Cook University, sits on the World Health Organisation's Expert Advisory Panel for Health Policy and Systems Research, was an Endeavour Research Fellow and Visiting Scholar at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (New York) in 2016.

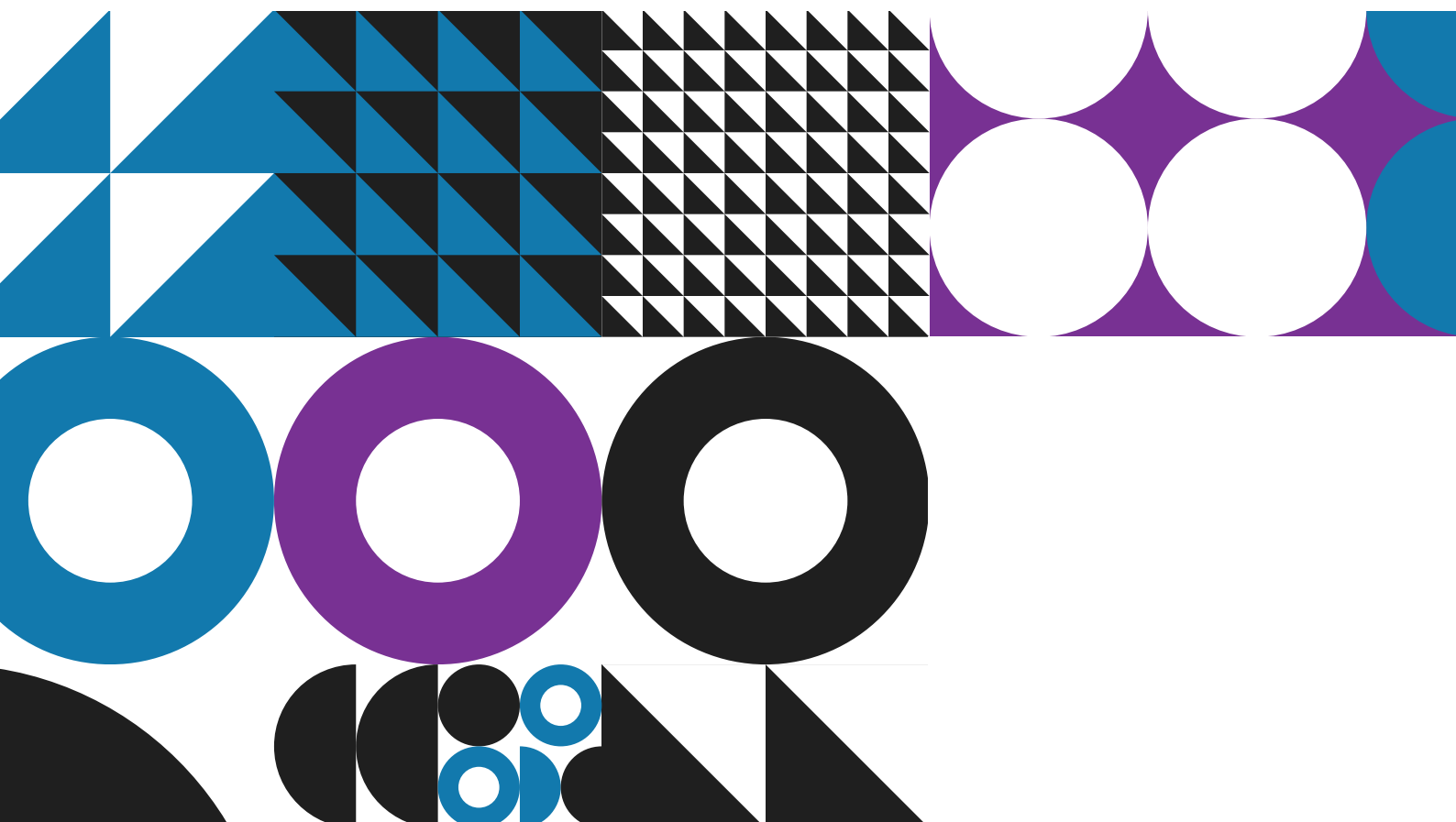
Treasurer: Tony Kiessler

Tony is a proud Central Arrernte man and Managing Director at Akaltye, a First Nations consulting company. Tony has a focus on First Nations policy, planning, partnerships, performance and research with a particular focus on health, international development and social inclusion. He brings skills in leadership, governance and management to the Board. Tony has worked in Australia, Asia and the Pacific over his 20-year career. His advisory roles include membership on the National Indigenous Australian's Agency's Indigenous Evaluation Committee.

He is a strong advocate for First Nations leadership and voice within the AES. He has been an active and engaged member of the AES First Nations Committee for the past five years. In that time, Tony has contributed to the co-design of the AES First Nations Cultural Safety Framework. Tony is also a proud supporter and mentor to emerging First Nations professionals in evaluation and international development.

Tony is a research scholar at the ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) while completing his doctoral research.

THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS



AES International Evaluation Conference

THROUGH THE LENS

The 2023 AES International Evaluation Conference was held from 25–29 September 2023 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre in Meeanjin/Brisbane, Queensland. Originally scheduled to be hosted in 2020, the journey to the conference was like no other, courtesy of a global pandemic. Ultimately it would turn out to be ten years from when Brisbane last hosted the conference – and based on the ‘sold-out’ status it wasn’t a moment too soon!



Delegates in the Exhibitions area | Photo: Albie Colvin

Another AES conference attendance record was set with 580 participants over the three-day conference, mostly from across Australia and our Pacific neighbours. The two-day pre-conference workshop program was attended by 308 participants.

We acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we met for the conference and recognise that lands have long been a meeting place and a place for learning for First Nations peoples. For the pre-conference

workshop program participants were welcomed to country by emerging Aboriginal leader Christopher Tosh Dawson. During the opening of the conference, delegates were welcomed by Aboriginal Elder Uncle Billy Cummings. Both live in Brisbane and are linked to the Turrbal People through kinship ties.

Conference theme

The conference theme ‘Through the lens’ drew inspiration from how over millions of years eyes have evolved from a simple light sensor into a sophisticated part of sense-making – focusing light into images through the development of a lens. Similarly, evaluation is also evolving driven by the same forces that shape our world and societies, as well as by the many perspectives of its practitioners and those who work at its edges. As evaluators, and as people, we wear many lenses that shape what we see and how we focus our vision.

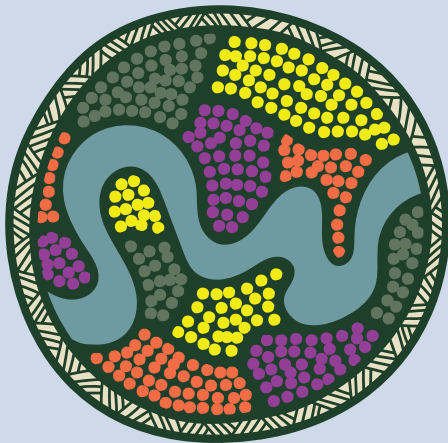
Conference presenters and participants were invited to think about how our lenses help us to reflect on different ways of knowing to inform theory and practice; to refract knowledge and learning in ways that enable us to embrace diversity in our communities; as well as to refocus on the future and deliver evaluative insights that resonate.

Conference program

The Committee were excited to deliver a program of speakers who brought diverse experiences across disciplines, sectors and cultural perspectives to bear on contemporary evaluation topics. From innovative and thought-provoking keynotes, panel discussions and papers, to interactive and skill-building sessions, and the lightning-fast insights from ‘Ignite’ presentations – delegates had an opportunity to reflect on their evaluative thinking and practice through a multitude of ‘lenses’.

Conference logo

The conference logo was created by Keisha Thomason, a proud Waanyi and Kalkadoon woman and graphic designer and artist.



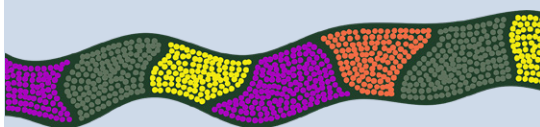
The logo represents looking through the lens at Brisbane to map the future.

The inner dot patches represents the diversity in both ideas and people; coming together in Brisbane to share ideas in creating a positive future.

The iconic Brisbane river runs through the middle, as well as being a pathway for sharing knowledge.

The ring around the outside represents the conference theme 'Through the lens', made up of the four sub-themes.

The colour palette represents Brisbane and has been influenced by key fauna and flora that are iconic to the area: wetlands, river, sea, mangroves, botanical gardens, wattle and *bougainvillea* (iconic in South Bank).



The keynote presenters included:

- Maggie Walter, Distinguished Professor of Sociology (Emerita), University of Tasmania – *Evaluation and the Indigenous lifeworld: Whose purpose; whose logic; and whose reality?*
- Michael Drummond, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK – *From 'priceless' health to impactful economic evaluations: negotiating values friction for better decision making*
- Donna Mertens, Professor Emeritus, Department of Education, Gallaudet University, USA – *Building the transformative impact of evaluation*
- Katherine Trebeck, Advisor to The Next Economy, UK – *Can changing the lens change the world?*

The closing plenary began with a keynote by the Hon Andrew Leigh MP, Assistant Minister for Competition, Charities and Treasury, Assistant Minister for Employment, on the establishment of the Australian Centre for Evaluation.

