



AES Indigenous Evaluation Special Interest Group (SIG) Workshop



Wellington Conference

2 September 2010

+ Where have we been?

Nea Harrison

- Overview of the history of the SIG and its objectives
- Acknowledgments of NZ evaluators and Australian focus
- SIG outcomes to date:
 - Endorsement of ethics and good practice guidelines
 - Establishment of Google Group
 - Regional activities
- SIG Working group
 - June Lennie, Nea Harrison, Diane Walker, Sue Leahy, Wendy Mathews, Kim Grey, Silvia Cosier, Carol Thomas, Valerie Alberts, Cara Waller, Nan Wehipeihana, Kataraina Pipi



Lessons from Maori evaluators

Nan Wehipeihana

- Tertiary based pathways to evaluation
- Community based (ECB) pathways to evaluation
- Project based pathways to evaluation

Increase awareness of evaluation as having the potential to make a difference for indigenous communities

- Provide opportunities to become involved in evaluation – not solely as an evaluator
- Address the critical issue of cultural and social isolation of emerging indigenous evaluators



+ AES Conference Support Grants

June Lennie, Diane Walker

Challenges and issues

- Few applications from Indigenous Australians since the scheme began in 2007.
- Grants were very widely promoted to Indigenous networks, organisations and media in 2010 but only one application from an Aboriginal evaluator was received.
- Some applications provided insufficient information.
- The eligibility criteria needed to be clarified and prioritisation of some groups considered.



Conference Support Grants (cont.)



Successes and improvements to the scheme

- The grants have enabled successful applicants from many countries in the region to build their evaluation capacity and extend their professional networks.
- One Māori recipient has completed post-graduate studies in evaluation and two Pasifika recipients have been active members of the AES 2010 conference committee.
- The application form was improved after the 2009 round.
- An improved assessment process has been developed.
- A review of the scheme was completed in July 2010 and several recommendations for improvements or revisions and promotion of the grants was made to the AES Board



Conference Support Grants (cont.)



Learnings

- Providing mentoring and support to applicants is important to increasing the quality and number of applications.
- The best quality applicants should be supported. They need some evaluation experience, a commitment to the field and good prospects of helping to build Indigenous evaluation capacity.
- We need to use numerous strategies to increase the number of applications from Indigenous Australians, including marketing the positives of the AES to them.
- We need to keep in mind that the ultimate goal and vision is to increase the number of Indigenous evaluators. We need to review how well we are progressing towards this goal.

+ Building capacity in evaluation

Wendy Matthews, Kim Grey

- Examples of how AES can support good practice



+ Where to next?

Small groups facilitated by members of the Indigenous SIG

Groups to discuss strategies for:

- Promoting partnerships between the AES and Indigenous organisations, groups and peoples
- Sharing information
- Supporting learning; strengthening capacity of Indigenous and non Indigenous evaluators
- Encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for AES conference support grants
- Identifying what the AES has to offer the Indigenous Sector
- Other issues identified by participants



+ Where to next?

- Small groups feed back to large group



+ How will we get there?

Large group activity facilitated by Sue Leahy and Carol Thomas

- Prioritise activities for the next year (against criteria of most needed, most strategic and most achievable)
- People to volunteer to convene and support chosen activities
- Select a Convener for the SIG for 2010-11
- Select a committee for the SIG
- Plan for implementation
- Identify additional support needed from the AES

+ Review of outcomes

Cara Waller

- Confirmation of what we have agreed today
- Conveners of the AES Indigenous SIG:
 - Carol Thomas and Diane Walker will co-convene the Indigenous SIG with support from the Members of the working group.
- See next slides for details of priorities and contact people to drive each of the strategies

+ Results from workshop working groups

Supporting learning: strengthening the capacity of Indigenous and non-Indigenous evaluators		
Strategy/idea	Number of votes	Contact person
National standard - why – if not using Indigenous evaluators	2	Peter Ryan: 0438284682
Web info on cadetship, grants etc Links to orgs with cadetship opportunities	1	
Registry of Indigenous researchers - mentoring- training pathways - AES involvement/support for this	9	Wendy Mathews
Capacity development practitioners links - Linda Kelly, ACT; Debra Rhodes - Strengths-based approach - Learning across cultures - Cross cultural evaluation teams	4	Diane McDonald
Incorporating cross-cultural evaluation into academic courses	1	Diane McDonald
Publishing the Closing the Gap clearinghouse - AES journal (role/purpose)	2	Kim Grey



+ Results from workshop working groups

Promoting partnerships b/w AES and Indigenous organisations, groups and peoples		
Strategy/idea	Number of votes	Contact person
AES website for Indigenous researchers, evaluators, advisors, consultants re specific issue	3	Cheryl Reed: cheryl.reed@tns.global.com
Partnerships in the research, carrying through to partnerships in presenting = funding to attend the conference and present the evaluation	4	Kim Grey and Annette
AES to consider facilitating/supporting access to workshops or webinars	1	-
Form strategic partnership with research centres	4	Sue and Silvia

+ Results from workshop working groups



What the AES has to offer the Indigenous sector (and learn from)		
<i>Strategy/idea</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
Mentoring (could AES run program?)	1	
Creating safe spaces for expressing different knowledge systems	2	Di
Networking with other evaluators <ul style="list-style-type: none">- other Indigenous people- people who get where you're coming from	2	

+ Results from workshop working groups

Encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to apply for AES conference grants		
<i>Strategy/idea</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
Breaking down distinction between research and evaluation	3	
Changing perception about AES - concept of the 'Society' as elitist	4	Diane Walker
Stories in newspapers about community projects to highlight benefits of evaluation	3	Di
Fund Indigenous researcher to develop experiential program to train non-Indigenous evaluators working in cross-cultural teams	4	Diane McDonald (demc@unimelb.edu.au)

+ Results from workshop working groups

Sharing information		
<i>Strategy/idea</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
Share process, hints and tips, how to engage etc	1	
Need a less formal space to share learnings, tools etc (consider options other than Google group)	3	John Donnelly jsdonnelly@bigpond.com Cara Waller cara.waller@monash.edu

Other issues		
<i>Strategy/idea</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
Supporting cross-cultural experience - awareness of your culture - support reflective practice - looking at own bias	3	-

+ Results from workshop working groups



Increasing numbers of Indigenous evaluators		
<i>Strategy/idea</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>	<i>Contact person</i>
AES going into communities offering regional workshops about evaluation to encourage Indigenous people interested in taking up the evaluation mantle within their communities	7	Nea Harrison Trish Young
Workshops based on Indigenous values to be used within evaluation	6	