



## The STEPS Project: Next Steps

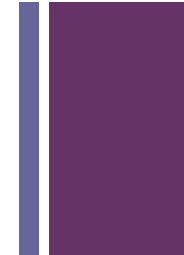
AES Conference, Perth, Australia, 19-21 September

A Boulton, L Warner, S Clarke, J Judd, L Cvitanovic, A Chakraborty, M Cargo

**ST**rengthening **E**valuation **P**ractices and **S**trategies (**STEPS**) in Indigenous settings  
in Australia and New Zealand

# + Acknowledgements

- Members of the team who can't be here today
  - Margaret Cargo
  - Lisa Warner
  - Jenni Judd
- Our respective institutions/organisations
- All those who have contributed thus far as participants, advisors, guides!



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# + Aims of our presentation

- Introduce the project
- Introduce the Project Advisory Group
- Progress to date
- Present early brainstorming data
- Outline where to from here
- Extend an invitation to participate in the brainstorming session, later in the conference

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## + Aim of the STEPS Project

- To strengthen the evaluation practices of evaluators and commissioners of evaluation in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand so that evaluations are more strongly aligned with Indigenous evaluation principles

Strengthening Evaluation Practices and Strategies (STEPS) in Indigenous settings  
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## + Objectives

- Identify a set of strategies and practices to enable culturally safe evaluation in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand
- Rate and prioritise a set of identified strategies for use in an evaluation context
- Use the results to inform the development of recommendations, resources and actions that can be implemented by mainstream organisations to strengthen culturally safe evaluation

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## + Phase 1 (2013-2015)

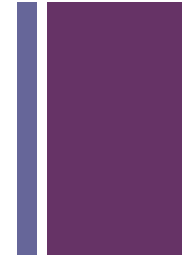
- Literature and scoping review
- Ethics approval
- Development of draft evaluation principles to guide culturally safe evaluation practice
- Draft principles presented
  - AES Conference 2013, 2014, 2015
  - Australian Health Promotion Association Conference, 2014
- Development of principles & conceptual framework

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## + Phase 2 (2015 – 2017)

- Primary data collection using concept mapping methodology
- Formed a Project Advisory Group
- Brainstorming strategies
- Rating and sorting of the strategies
- Interpretation of findings
- Develop recommendations, actions

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# + Project Advisory Group Members

- Australasian Evaluation Society
- Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association
- Ma te Rae, the Māori Evaluation Association of New Zealand
- Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
- Kinnect Evaluation (Māori Evaluation Consulting Company)
- Oxfam Australia
- Fred Hollows Australia
- Australian Health Promotion Association

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### WHY THIS STUDY?

This project will identify a set of practices and strategies that need to be addressed in the funding, design and evaluation of Indigenous health programs. It will assess the importance of these practices and strategies and the feasibility of taking action to address them.

This results from this study will inform the development of resources to support good ways of doing evaluation with Indigenous communities.

#### Step 6: Utilisation

Work with the PAG members to develop resources informed by the results to support good ways of doing evaluation with Indigenous communities.

#### Step 5: Interpreting

Interpret the results depicted in visual maps to understand how these practices and strategies may be more or less important and feasible to taking action in different contexts.

### HOW WILL THE STUDY BE CONDUCTED?

A concept mapping approach will be undertaken to engage stakeholders working in or supporting Indigenous evaluation. Concept mapping has **6 steps**.

#### STEPS Project is informed by a set of evaluation principles ...

1. Respect Indigenous people's right to **self-determination**.
2. Actively **engage** the Indigenous community in the evaluation.
3. Respect for **diversity amongst indigenous peoples** and their **respective cultural protocols**.
4. Respect and support **Indigenous cultural values, knowledge and belief systems**.
5. Develop Indigenous **capacity** during the evaluation process.
6. **Trust, respect** and **reciprocity** characterises the relationship between the evaluators and the Indigenous community.
7. Evaluators demonstrate **flexibility** in carrying out the evaluation such that the evaluation is **responsive** to the needs and issues raised by the Indigenous community.
8. Evaluation contributes to broader **social change**.
9. Evaluation projects must be **relevant and findings used** in a way that meet the needs and priorities of the Indigenous community.
10. Guided by, and follow, existing institutional and/or Indigenous **codes of research ethics** or ethical principles.

#### Step 4: Rating

Engage participants to rate these practices and strategies on their importance and feasibility of taking action.

### WHAT IS CONCEPT MAPPING?

Concept Mapping is a participatory process to identify, organise and prioritise stakeholder's ideas to guide future planning and evaluation efforts.

#### Step 1: Develop a Focus Question

To ensure the planning and conduct of an evaluation benefits Indigenous people these are the things that I must think, feel, see and/ or do...

#### Step 2: Brainstorming

Invite participants to brainstorm practices and strategies in response to the focus question.

#### Step 3: Sorting

Engage participants in a face to face meeting to sort the these practices and strategies (identified in Step 2) into groups that are similar to each other.