A highly engaging panel discussion followed on these important developments for the future of evaluation in Australia as well as reflecting on the conference theme. The panel discussion was facilitated by Jade Maloney, Partner & Managing Director, ARTD Consultants and AES Board member. Joining Jade and Andrew Leigh on the panel were:

- Megan Williams, Principal of Yulang Indigenous Evaluation and former Associate Dean (Indigenous); Professor of Public Health (Indigenous) and former Head of Girra Maa Indigenous Health Discipline, Faculty of Health, UTS
- Wendy Jarvie, Adjunct Professor, Public Service Research Group, University of NSW, Canberra
- Doyen Radcliffe, Regional Manager – Western Region, Community First Development and former AES Board member
- Scott Bayley, AES Fellow and Managing Director, Scott Bayley Evaluation Services

An important part of AES conferences are the social events, providing opportunities to make



Delegates networking during a break | Photo: Albie Colvin

connections, unwind from a busy program and celebrate outstanding achievements in the profession. The Welcome Cocktail Reception held on 26 September at the Gallery of Modern Art was attended by 150 participants, enjoying an evening overlooking the Maiwar/Brisbane river.

The Gala Awards Dinner Evening on 28 September was held in the stunning, heritage Brisbane City Hall with 500 participants recognising the deserving recipients of the 2023 AES Awards for Excellence in Evaluation.

Conference evaluation

The evaluation of the conference was commissioned by the AES Board and led by Helen McInerney, a Capstone student undertaking the Melbourne University Master of Evaluation, supported by a research assistant and fellow Masters' student, Carla Pozo Jeria.

Key highlights of the evaluation include:

- Most respondents found the conference to be valuable or very valuable overall (86%), and felt the conference delivered overall value for money (88%).
- The conference was incredibly successful at supporting attendees to make professional and social connections.

- The rates of respondents' evaluation-related learning at the conference have also been increasing over time, and peaked in 2023 with 85% of respondents confirming that they learned about evaluation-related concepts at the conference which they intend to incorporate into their work or workplace.
- Respondents felt that the conference helped to advance the four strategic priorities of the AES Board, with nearly two thirds (65.9%) viewing the conference as strongly contributing to the Relationships priority.

Next year

As per tradition, the conference owl was passed on to the Melbourne | Naarm aes24 Conference Committee with best wishes for September 2024.

Sponsors

Platinum	ARTD Consultants
Gold	Allen + Clarke Consulting
	Australian Healthcare Associates
	Urbis
Silver	ACIL Allen
Bronze	Grosvenor

aes23 and aes20 Committee members

aes23 Committee

Convenor	Robert Grimshaw
Co-Program Chair	Natalie Arthur
Co-Program Chair	Kate Sunners

Samantha Abbato
Lewis Atkinson
Andrew McLachlan
Emily Montgomery
Sarah Renals
Marianne Wyder

We'd also like to thank the committee for the postponed 2020 conference who completed the early development of this year's conference:

aes20 Committee

Co-convenor	Sarah Renals
Co-convenor	Natasha Doherty
Co-Program Chair	Carol Quadrelli
Co-Program Chair	Rebecca Duell

Rhianon Vichta
Jo Durham
Kylie Brosnan
Maria Raciti

Evaluation Journal of Australasia (EJA)

Over the past year editorial and management processes have functioned well.

Content

The publication schedule of the EJA has been successfully maintained with all issues produced on time. Four issues of the journal were published in 2022–2023 consisting of 12 articles (7 academic and 5 practice) on a broad range of topics. Each issue comprised three articles, as well as an editorial, evaluator’s perspective and a book review. A special feature article based on Andrew Leigh’s keynote address at the 2023 AES conference was also published.

Performance metrics

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

Full text downloads

2023	2022	2021	2020
36,927	23,305	19,825	16,121

The EJA quality scores are gradually increasing. The Cite score (number of citations divided by number of documents in past four years) has been steadily increasing since 2019.

When compared to other journals, the EJA has maintained its Scimago Journal ranking as a Quartile 2 journal in the Sociology & Political Science category and within Quartile 3 in the Development category.

Scopus cite score

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.8

Scimago journal rankings

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Sociology & Political Science	Q2	Q2	Q3	Q3	Q2
Development	Q3	Q3	Q3	Q2	Q3

Editor

John Guenther

Associate Editors

Anthea Rutter

Kwadwo Adusei-Asante

Ming Hwa Ting

Yvonne Zurynski

Managing Editor

Jeffery Adams

Editorial Assistant

Fiona Zlotnik

Strengthening the editorial team

The editorial team has been stable over the 2023–2024 period. It currently consists of an Editor, four Associate Editors, a Managing Editor, and an Editorial Assistant. The team has strong local and regional representation with members based in Darwin, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Singapore and Auckland.

An Editorial Advisory Board consisting of 21 members (with representation from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom) has met during this reporting period (November 2023) and its members are making a welcomed and valuable contribution. Board members have assisted in undertaking manuscript reviews, promoting the journal, reviewing books, and in submitting manuscripts. The initial two-year term for members has been completed, and the opportunity will be taken this coming year to refresh the board.

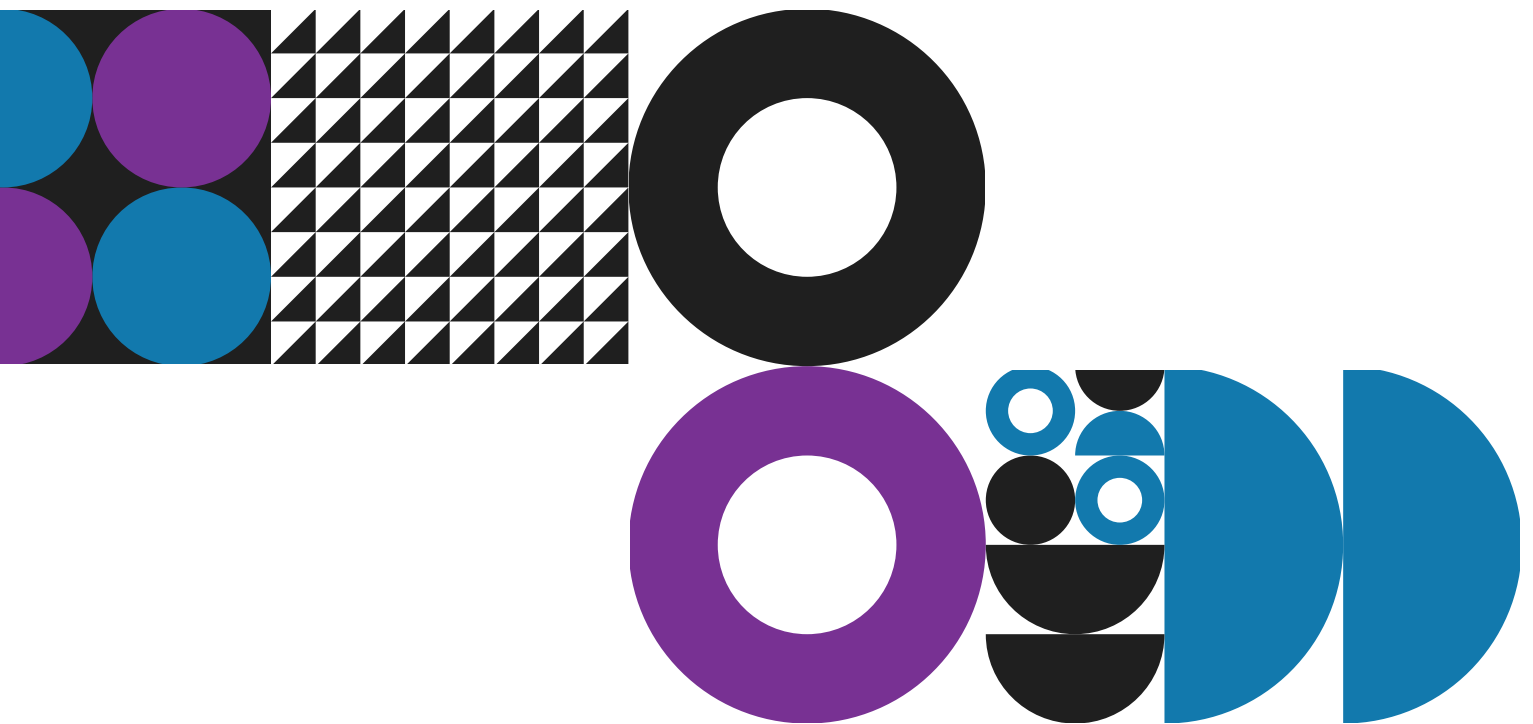
Looking forward

Attracting more submissions to the EJA remains a priority. A well-attended session was held at the AES 2023 conference and an online workshop for potential authors is planned later in 2024. A publicity flyer has been developed. Planning for two special issues in 2025 is underway.

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:
First Nations Committee, Pathways Committee, Vitality Committee and
Relationships Committee.



