

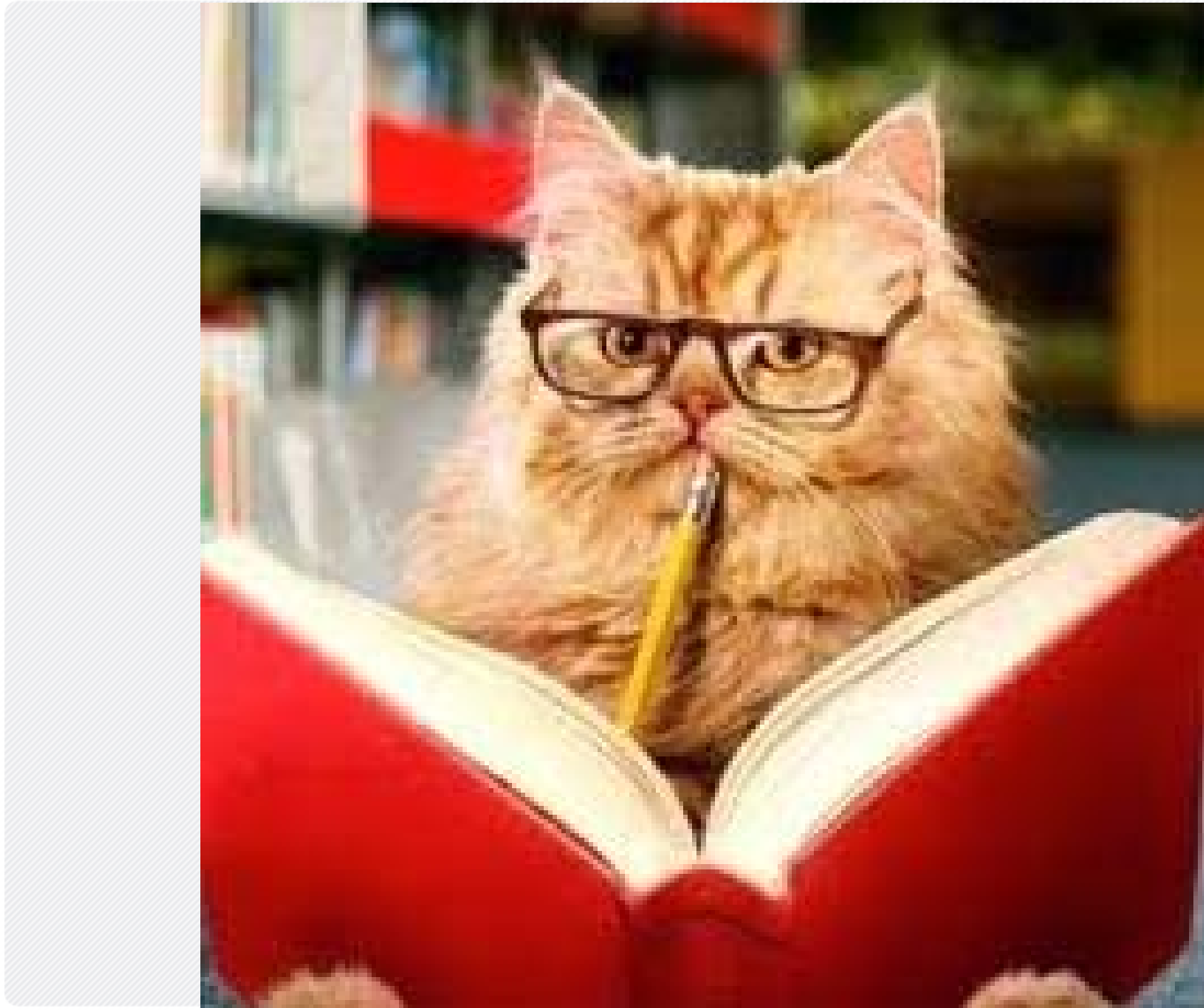


**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

# STRENGTHENING EVALUATION THRU EVALUATION

Tracey McMartin, Office of Development Effectiveness

September 2017





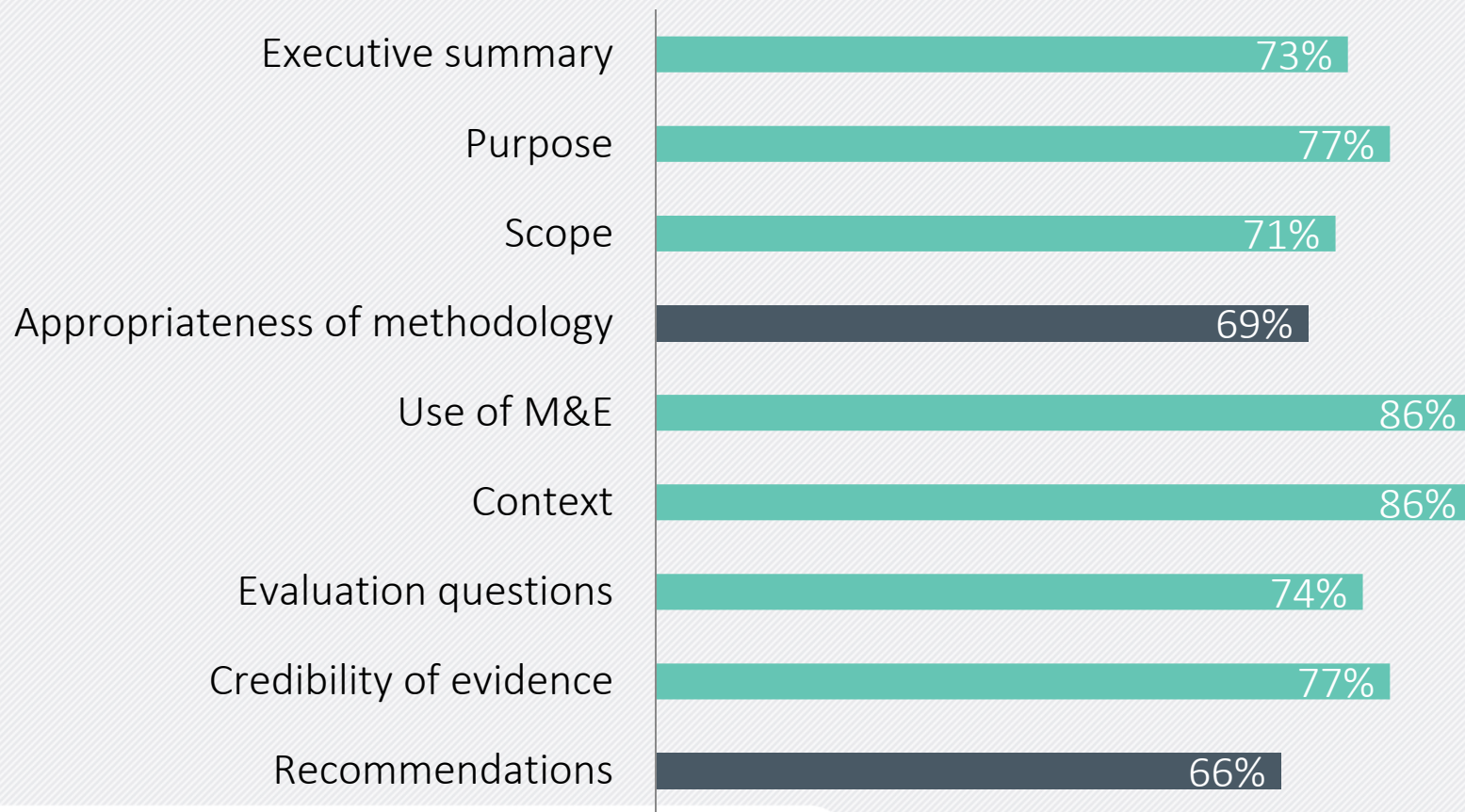
## **REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014**

Policy: All investments valued at \$10m or more to be evaluated at least once in their lifetime

- Purposive sample of 35 evaluations (geographic and sector coverage)
- Assessment criteria based on DFAT Monitoring and Evaluation Standards
- Conducted by ODE staff