We acknowledge that the collective term "Indigenous" is not necessarily used by all those original inhabitants in our two nations to identify themselves. However, for the purposes of this study, and so that we are able to talk about the different Indigenous populations which inhabit our respective territories and nations, we have deliberately chosen this collective term. In reading the document, we ask you to consider the research from your particular perspective.

# + Brainstorming

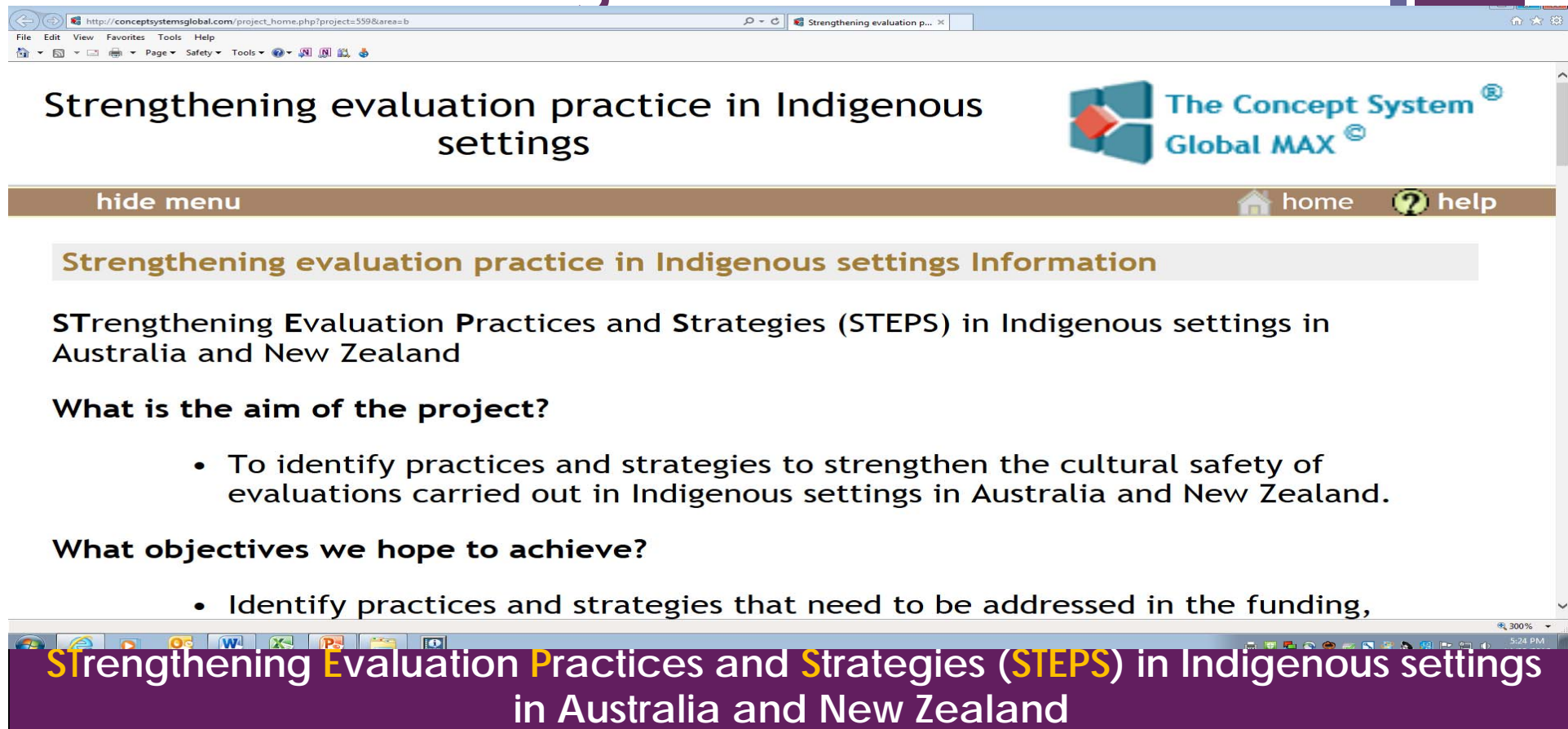
- Developed a focus prompt:

To ensure the planning and conduct of an evaluation benefits Indigenous people, these are the things that I MUST think, feel, see and/ or do?

- Brainstorming activity done online
- <http://conceptsmsglobal.com/STEPS/brainstorm>

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# + Brainstorming site



Strengthening evaluation practice in Indigenous settings

The Concept System®  
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**Strengthening evaluation practice in Indigenous settings Information**

**STrengthening Evaluation Practices and Strategies (STEPS) in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand**

**What is the aim of the project?**

- To identify practices and strategies to strengthen the cultural safety of evaluations carried out in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand.

**What objectives we hope to achieve?**

- Identify practices and strategies that need to be addressed in the funding,

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Please fill out the form below to create your account. Please enter either a username OR an email address. This will become your sign in name.