First Nations Committee

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

The First Nations Committee has met regularly over the last 12 months. It has taken on its new title of First Nations Committee (previously known as the Indigenous Cultural and Diversity Committee) and welcomed a new member from the Pacific region. The Committee has carefully considered various ongoing matters such as the development of the AES organisational values and replacing the Reconciliation Action Plan with a proposed new plan – and a working group to develop it. This new plan (name to be decided upon) will begin with an audit of what the AES is doing already to promote cultural safety and trauma-informed practice within the organisation. The use of the terminology, 'trauma-informed practice' has been gradually woven into the First Nations Committee's communications in an intentional move to develop further the full understanding of cultural safety in everything we do.

This year the Committee supported a review of the First Nations Cultural Safety Framework workshops. At one of its regular meetings, the First Nations Committee hosted Indigenous workshop participants to give feedback on their experiences attending the workshops. This feedback is being collated to communicate back to beyond... (Kathleen Stacey and Associates) who supported the AES to develop the framework and run the workshops.

The number of Conference Support Grant (CSG) applications increased significantly this year. This has been made possible with the AES partnership with The Pacific Community (SPC) to support Pacific participation. The First Nations Committee revised the CSG application questions and assessment processes to streamline the process.

We would again like to acknowledge and thank the Australian Government National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for their continuing financial support, as well as those members who generously donated to the grants.



Conference Support Grant recipients with AES President Kiri Parata (left) and former AES Board member Doyen Radcliffe (right) | Photo: Albie Colvin

Looking ahead to 2024–2025, the Committee remains focused on supporting a strong community of Indigenous evaluators and guiding the Board on all matters that impact First Nations Peoples. It is an exciting time as together we embark on implementing a new AES strategy. Members of the First Nations Committee give their time and expertise tirelessly and this is recognised and acknowledged.

Committee members

Sharon Clarke
Kevin Dolman
Lea Gage
Tony Kiessler
Kiri Parata
Doyen Radcliffe
Kaita Sem
Melanie Syron
Marica Tabualevu
Nicole Tajague
Mark Watego
Nan Wehipeihana

Pathways Committee

Clear professional and career pathways

The Pathways Committee continues to advance AES strategic priorities to meet the needs of AES members for professional growth.

During 2023–2024 the Committee evaluated feedback from past professional learning workshops, the AES Evaluator Competencies self-assessment results, and a sector-wide scan with the aim to identify emerging needs and opportunities. This led to the identification of five new thematic areas and an EOI process for workshop proposals aligning with the AES competencies. The EOI process received a strong response, resulting in novel offerings that enable individuals to better align their competencies to our program.

The self-assessment tool for the AES competencies is also now available on the AES website and a series of papers on the competencies self-assessment have been submitted to the EJA.

The AES mentoring program is now an integral part of the AES member offerings. AES members continue to engage as mentors, associate mentors and mentees, providing positive feedback and insight into the power of the program for creating professional networks, learning and building confidence. Participants, including mentors and mentees, consistently praise the program for its role in fostering professional networks, enhancing learning, and building confidence. Some individuals have transitioned from mentee to mentor roles, underscoring the program's self-sustaining design. The program's innovative structure was recently highlighted in an article in the EJA, detailing its framework and lessons learned.

It has made me think about things through the eyes of someone in their earlier years of evaluation. (Mentor)

The program has helped to advance my thinking about the next steps in my career. (Mentee)

The mentoring program has given me unique opportunities to meet people, ask about things, and hear others' reflections on my own perspectives. It has helped my thinking and personal growth immensely. (Mentee)

The Pathways Committee recently welcomed Molly Jones and Lucy Pennington onto the Committee and they have made a strong contribution to delivery of FestEVAL and the mentoring program.

Overall, the Pathways Committee is energised by these developments and anticipates fulfilling the strategic objectives set for the organisation.

Looking ahead, the Committee has enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to contribute to the new AES strategy 2024–2028 and looks forward to delivering against these strategic priorities. Early work has already begun in planning for the refresh of the AES Ethical Guidelines and Evaluation Competencies and their alignment to the AES First Nations Cultural Safety Framework.

Committee members

Julie Elliott
Amy Gullickson
Molly Jones
Del Lloyd
Lucy Pennington
David Roberts
Taimur Siddiqi
Anne Stephens
Jill Thomas (Chair)
David Turner

Vitality Committee

An organisation meeting diverse member needs today and tomorrow

The Vitality Committee, whose members are regional network committee convenors, has had a dynamic and productive year, continuing its focus on fostering engagement, innovation and strategic growth within the AES community.

Key highlights include:

→ **FestEVAL24: AI**

Driven by the Committee, FestEVAL was a successful three-day online event with approximately 300 registrations and active participation from 150 attendees. FestEVAL underscored the importance of integrating AI into evaluation practices, offering practical solutions and engaging discussions. This initiative has set the stage for potential future events on a yearly or biennial basis.

→ **Regional activities:**

The regional network committees hosted engaging events including the very popular online seminars, "Evaluation Bingo", and in-person networking functions. Notable networking activities included the ACT's in-person Evaluation Bingo and WA's outdoor beer garden function, both promoting interactive and lively discussions. Additionally, New Zealand, Victoria and SA conducted AI-focused seminars, enhancing members' practical skills. Regional activities have contributed to raising the profile of the AES, and helped raise member numbers by 4%.

→ **Member retention and engagement:**

Efforts have been made to retain and engage members through new initiatives, such as welcoming new members and planning events that cater to diverse member needs. The introduction of seasonal offerings and strategic partnerships, has bolstered member involvement. There are plans to operationalise a member retention strategy in the new year.

→ **Strategic consultations and policy development:**

The Committee contributed significantly to the AES strategic direction by participating in consultations for the new AES strategy, and is close to establishing a Diversity and Inclusion working group to support the AES policy. These efforts ensure that AES remains responsive to its members' evolving needs and adds value.

Committee members

Chair	Bill Wallace (CEO, ex officio)
Aotearoa NZ	Marie Nissanka
Canberra	Kim Grey (until 4/24) Ruth Nicholls (until 4/24) Emma Wensing]
NSW	Florent Gomez
NT	Christabelle Darcy Alison Reedy
SA	Mark McKay
Qld	Kim Abbey Robert Grimshaw
Vic	Ruth Aston Caroline Henwood
WA	Janet Conte Lisette Kaleveld
AES staff	Sonya Krzywoszysja (from 4/24) Fiona Zlotnik

Relationships Committee

Collaboration and partnerships to strengthen the field of evaluation

During 2022–2023 the Relationships Committee delivered the State of Evaluation in Australia, a study into the volume, practice and drivers of evaluation across Australia as well as future directions for the sector. This was the first study of its kind in Australia and is likely to be repeated periodically. Its findings have been helpful for the AES in setting its future strategic directions and in tailoring support for members who work in the evolving field of evaluation.

The committee's subsequent focus has been to disseminate the State of Evaluation report. Working in partnership with the AES Board and the Chief Executive Officer, the Committee used the findings of the report to engage with organisations involved in evaluation in Australia. This was accomplished through an online workshop for AES members, interactive sessions with the AES regional network, and meetings with representatives of the Australian Government.

Outside this project, the Committee has kept abreast of major shifts in the evaluation sector and supported the AES to participate in strategic discussions about these. For example, at the AES 2023 conference, a committee member facilitated a panel discussion with the Hon Andrew Leigh MP and others on the topic of the Australian Centre for Evaluation (a development of which the committee is highly supportive).

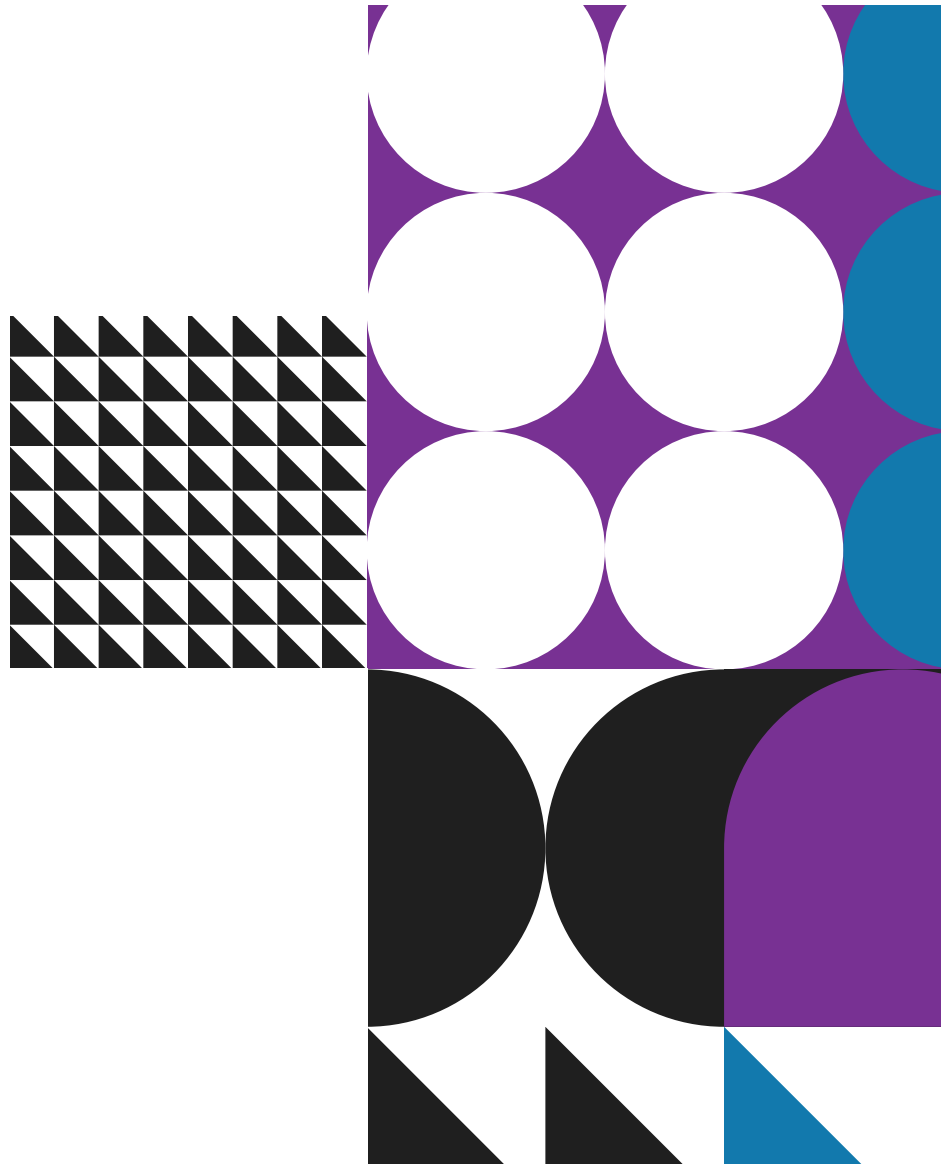
Through these efforts, the Committee has sought to foster positive, mutually beneficial relationships within and outside of the evaluation sector that enhance the standing of the AES and enable it to promote evaluation theory, practice and use.

