

Developmental Evaluation in Indigenous Contexts: Exploring “as Māori” participation in sport and recreation

**AES Conference 1 September 2010
Wellington New Zealand**

Panel Presentation:

Nan Wehipeihana – Director, Research Evaluation Consultancy

Veronica Thompson – Senior Advisor, SPARC

Wiremu Mato – Kaiwhakahaere, Sport Waitakere

Research Evaluation
Consultancy Limited

SPARC
ihi AOTEAROA
Sport & Recreation New Zealand

Developmental Evaluation - what is it?

Developmental evaluation supports innovation development to guide adaption to emergent and dynamic realities in complex environments.

(Michael Quinn Patton, 2010)

The Story of He Oranga Poutama

- Increase participation in sport and recreation – ‘*by Māori*’
- 2007-08 review and programme ‘*re-visioning*’
- *Focus on participation ‘as Māori’* participation in sport and recreation at a community level
 - Tino rangatiratanga (*self determination*)
 - 20 years of Māori development



Redevelopment Summary: HOP 2009

From	To
Increase physical activity of Māori	“Increased participation and leadership as Māori in sport and traditional physical recreation at community level”
Health-outcomes centred	Sport and recreation centred
SPARC framework	Māori development and SPARC framework Māori Potential Approach
Generic Māori focus	Introduce Kaupapa Māori principles
“Logic model”	Developmental Evaluation approach
Historical investment to partners 1 year contract terms	Open and contestable applications process 2 year 9 month contract terms

He Oranga Poutama

- Uncertainty around the new programme concept and direction, not sure what 'as Māori' participation would involve
- New innovative programme and goal
- Values, principles and vision driven
- No formal evaluation evidence from other efforts about what to expect, no real data available to measure key concepts and variables
- Complex environment – contracting economy, political environment, changing organisation

HOP Providers Perspective

- He Oranga Poutama ki Tāmaki Makaurau
- The experience of learning about developmental evaluation
- Applying DE within the:
 - Organisational context
 - Programme context
 - Community context

Roles and relationships of the DE evaluator

- Evaluator is part of the innovation team
- Facilitator and learning coach
- Brings evaluative thinking to the group
- Support or share innovators' values and vision
- Support the feedback process around “what is being developed”

DE context... and the evaluator

Context	Evaluator – ‘The pragmatic bricoleur’
High levels of awareness of context and changes in the wider environment	Vigilance to tracking internal and external emergence
Willingness to balance development and innovation with a commitment to reality testing	High tolerance for ambiguity, and the ability to facilitate values based sense making and decisions
Willingness to explore and dig deeper; the capacity to interpret data and make sense of feedback	Methodological agility and creativity; a willingness and ability to change and respond e.g. design and methods
Courage to face the possibility that some things may not be going so well, and to adapt and keep going	Courage to take on the ‘messy’ journey of ‘unexpectedness’ while retaining a tolerant and critical open mindedness and commitment to truth telling
Preparedness to co-create the future, collaborate and trust	Preparedness to develop long term trusting relationships and be ‘in for the long haul’

Skills, abilities and dispositions

- The ability to build and maintain trusting relationship
 - *Critical in a context of uncertainty, ambiguity and turbulence*
- High level of facilitation skills, multiple settings, stakeholders and contexts
 - *To generate and 'test' ideas, to provide feedback, to ask the 'tough' questions; highly engaging, to build evaluative capability*
- Deep methodological toolkit
 - *Methodological flexibility, eclecticism, and adaptability (Patton, p27, 2010)*
- Enquiring
 - *Observant and critically reflective*
- Systematic
 - *Attention to data and making data driven decisions*
- Courageous
 - *Flexible, adaptable, responsive 'on the run, on the fly'*

References

Gamble J., *A Developmental Evaluation Primer*, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, 2008.

Patton, M. Q. *Developmental Evaluation: Applying Complexity Concepts to Enhance Innovation and Use*. Guilford Press, 2010.

Patton, M.Q. *Utilization-Focused Evaluation*, 4th ed., Sage, 2008.

Wehipeihana, N and McKegg K, *Developmental Evaluation in an Indigenous Context, Reflections on the journey to date*. Presentation to American Evaluation Conference, Orlando, Florida, November 2009

Westley, Frances; Zimmerman, Brenda; Patton, Michael Q. *Getting to Maybe: How the World Is Changed?* Random House Canada, 2006

Kia ora

Nan Wehipeihana – nanw@clear.net.nz

Veronica Thompson – Veronica.Thompson@sparc.org.nz

Wiremu Mato – Wiremu.Mato@sportwaitakere.co.nz