\* Username or E-Mail:

\* Password:

\* Repeat Password:

First name:

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Password:

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**Participant Questions [PREVIEW]** A- A A+

These screens contain a series of questions that will be used as part of the project analysis. This information will not be used to personally identify you. Follow the instructions to respond to each question, then select the *Continue* button to continue or *Cancel* to exit.

Do you identify as Indigenous?

- ☐ No, I do not identify as Indigenous
- ☐ Yes, I identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ Yes, I identify as Māori
- ☐ Yes, I identify as Indigenous but neither Māori, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

**Continue** **Cancel**

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Are you ...

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Gender diverse

Continue Cancel

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What is your primary role in relation to supporting or practicing evaluation in Indigenous settings?

- ☐ External Evaluator
- ☐ Internal Evaluator
- ☐ Community Member
- ☐ Program/ Project Facilitator or Coordinator
- ☐ Manager/ Administrator
- ☐ Executive Director/ Policy Analyst/ Policy Manager

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What is your most important secondary role in relation to supporting or practicing evaluation in Indigenous settings?

- ☐ External Evaluator
- ☐ Internal Evaluator
- ☐ Community Member
- ☐ Program/ Project Facilitator or Coordinator
- ☐ Manager/ Administrator
- ☐ Executive Director/ Policy Analyst/ Policy Manager

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Through which type of organisation do you primarily contribute to evaluation?

- ☐ Indigenous Organisation
- ☐ Indigenous Community Advisory/ Reference Group
- ☐ University, College, Education Institution
- ☐ Research Institute/ Organisation
- ☐ Private Sector (e.g., consulting, market research)
- ☐ Not-For-Profit Non-Indigenous Organisation

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Participant Questions [PREVIEW] A- A A+

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In which country do you primarily practice or support evaluation?

☐ Australia

☐ New Zealand

☐ a Pacific Island Nation

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**Participant Questions [PREVIEW]** A- A A+

These screens contain a series of questions that will be used as part of the project analysis. This information will not be used to personally identify you. Follow the instructions to respond to each question, then select the *Continue* button to continue or *Cancel* to exit.

How many years of experience do you have supporting or practicing evaluation in Indigenous settings?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ Between 2 and 5 years
- ☐ Between 5 and 10 years
- ☐ Between 10 and 15 years
- ☐ Between 15 and 20 years

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**Participant Questions [PREVIEW]** A- A A+

These screens contain a series of questions that will be used as part of the project analysis. This information will not be used to personally identify you. Follow the instructions to respond to each question, then select the *Continue* button to continue or *Cancel* to exit.

How many years of experience do you have supporting or practicing evaluation in non-Indigenous settings?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ Between 2 and 5 years
- ☐ Between 5 and 10 years
- ☐ Between 10 and 15 years
- ☐ Between 15 and 20 years

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## Brainstorming Statements [PREVIEW]

Brainstorming Statements - In the text box below, type a statement that completes or answers the focus prompt. You may add as many statements as you wish. Please keep each statement brief, just one thought. Select "add this statement" after each statement or idea. Your statement will then be saved and added to the list of collected statements at the bottom of the page. Please review the other statements to see if your idea is already there. If you have a slightly different version of the statement or feel strongly about that statement please feel free to re-add it to the list, in your own words. You may search this list of collected statements using the search function below.

**FOCUS PROMPT: To ensure the planning and conduct of an evaluation benefits Indigenous people these are the things that I must think, feel, see and/ or do .....** ?

⬆

⬇

[Add This Statement](#) Character Count: 0 Maximum size is 250 characters

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## + Results thus far:

- Sent out approximately 120 email invitations
  - 12-15 bounced back
  - 7-10 people responding saying want to participate but did not have capacity (time?) to complete the activity
- Participants selected from AES, AHPA, ANZEA, Oxfam Australia, our professional networks and those of the PAG
- 36 participants across NZ and Australia

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## + Results thus far:

- Of the 36 people who have participated:
  - One third of respondents are external evaluators
  - Programme facilitators or coordinators
  - Internal evaluators
- Would like more input from
  - Community representative (ie those who are the participants in evaluations)
  - Funders/commissioners of evaluation

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# + Brainstorming

■ 126 strategies as at 6 September 2016

“Work with the community to analyse the data, using culturally relevant means”

“Ensure indigenous communities have the opportunity to voice their values, aspirations, fears and experiences about evaluation”

“Ensure indigenous people lead the evaluation process”

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## + So what now?

- If you are interested in participating in the brainstorming we welcome your input
- An opportunity to participate in a face-to-face brainstorming session:

Wednesday 21 September 2-2.30pm, Freshwater Bay Room

OR

- Complete a consent form and we will send you the online link

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## + Post Brainstorming

- Rating and sorting
- Develop the concept maps
- Further meeting with the PAG, to analyse the significance of the maps, and the prioritisation of the strategies
- Consider the recommendations, resources and/or actions that may arise from the results so that we can work to strengthen culturally safe evaluation

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# + Questions?

- For further information please contact us:

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