The Relationship Committee's aim for the year ahead is to support the development of the AES strategy for the period 2024–2028.

Committee members

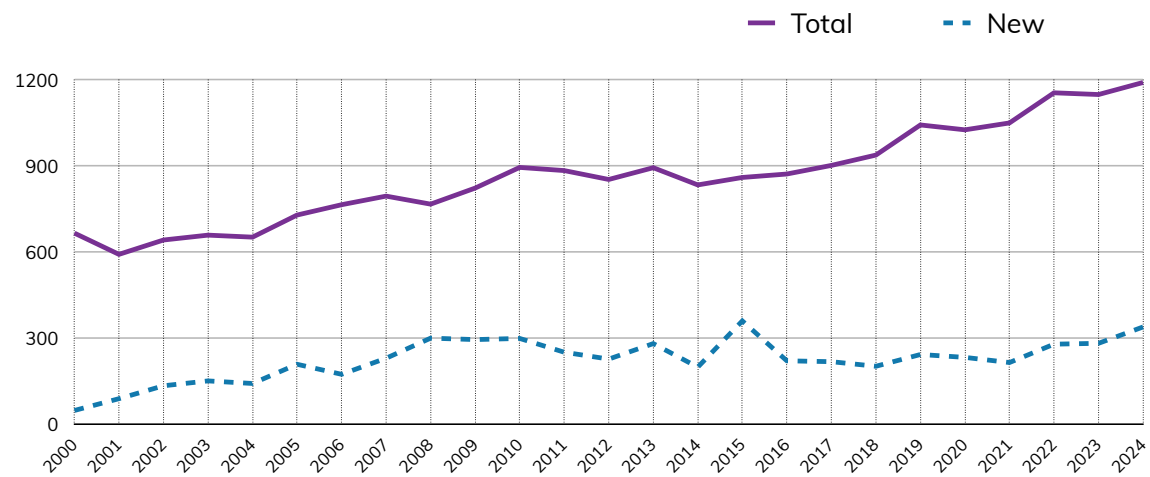
Luke Condon
Kim Grey
Jade Maloney
Tadgh McMahon
Carlos Rodriguez
Robert Sale
Kara Scally-Irvine
John Stoney
Charlie Tulloch

MEMBER NETWORKS

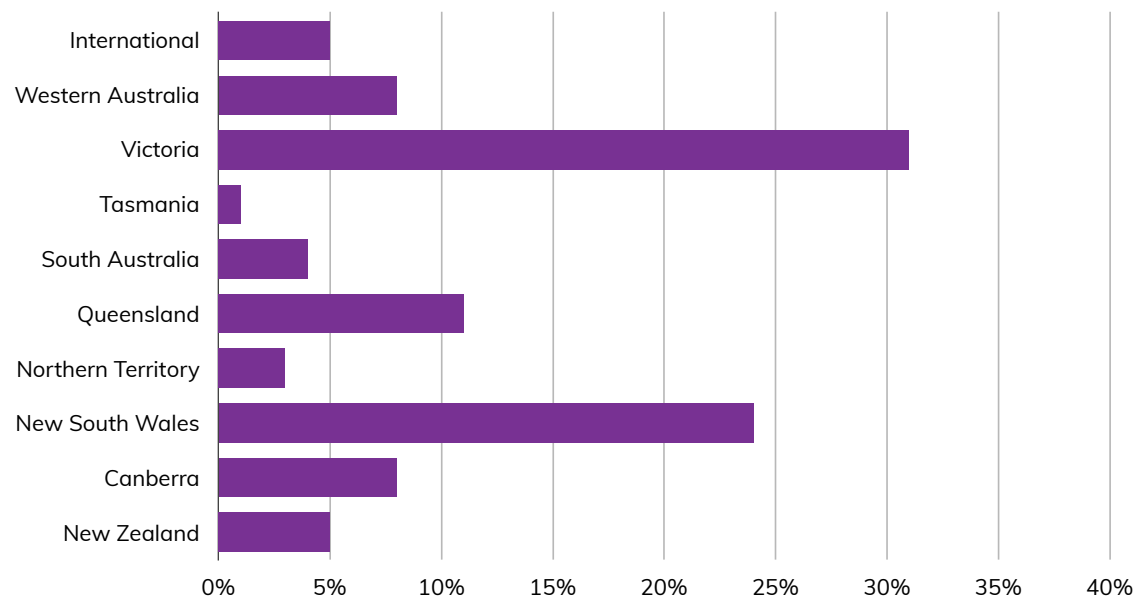


Membership trends

AES MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS 2000–2024



MEMBERSHIP BY REGION 30 JUNE 2024



Regional networks

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

During 2023–2024, the Aotearoa New Zealand Committee organised several online seminars around the theme of Artificial Intelligence and evaluation. The first seminar in this series (November 2023) featured Paul Duignan, whose presentation highlighted the practical applications of AI, showcasing different AI tools and their potential uses within the practice of research and evaluation. The second seminar in this series (February 2024) by David Fetterman utilised a range of AI chatbots, including ChatGPT 3.5 and 4, Microsoft Copilot AI, Gemini, and Claude. David demonstrated real-world applications of these AI tools covering essential tasks such as developing logic models and theories of change.

Committee members played key roles in organising and participating in the FestEVAL program (May 2024) which centered around AI in evaluation. In particular, members contributed to 'Working smarter not harder with AI' featuring Laurie Crawford and David Fetterman. David showcased his cutting-edge AI invention, demonstrating its relevance in the field, while Laurie shared valuable insights from personal learning with AI technologies. Together, they explored the intersection of AI and evaluation, discussing topics ranging from advanced analytical techniques to creative image generation.

Rula Talahma played a pivotal role in the session titled 'What does culturally responsive and equitable mean in the context of AI and evaluation?' This workshop exposed participants to essential social and cultural issues often amplified by AI. Panel discussions addressed key questions, including the definition of culture, the impact of AI on cultural responsiveness in evaluation outcomes, and the importance of integrating design, implementation and equity criteria in AI.

During this financial year, Jamie Fotheringham provided insightful reflections on the evaluation of the UK's Newton Fund in his presentation titled 'Making the Theory of Change (ToC) useful'. His analysis focused on the practical application and effectiveness of the ToC within this significant international development initiative. Jamie emphasised how a well-defined ToC can enhance the relevance and impact of development projects, ensuring that they address the needs of partner countries effectively. His reflections contributed to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in applying the ToC framework in international development contexts.

The Committee also continued their important organisational activities which included participating in the Relationships and Vitality Committees, organising lunchtime unstructured conversation sessions and collaborating with the Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (ANZEA) through networking events such as the joint Christmas function.

Looking ahead

We participate in seminars and workshops organised by evaluation groups both in New Zealand and internationally to exchange knowledge and foster connections within the broader research and evaluation community. In addition to these Zoom seminars, we will also host a mix of virtual and in-person networking sessions in the regions where Committee members reside.

Committee members

Rula Abu-Safieh Talahma
Jeevan Karki
Marie Nissanka (Convenor)
Elisabeth Poppelwell
Kara Scally-Irvine

CANBERRA

During 2023–2024 the Canberra regional network continued to offer activities seasonally.

In August (Winter) Kim Grey and Susan Garner hosted the ever-popular book club focused on exploring the publications of 'wise women of evaluation'. A group of almost 20 enjoyed a variety of Pierogi and discussed the 'Mixed Methods and wicked problems' article by Donna Mertens, in advance of her workshop and keynote address at aes23 in Brisbane.

In November (Spring) we held an interactive session reflecting on aes23. With breakfast and venue supplied by consulting firm Proximity, Kim Grey, Ruth Nicholls, Julie Elliott, Sam Mayes and Scott Bayley gave short presentations on the conference themes and keynotes. Attendees explored issues of interest in world-café style with presenters, relating key conference insights to personal evaluative practice. This event was particularly useful for those who were unable to travel to Brisbane, helping share the conference learnings back to the region.

We again concluded the calendar year with informal networking and drinks in December (Summer) at our favourite venue, the historic Hyatt Hotel. Taking advantage of the warm weather, a small group enjoyed the beauty of the Rose Courtyard and free-flowing conversation.

In April (Autumn) Kim Grey, Ruth Nicholls and Emma Wensing led networking session at a new venue on the ANU campus. The 25 attendees comprised existing, new and potential members who mingled to complete a 16-square evaluation bingo card while enjoying a delicious spread of hot and cold nibbles. The bingo was extremely well received as a positive way to support interactions and to keep the conversations flowing.

We also supported AES relationship building with the Australian Centre for Evaluation. Following the ACE 'Impact evaluation: Assessing the effectiveness of Australian public policy' symposium in June (Winter), members gathered with ACE staff to share reflections on the discussions and build relationships between evaluators within and outside of the public sector.

In the upcoming year, we aim to meet the region's appetite for networking and knowledge sharing events as we focus on collaboration and engagement with local members and potential members in preparation for the 2025 AES Conference to be held in Canberra.

Committee members

Scott Bailey
Julie Elliott
Susan Garner
Kim Grey (Co-convenor, until May)
Samantha Mayes
Ruth Nicholls (Co-convenor, until May)
Ruth Pitt
Laura Rohan-Jones
John Stoney
Emma Wensing (Convenor, from May)

NEW SOUTH WALES

During 2023–2024 the NSW Committee continued to offer regular free online events for evaluators to engage with contemporary evaluation topics and practices. Those events offer an informal platform for evaluators to learn and share with their peers and complement nicely the AES formal training offering. These events covered topics of interest which appealed to a wide range of evaluators, emerging or more seasoned:

- Case studies: Mission Australia's multidisciplinary approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (October 2023, n=61 participants) and NSW Drug Court evaluation (November 2023, n=47)
- Evaluation fundamentals: evaluation vs research (February 2024, n=74), program and theories of change (June 2024, n=132)
- Evaluation practice: evaluation reporting (July 2024, n=54) and placed-based evaluation in collaboration with SIMNA (August 2024, 200+ participants face-to-face and online).

Participants regularly highlighted in their feedback the value of these events in terms of interactivity based on some initial thought-provoking content.

Very engaging, setting up the discussion and time for the interactive discussion through the breakout rooms. Terrific session – thank you!

[Evaluation vs Research feedback, Feb 2024]

This financial year, the NSW Committee also organised a second round of the successful EvaluAdder buddy program launched the previous year, which offers an informal complement to the AES group mentoring program. This new round had eight pairs of buddies and EvaluAdders (mentor), with one EvaluAdder supporting two buddies. An evaluation of the program described the program as successful with six pairs continuing for the six months of the formal program and all buddies rating the program as beneficial or very beneficial. The NSW Committee will run another round of the program, keeping it light touch and promoting it to emerging NSW evaluators via targeted communications.

Looking ahead

The NSW Committee is committed to deliver on its commitment to deliver regular free events for the NSW evaluation community to actively engage on contemporary evaluation topics. Future events will include a face-to-face event in Sydney in July 2024, another joint event with SIMNA and an event focusing on the NSW government Wellbeing framework.

The NSW Committee is made up of 12 AES members from across government, consultancies and universities. Committee members volunteer their time, ideas and energy to support the engagement of NSW AES members, in particular via the organisation of monthly free events focusing on peer learning.

In December 2023, the membership of the NSW Committee was renewed with a couple of members standing down; Keren Winterford from the University of Technology Sydney and Jade Maloney from ARTD Consultants. The Committee wishes to thank both members to their contribution to the NSW evaluation community.

Following an EOI process, the NSW committee has welcomed two new members, Emily Saurman from the University of Sydney and Jasper Odgers from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Committee members

Laura Baker
Ben Barnes
Gavin Faunce
Florent Gomez (Convenor)
Melissa Kaltner
Brian Keogh
Linda Klein
Greg Masters (free seminars co-ordinator)
Ruth McCausland
Jasper Odgers
Emily Saurman
Kath Vaughan-Davies

NORTHERN TERRITORY

During 2023–2024 the NT regional network continued its focus on hosting a range of in-person networking events and online seminars to strengthen the evaluation community in the NT and promote region specific opportunities for learning. Co-convenors commenced online meet and greet sessions with new AES members in the NT. These sessions were used to personally welcome new members, strengthen their sense of belonging to the AES, find out about their motivation for joining the organisation and establish how the NT Committee could contribute to their expectations of AES membership.

In the second half of 2023, the NT regional network hosted the following events:

- An online seminar 'Community-based researchers in evaluation: getting the story right'. This seminar in November was on the evaluation of the Nawarddeken Academy in Arnhem Land and outlined the important role that local Aboriginal people have in engaging in research and evaluation processes.
- An online seminar 'AES 2023 – key takeaways from the NT' was held in December. This presented the reflections of three NT attendees at the 2023 AES conference and some relevant takeaways for NT evaluators.
- An end of year in-person catchup was held in December at the Darwin Sailing Club and was an opportunity for networking amongst old, new and visiting interstate AES members. This event provided a forum for event planning for 2024.

In the first half of 2024, the NT regional network hosted the following events:

- An online seminar 'Developing a Monitoring, Evaluation & Accountability Plan (MEAP) for domestic violence in the NT' in May. This provided an overview of the MEAP and lessons from its development and implementation.
- An in-person networking event was held in May, following the forementioned online seminar. This small, collegial event was held at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club and was an opportunity to welcome new AES members in person.

Looking ahead, in 2024–2025 the NT Committee will continue to provide opportunities for all NT AES members and guests to engage in online seminars relevant to the NT context, and for in-person networking opportunities in Darwin. The Committee will instigate in-person networking events in Alice Springs to provide opportunities for new AES members located in Alice Springs to meet and network.

Committee members

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

QUEENSLAND

The Committee was pleased to see that the aes23 International Evaluation Conference held in Brisbane from 25–29 September was so successful. The Committee hosted an event following the first day of pre-conference workshops. This provided a great opportunity for networking and to casually welcome attendees to meet other members of the AES in Brisbane. It was exciting to see such great interaction among the evaluation community continuing from that event throughout the conference!

Sparked by conversations at the conference, the Committee has been forming connections with evaluation colleagues and neighbours in the Pacific who are interested in learning from the AES to help develop their own evaluation network and to explore opportunities for collaboration.

The Committee has also held two online events with strong levels of participation and engagement:

- The new Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Guidance presented by Sofia Ericsson from DFAT and Dave Green from Clear Horizon, and facilitated by Kim Vesely, Co-convenor of the AES Qld Committee.
- Local impact measurement platforms and tools you should know about held in partnership with Social Impact Measurement Network Australia (SIMNA) and presented by Sarah Mak from Folktale, Josh Murchie from Little Phil and Luke Everett from Torch/Project IO, and facilitated by Rebecca Roebuck member of SIMNA and AES Qld Committee.

The online events are complimented by in-person networking events, including the end-of-year celebration. These networking events bring together Queensland AES members and those from the broader evaluation community to build connections, and to share and learn from the experiences of fellow evaluators.

Looking ahead

In 2024–2025 the Committee will continue to provide opportunities for Queensland AES members and the broader evaluation community to engage, make connections and learn from each other through online and in-person events.

Committee members

Samantha Abbato
Natalie Arthur
Rebecca Duell
Robert Grimshaw (Co-convenor)
Cherie Lamb
Sarah Renals
Rebecca Roebuck
Kate Sunners
Kim Vesely (Co-convenor)
Marianne Wyder

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

During 2023–2024 the Committee focused on continuing to support the evaluation community through the provision of engagement and learning opportunities.

The Committee continued to host regular learning opportunities as online and mixed online and face-to-face events. We found that discussions around evaluation issues that were affecting members (and attendees) were less well attended. Online presentations seemed to be favoured by attendees and these events attracted large number of people. Online events also means that we were able to: 1. have speakers from outside of South Australia; 2. ensure local members not based in the city could attend events; 3. collaborate with the Melbourne AES committee to facilitate events; and 4. attract attendees from around Australia, New Zealand and other countries. We were fortunate in having speakers of high calibre and who were able to present interesting and diverse material. The two face-to-face events held during the year were engaging and successful but attracted a smaller audience.

Some of the Committee members changed during the year primarily due to moving for work. We would like to thank Emily Saurman and Jin Chen for their contribution. This ended their time with the Committee at the end of 2023. We welcome Tania Plueckhahn and Charlie Tulloch to the Committee.

Looking ahead to 2024–2025, our aim is to continue to provide high quality learning opportunities for members and to facilitate discussions that contribute to the field of evaluation. We will continue to use online presentations as the primary means of delivering our learning opportunities. However, we plan to host at least one face-to-face event each half year to provide members and attendees with a more engaging networking opportunity. We will also continue to promote the benefits of AES membership at all our events in order to grow local membership.

Committee members

Stephanie Carter
Jin Chen (end 2023)
Maria Eliadis
Mark Mackay (Convenor)
John Pilla
Tania Plueckhahn (from 2024)
Susan Rooney-Harding
Emily Saurman (end 2023)
Colin Sharp
Charlie Tulloch (from 2024)

VICTORIA

During 2023–2024 the Committee has focused on increasing the delivery of seminars that resonate with the diverse needs and interests of our members as well as supporting the aes24 Committee. We are pleased to have delivered five well-attended seminars and to finally hosting our first in-person network event in some time. This event was held at the end of the year with Jess Dart discussing ideas for the aes24 conference.

Seminars delivered included ‘Value propositions: A worthwhile enhancement to program theory’ delivered by Julian King and Andrew Hoskins. The seminar used breakout rooms to facilitate a wider discussion.

It’s the framing it the way an economist would... to think about that question, is this the best way to use this one shot, bucket of money that we’ve got here to address a really important problem... the truth is, we’re operating [in] an environment where resource allocation decisions are [being] made, and we need to respond to that context.

(Attendee sharing on behalf of a group)

Jo Farmer hosted a seminar about ‘Navigating ethics processes’ with 85 attendees, including government, consultants and not-for-profits. The seminar provided great insights on what to consider through the world of ethics.

Brilliant presentation Jo! You have a wonderful way of articulating and simplifying complex challenges and are very knowledgeable. I thought all your tips were wonderful too.

(Attendee)

Another seminar focused on the 'Evaluation of partnerships for scaling' using a practical case study example and presented by Mallory Pryde and Nicholas Vogelpoel. This seminar attracted attendees from New Zealand.

Thanks, super interesting and hope to apply some things from here in Aotearoa! (Attendee)

In an excellent lead up to FestEval24 Kristy Hornby and Gerard Atkinson ran a seminar on 'Artificial Intelligence 101 for evaluators'. With 94 attending, the discussions in the online chat were lively and Gerard and Kristy followed up by providing responses to questions that hadn't been covered and Gerard even invited answers from an AI Companion Claude.

Thanks all – very insightful and a fast moving area of interest with potential. We need to ensure that these LLM [large language model] tools are considered and applied within an ethical framework. (Attendee)

We have seen representation at our seminars representing almost all AES regional networks, with the exception of Tasmania. Encouragingly (in our view), our seminars are being attended by AES members (and non-members) across Australia and New Zealand, and the continued online format is clearly supporting this accessibility, of course along with the cross-promotion across regional networks.

We also note in recent seminars, particularly the February 2024 seminar on ethics processes and April 2024 session on AI have sparked conversations about how the AES could be responsive to some of the more emerging practice challenges and opportunities our members are facing, with regard to guidelines and resources on ethical practice.

We have also appreciated opportunities to be active contributors in responding to the AES organisational strategy as well as the organisational values. Lydia Phillips represented our committee and presented our feedback on these values, which have subsequently prompted much discussion and careful reflection in our committee meetings when thinking about our planned events.

Committee members have also been engaged in supporting the planning for the aes24 conference both as representatives on the aes24 Committee and through the social working group and are looking forward to welcoming our peers to beautiful Naarm in September.

Looking ahead to 2024–2025 we aim to continue our seminars including a seminar in October with Indigenous Evaluator Joanne Luke (VACCA) presenting her PhD research about the 'Ethics of evidence-based practice for Indigenous health and social settings in Australia'.

We have also said goodbye to a number of committee members at the beginning of 2024, with long time member Stuart Raetz departing, as well as Amanda Jones and Kristy Hornby. Their contributions will be missed but we appreciated the time and energy that they brought while on the Committee. Given this we will be inviting new members to join the committee, with Kerry Brogan returning and Su-Ann Drew joining in August. We will circulate an expression of interest to all Victorian members noting that Victoria has had significant numbers of new members in 2024.

Committee members

Ruth Aston (Co-convenor)
Kerry Brogan
Mandy Charman
Erin Davis
Caroline Henwood (Co-convenor)
Kristy Hornby
Amanda Jones
Alice Muller
Lydia Phillips
Stuart Raetz
Emily Tee
Eleanor Williams (Resigned 2024)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This year the Committee have tried to be more deliberate about providing a mix of opportunities to learn, as well as to just enjoy being together with a networking experience (and no seminar). This has worked really well and enabled us to provide online seminars that are convenient to facilitate, complemented with face-to-face drinks where people are more willing to make the effort to travel if they know they can enjoy conversation and meeting new people. With some events focused on networking only, this has also given us more choice with finding a suitable venue.

The Co-convenors are in regular contact throughout the year. In addition, other activities where some or all WA members were invited include:

- An online webinar 'Evaluation beneficiaries as agents of change through their data collection role' was presented twice by Lisette Kaleveld on 6 September 2023.
- An online 'Reflections on the 2023 AES conference' was held. 27 people registered and 14 attended.
- A networking event was held on 14 March which included gaining input on ideas for events in the coming year. This aligns well with the AES strategic priorities and the goal of the Vitality priority to 'meet diverse member needs today and tomorrow'. Some of those ideas included AI in evaluation, social return on investment, footprint/sustainability evaluation, systems evaluation, evaluation in not-for-profit organisations, a book club/reading session, sharing tools/methods, what is unique to evaluation in WA and regular social events.
- Co-convenors Janet and Lisette had a coffee catch-up with three new members in April which was very positive and generated more ideas for WA events.
- The networking event held on 30 May 2024 included an adaptation of the ACT 'Evaluation bingo' which was very successful.
- Feedback on the networking events has been very positive, particularly from those

evaluators who were feeling isolated in their organisations and commented that they really appreciated meeting other WA evaluators.

Looking ahead

In 2024–2025 the Committee seeks to actively strengthen its support of the strategic priority Vitality. This will be across a number of areas, including:

- reaching out to new members to identify any members who are keen to make a contribution through Committee work
- providing more regular networking opportunities (so that those who are primarily interested in networking do not need to be Committee members)
- building differentiated roles into the Committee structure – such as distributing responsibilities among committee members (a role for organising networking events, seminars, reading group sessions, communicating between AES and WA network)
- ensuring that anyone who signs up for the Committee understands their role to encourage active participation and sharing of responsibilities.

Committee members

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

Awards for Excellence in Evaluation

2023 Awards recipients

Emerging New Talent Award

awarded to

Mallory Notting

First Person Consulting

EJA Publication Award

awarded to

Kathryn Erskine and Matt Healey

in recognition of:

Conversations that count: Lessons from evaluating a men's digital mental health response during COVID-19

Evaluation Systems Award

awarded to

Kara Scally-Irvine and iPEN – Impact Planning & Evaluation Network

in recognition of:

'iPEN "turbocharging impact" - evaluation capability and capacity building programme'

awarded to

Mission Australia's Centre for Evidence and Insights

in recognition of:

'Mission Australia: An integrated organisational approach to Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning'

The Awards and Recognition Working Group (ARWG) has continued to engage in the assessment and promotion of excellent practice over the year. The group identified four recipients across three categories in 2023 as noted above.

ARWG worked with the AES Office to modify the award ceremony at the AES Conference Gala Dinner to take account of feedback from participants in 2022. The awards were presented after the main meal and in a more concise fashion. Up to two people went onstage to accept the award and only one person spoke in acceptance. This revised format was more efficient and seemed to suit members better than the previous format.

ARWG is assessing the nominations for the 2024 awards. This year we have received 17 nominations, which is a great number. We will identify excellent practice which supports AES members in the development of their own expertise.

Looking ahead

In 2024–2025 ARWG aims to continue its focus on communicating and sharing excellent practice and recruit additional members to add to the strength of the group.

Committee members

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 AWARDS RECIPIENTS!



Top left: Mallory Notting, Emerging New Talent Award
Top right: Kathryn Erskine and Matt Healey, EJA Publication Award
Bottom left: Duncan Rintoul, Rachel Christie and Cherie Pereth, Evaluation Systems Award
Bottom right: Kara Scally-Irvine, Evaluation Systems Award

Photos: Albie Colvin

Special Interest Groups

DESIGN AND EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Design and Evaluation Special Interest Group (DESIG) was formed in 2017, and since that time has continued to redefine itself in terms of offerings for the AES. From 2020 to 2022 we ran an annual 'Learning Sprint'. This was a series of events intended to be 'bite size', and speak to an overarching theme. The DESIG took a break from this format to reassess what we might do next.

In 2024, this has taken the form of the Evaluation Lab. A first of its kind, the Evaluation Lab brings together evaluators to form design teams to tackle evaluation challenges. For once, rather than focusing on the challenges others face, we are working on the challenges present in our own work.

Thirteen design teams, representing government, consultants, and not-for-profits, are working on challenges that are categorised under one of the following areas:

- Evaluation cultures
- Evaluation methods
- Evaluation careers.

Over the course of four months, divided into three sessions combined with individual and small-group work, teams will develop innovative solutions to common challenges. The Lab is an opportunity for evaluators to learn more about how other fields – in this case, Design – undertake their work. The DESIG will be showcasing the outcomes of the Evaluation Lab at the 2024 evaluation conference in Melbourne, culminating in design teams pitching their solutions to the audience.

Looking ahead

The Evaluation Lab has been a big investment of time by the DESIG. After it wraps up in September at aes24, we will disseminate the learning and outcomes. The DESIG will then turn our attention to 2025 and what we might do next.

Group members

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

MULTICULTURAL EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

During 2023–2024 members of the Multicultural Evaluation Special Interest Group (MESIG) continued to meet and discuss ideas for better supporting and promoting multicultural evaluation ideas, discussions, theories and practices.

Key foci for MESIG members were:

- The growth of professional development courses for the AES membership, including courses focused on culturally responsive evaluation principles and practices; and, working with LGBTQI+ communities in keeping with the AES Evaluators Professional Learning Competency Framework.
- The development of a special edition of the *EJA* focused on culturally sensitive evaluation, to be published early 2025.
- Facilitating a session at FestEVAL discussing AI and its implications for culturally responsive and equitable evaluation.
- Providing input on the goals and priorities of the AES strategic priorities, to highlight the unique needs of different communities.
- Growing the number of active MESIG members and people interested in culturally responsive evaluation.

Through these activities the MESIG aims to contribute to all four AES strategic priorities while encouraging greater diversity in the AES membership, and preserving a space for diverse voices to meet, discuss and learn. Underpinning this is a broad understanding of ‘culture’ that extends beyond ethnic and ancestral cultures to organisational cultures and other subgroups of people (such as members of the LGBTQI+, senior Australians, people with disabilities, youth and women) who share a similar context of oppression and/or being minoritised.

Looking ahead

In the coming year, the MESIG is keen to continue supporting talks and interactive sessions that highlight topical issues of equity, assist evaluators to critically examine their approaches and practices, and teach evaluators new skills. We also look forward to the publication of the special edition of the *EJA*.

Group members

Fatima-Zahra Blila
Erin Blake (co-chair)
EeMun Chen
Yonas Dare
Amy Dellit
Katherine Dinh
Lena Etuk
Jane Howard (co-chair)
Ali Rasoli
Eva Sarr

SYSTEMS EVALUATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

The Systems Evaluation Special Interest Group convenes monthly, fostering robust discussions on systems evaluation, a fair few laughs, and the orchestration of engaging events for our members. We aim to hold events bi-monthly, with a brief hiatus during December and January to lie on the beach.

Our virtual seminars and discussion groups have been successful, consistently drawing between 40 and 100 members.

Here's a glimpse into our sessions over the last year:

- In August 2023 we hosted an online discussion around a recording from a European Evaluation Society event. This debate between Systems theorist Michael Jackson and Evaluation theorist Michael Quinn Patton, titled 'Patton vs Jackson on Systems Concepts in Evaluation' explored systems concepts in evaluation. This argument continues with Michael Jackson releasing a new book this year. We will revisit.
- In September 2023 an interactive session at aes23 posed the question: 'What insights can we glean from Machiavelli about the transformative power of systems thinking in utilisation-focused evaluation?'. This sparked a great discussion, followed by many stories of political back-stabbings. It does seem we can learn a lot.

- In 2024 our group embarked on another intellectual journey, hosting an event on Critical System Heuristics. This heuristic, developed by Werner Ulrich, offers a methodology to delineate a system and ascertain its boundaries. Ulrich's ideas, initiated in the late 1980s, have recently sparked a surge of interest.

Looking ahead

As we continue our 'topics of interest' seminar series on the latest in systems thinking, we aim to foster greater interaction between these events. Our goal is to create a vibrant community where members can learn, discuss, and connect continuously. We encourage everyone interested in our SIG to join our LinkedIn page, where we can share insights, engage in meaningful discussions, and support each other's growth.

Group members

Julie Elliott
Andrew Hawkins
Brian Keogh
Kara Scally-Irvine

AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SECTOR EVALUATION NETWORK

The Australian Public Sector Evaluation Network (APSEN) hosts quarterly training and discussion sessions for over 850 SIG members, and hosts a SharePoint site that shares tools, templates and resources from within government that are relevant for people working in or in collaboration with government.

In 2023–2024 training included 'Introduction to evaluation' training and 'Fundamentals of program monitoring and performance measurement' training, attended by almost 150 people in total. Participants represented a broad range of evaluators, including those from local, State and Commonwealth governments. The questions and discussions arising indicated that the training was meeting a need, particularly for evaluators who are in smaller teams or working in isolation. Feedback included appreciation of the practical nature of the training and that freely accessible training was a gift to those struggling with evaluation. The brief training opportunities cannot replace more in-depth professional development, such as those offered through the AES Professional Development Program.

The SIG also contributed to the AES strategy consultation and submitted a panel presentation for the AES conference on a government evaluation theme.

Looking ahead to 2024–2025, the APSEN Committee look forward to hosting a SIG networking and resource sharing session at the AES conference. There will be a trial of sharing job advertisements of cross jurisdictional interest, advertising free training opportunities relevant to SIG members, and further presentation and discussion sessions based on feedback from activities to date.

Group members

Michael Amon
Zoe Bishop-Kinlyside
Marting Bortz
Suzanne Butler
James Burchmore
Gavin Faunce
David Gardiner
Eleanor Kerdo
Delyth Lloyd
Josephine Norman (Chair)
Nolan Stephenson
Eleanor Williams

Fellows of the AES

Two new Fellows, **John Guenther** and **Marion Norton**, were inducted at the AES conference in Brisbane. This brings the total number of Fellows to 29.

In line with the Pathways domain of the AES strategic priorities, three of the AES Fellow – Alan Woodward, Rick Cummings and Dorothy Lucks – participated as mentors in the 2023 AES Group Mentoring program. This continues a strong involvement by Fellows in this program.

Following on from earlier work, Anthea Rutter has added two more interviews with Fellows, bring the total to 19 interviews. These are available in the EJA.

Looking ahead

A review of the AES Fellows was conducted during 2023–2024 by Rick Cummings and Anthea Rutter, with the outcome being the establishment of the AES Fellows Management Group, with an initial membership of Janet Clinton, Scott Bailey and Anthea Rutter. They are joined by Board representative Andrew Hawkins. We are currently canvassing our Fellows to provide a response to a suggested list of activities for the Fellows. These suggested activities comprise:

- response to the strategic priorities
- nominations for new Fellows
- ensuring that a Fellow is part of the AES Conference Committee
- organising a Fellows Forum at AES conferences
- nomination process for nominating AES members for Australia Day Honours
- inclusion of a Fellow on the Awards Committee
- involvement in the Mentoring program
- contribute to AES policy making.

We are expecting three nominations for Fellows this year.

AES Fellows Management Group

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

AES Fellows

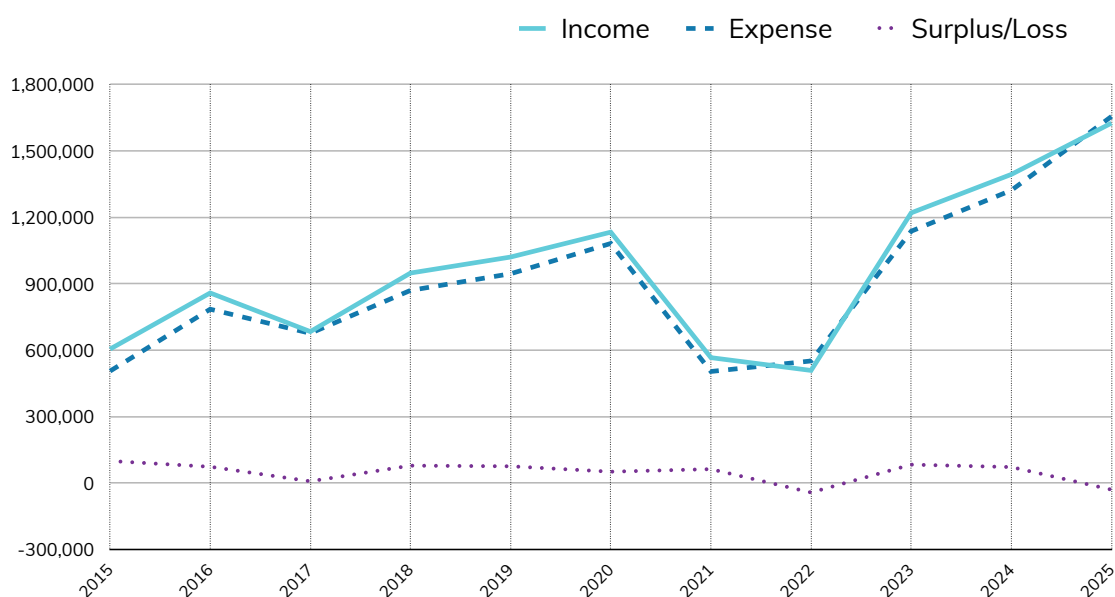
Lyn Alderman (Qld, 2021)
Anona Armstrong (Vic, 2003)
Scott Bayley (ACT, 2016)
Amohia Boulton (NZ, 2022)
Darrel Caulley† (Vic, 2005)
Sharon Clarke (SA, 2022)
Janet Clinton (Vic, 2021)
Rick Cummings (WA, 2013)
Jess Dart (Vic, 2021)
Sue Funnell (NSW, 2003)
John Guenther (NT, 2023)
Penny Hawkins (NZ, 2009)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

A collage of various geometric patterns and shapes. It includes a blue and white triangle pattern on the left, a blue and purple semi-circle pattern at the top left, a black and white checkerboard pattern in the center, and a purple and white circle pattern on the right. The shapes are arranged in a non-repeating, abstract composition.

Finance summary

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 Budget
INCOME						
Prof development	158,392	244,257	249,220	255,418	298,430	294,000
Conference income	717,016	NIL	NIL	708,092	825,379	1,019,758
Memberships	191,531	209,224	231,312	231,586	247,492	273,000
Publications	23,043	22,014	27,908	25,276	22,844	30,000
Other Income	43,235	90,819	8	8	8	9,000
Total Income	1,133,217	566,314	508,448	1,220,380	1,394,153	1,625,758
EXPENDITURE						
Prof development	111,229	112,718	125,692	126,097	113,180	122,000
Conference/projects	572,167	NIL	NIL	536,907	652,912	793,758
Strategic projects	29,090	21,582	34,461	4,569	1,657	62,200
Memberships	3,457	3,061	18,743	21,097	7,334	31,000
Publications, inc EJA	53,173	54,425	52,801	60,951	59,924	68,300
Other expenses		466				
SUB-TOTAL	769,116	192,252	231,697	749,621	843,174	1,077,258
Admin/Governance	312,977	311,486	319,610	387,803	479,034	578,590
Total Expenditure	1,082,093	503,738	551,307	1,137,424	1,322,208	1,655,848
SURPLUS / (LOSS)	51,124	62,576	(42,859)	82,956	71,945	(30,090)

Income, expenses and surplus 2015–2025



Annual Financial Report

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
ABN 13 886 280 969
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

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

Board of Directors Report	44
Assets and Liabilities Statement	45
Income and Expenditure Statement	46
Movements in Equity	47
Statement of Cash Flows	47
Notes to the Financial Statements	48
Declaration by the Members of the Board	51
Compilation Report	52

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Principal Activities

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

Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The Profit for the financial year amounted to \$71,945.

Going Concern

The Australian Evaluation Society has managed to return to post Covid normal in financial year 2024.

Based on the current assessment as of the date of signing the financial report, the directors have concluded that the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate for the organisation.

Committee Members

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

Kiri Parata, President
Tony Kiessler, Treasurer
Anne Stephens, Vice-President
Jade Maloney
Andrew Hawkins
Nicole Tujague
Carina Calzoni

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



Kiri Parata (President)



Tony Kiessler (Treasurer)

Dated 15 August 2024

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024
ACCRUAL BASIS

	Notes	2024	2023
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
ANZ V2 Account		79,263	79,257
ANZ Business Account		1,176,237	653,697
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,255,500	732,954
Trade and Other Receivables			
Trade Debtors		65,649	2,667
Prepaid Expenses and Event Deposits	2	240,585	236,859
Total Trade and Other Receivables		306,234	239,526
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,561,734	972,480
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	3	12,002	6,064
Intangibles	4	9,358	14,030
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		21,360	20,094
TOTAL ASSETS		1,583,094	992,574
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	5	788,929	328,510
GST Payable		71,960	28,177
Employee Entitlements	6	46,949	32,576
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		907,838	389,263
TOTAL LIABILITIES		907,838	389,263
NET ASSETS		675,256	603,311

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

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT CON'T

	Notes	2024	2023
MEMBER'S FUNDS			
RETAINED PROFITS			
Retained Earnings Beginning of Year		603,311	520,355
Current Year Earnings		71,945	82,956
TOTAL RETAINED PROFITS		675,256	603,311
TOTAL MEMBER'S FUNDS		675,256	603,311

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024
ACCRUAL BASIS

	Notes	2024	2023
INCOME			
Interest Income		8	8
Conference Income		825,379	708,092
Membership Fees		247,492	231,586
Publication Sales		22,844	25,276
Workshop Income		298,430	255,418
TOTAL INCOME		1,394,153	1,220,380
EXPENDITURE			
Administration & Governance		479,034	383,891
Conference Expenses		652,912	536,907
Cost of Publications		59,924	60,951
Depreciation		8,167	3,912
Membership Services		7,334	21,097
Special Projects		1,657	4,569
Workshops		113,180	126,097
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,322,208	1,137,424
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		71,945	82,956
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS		71,945	82,956

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

MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024
ACCRUAL BASIS

	Notes	2024	2023
EQUITY			
Opening Balance		603,311	520,355
Increases			
Profit / (Loss) for the Period		71,945	82,956
Total Increases		71,945	82,956
TOTAL EQUITY		675,256	603,311

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Members and Customers		1,837,571	1,301,265
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(1,305,600)	(1,198,664)
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		531,971	102,609
INTEREST RECEIVED			
Interest Received		8	8
TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED		8	8
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(9,433)	(15,126)
Other cash items from investing activities		–	–
NET CASH INFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(9,433)	(15,126)
NET CASH FLOWS		522,546	87,483
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of period		732,954	645,471
Net change in cash for period		522,546	87,483
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD		1,255,500	732,954

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024
ACCRUAL BASIS

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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

In the opinion of the Board of Directors, Australian Evaluation Society Limited is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures, AASB1048 Interpretation of Standards and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures. We have not assessed if the financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets, and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated..

Income Tax

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

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

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

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

Impairment of Assets

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

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

Employee Provisions

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

Cash on Hand

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

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

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

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

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

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

Membership fees are payable annually in advance and are due on the Anniversary of the month of joining. Membership fees are treated as income when the subscription is received except when the membership exceeds one year. Income received in respect of memberships exceeding one year are carried forward as income in advance (current liability) and recognised in the subsequent period. Fees received from new members whose membership has not been approved prior to year-end are brought to account as income in advance (current liability) and carried forward to the year in which the membership is approved.

Conference and Seminar events income and expenditure are recognised in the year that the event is held. Events

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report

income and expenditure which is received or expended prior to year-end, but which relates to an event to be held after year end, is recognised as income in advance (current liability) and conference expenses prepaid (current or non-current asset) and is carried forward to the year in which the event is held. Where conference administration is outsourced, income received and expenditure incurred by the conference organiser prior to year-end, but which relates to a conference to be held after year end, have not been recognised.

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

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

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred

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

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

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

Accounts Payable and Other Payables

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

	2024	2023
2. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Prepayments		
Prepaid Expenses and Event Deposits	240,585	236,859
Total Prepayments	240,585	236,859
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	240,585	236,859
	2024	2023
3. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant and Equipment at Cost		
Art Collection	2,500	2,500
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(653)	(555)
Office Furniture & Equipment	31,054	21,621
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(20,899)	(17,501)
Total Plant and Equipment at Cost	12,002	6,064
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	12,002	6,064
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	12,002	6,064

	2024	2023
4. INTANGIBLES		
Website costs		
Website Development	31,299	31,299
Less Accumulated Amortisation	(21,941)	(17,269)
Total Website Costs	9,358	14,030
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	9,358	14,030

	2024	2023
5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade Payables		
Accounts Payable	4,900	5,525
Total Trade Payables	4,900	5,525
Other Payables		
ANZ Credit Card	10,618	13,384
Prepaid Income	760,706	298,081
Sundry Creditors	12,705	11,520
Total Other Payables	784,029	322,985
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	788,929	328,510

	2024	2023
6. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS		
PAYGW Payable	5,710	5,504
Provision for Annual Leave	14,289	8,023
Provision for Long Service Leave	26,950	19,049
TOTAL EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS	46,949	32,576

7. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

Australian Evaluation Society Ltd did not have any transactions with related parties during the financial year ended 30 June 2024. None for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

AUSTRALIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd during and at the end of the financial year ending on 30 June 2024 and satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

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



Signed



Signed

Dated 15 August 2024

Compilation Report

Australian Evaluation Society Ltd For the year ended 30 June 2024

Compilation report to Australian Evaluation Society Ltd.

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd, which comprise the asset and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2024, income and expenditure statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Board of Directors

The Board of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

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

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the Board who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.



VP Cannizzaro & Co

Fellow Certified Practising Accountant & Chartered Tax Advisor

PO Box 606, Carlton South Victoria 3053

Dated: 12 / 08 / 2024

Auditor's report

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

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Australian Evaluation Society Ltd (The Entity), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2024, income and expenditure statement, the statement of movements in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements and the declaration by the members of the board.

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

- giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2024.

Basis for Opinion

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

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

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

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



LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME
APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS LEGISLATION

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 one 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 report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting 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 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 the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.


BPR Audit Pty Ltd (15/06/2024 10:54 GMT+10)


Bernie Rohan
Director

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

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

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2024 there have been:

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


BPR Audit (15 Aug 2024 10:54 GMT+10)

Bernie Rohan
Director

BPR Audit Pty Ltd
(Authorised Audit Company)
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G03, 12-14 Cato Street
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Dated: Aug 15, 2024

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