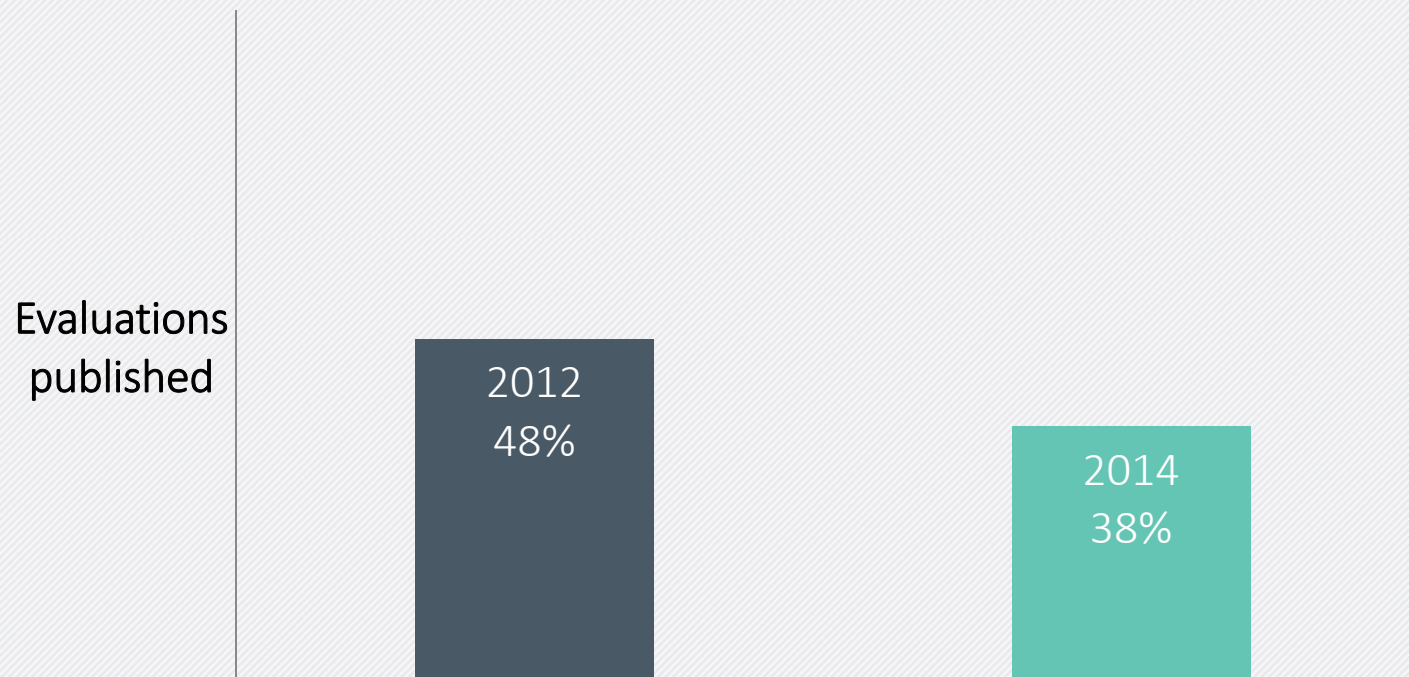
# 2014 EVALUATIONS GENERALLY GOOD QUALITY, BUT.....

Evaluations with adequate or better quality, %



## QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WELL OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS WERE USED

- Located 16 out of a possible 35 management responses
- Low publication rate



# REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014

## Recommendations

DFAT's Executive has the opportunity to consider planned, completed and published evaluations

DFAT senior managers (SES) have direct involvement in deciding what is evaluated in their program, to ensure relevant and useful evaluations are conducted.

## **DEVELOPING THE AID EVALUATION POLICY**

- Evidence from the Review of Operational Evaluations
- Other donor systems
- Consultations with:
  - Staff
  - Independent Evaluation Committee
  - Development Policy Centre
- Approved by the Departmental Executive
- Available on ODE website



# DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

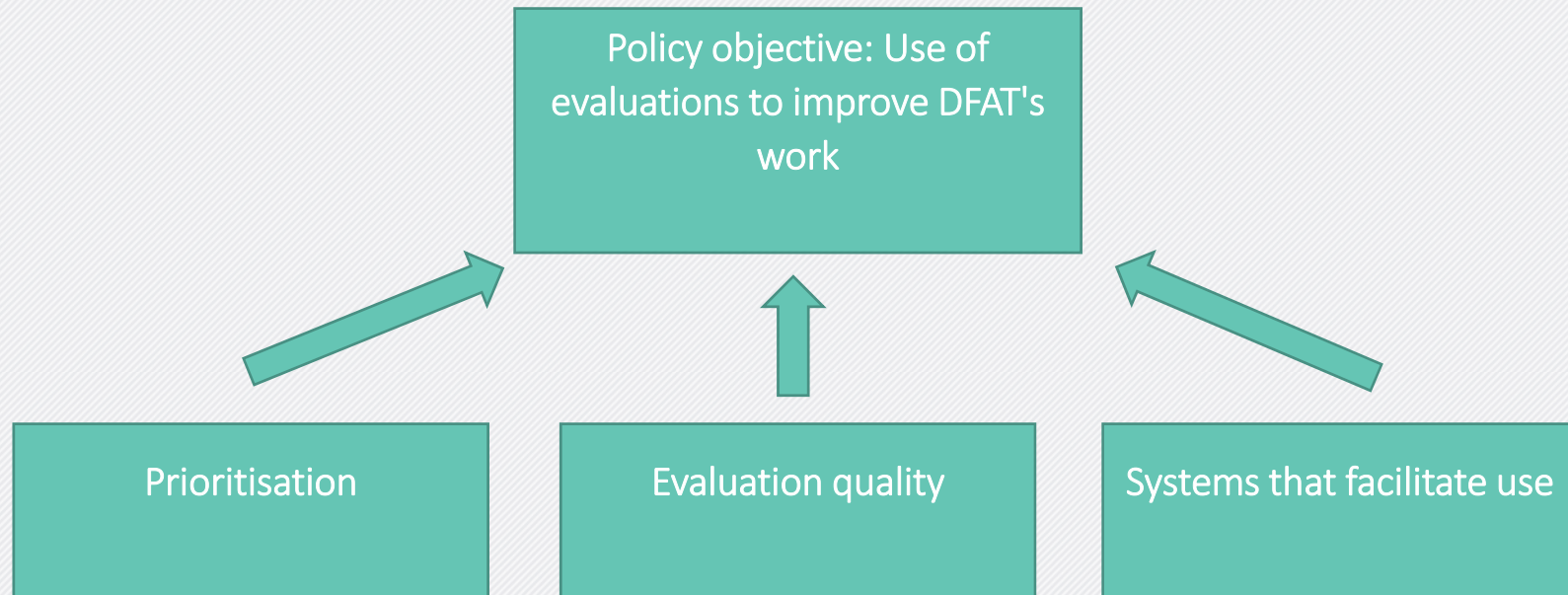
Two levels of evaluation:

- Strategic (ODE)
- Program

## Evaluation use

*“Use is the driving force behind our evaluations. All our evaluations should be commissioned and conducted to maximise the use of evaluation findings and recommendations to improve our work”.*

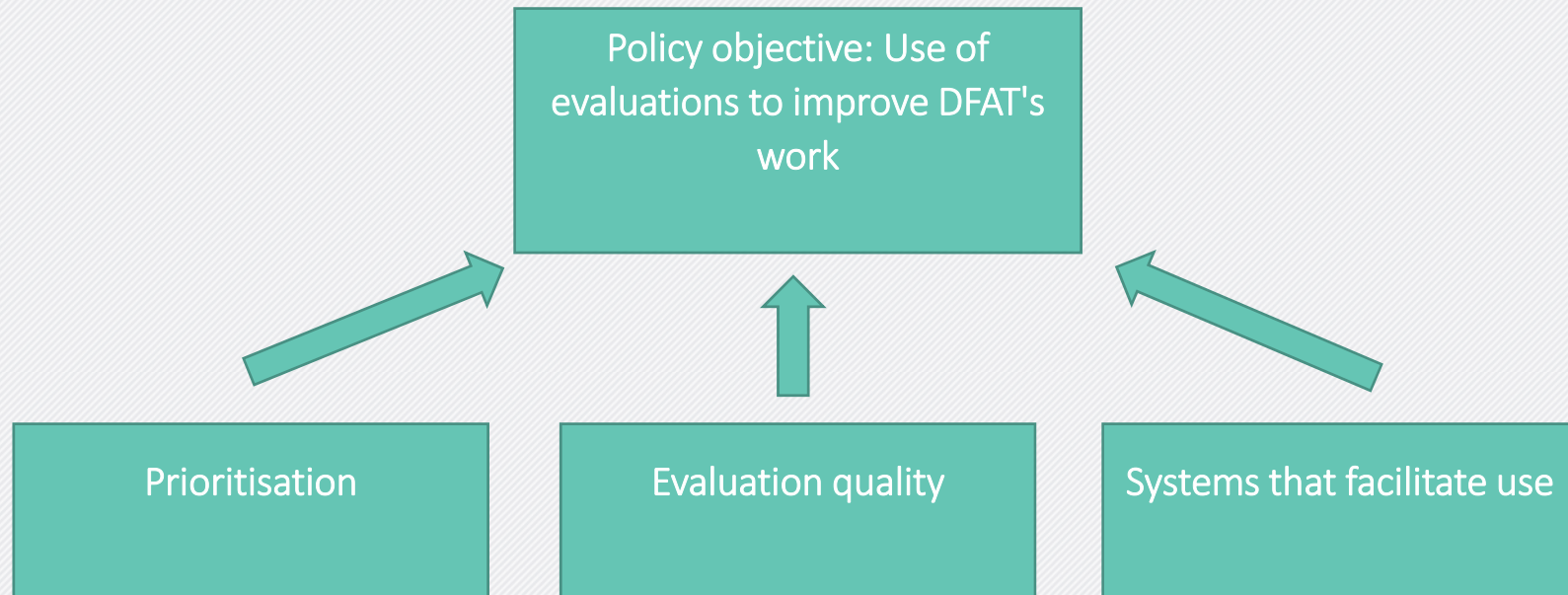
# DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



## **PRIORITISATION**

- Evaluations focus on the highest priority issues
- Minimum number of evaluations per program

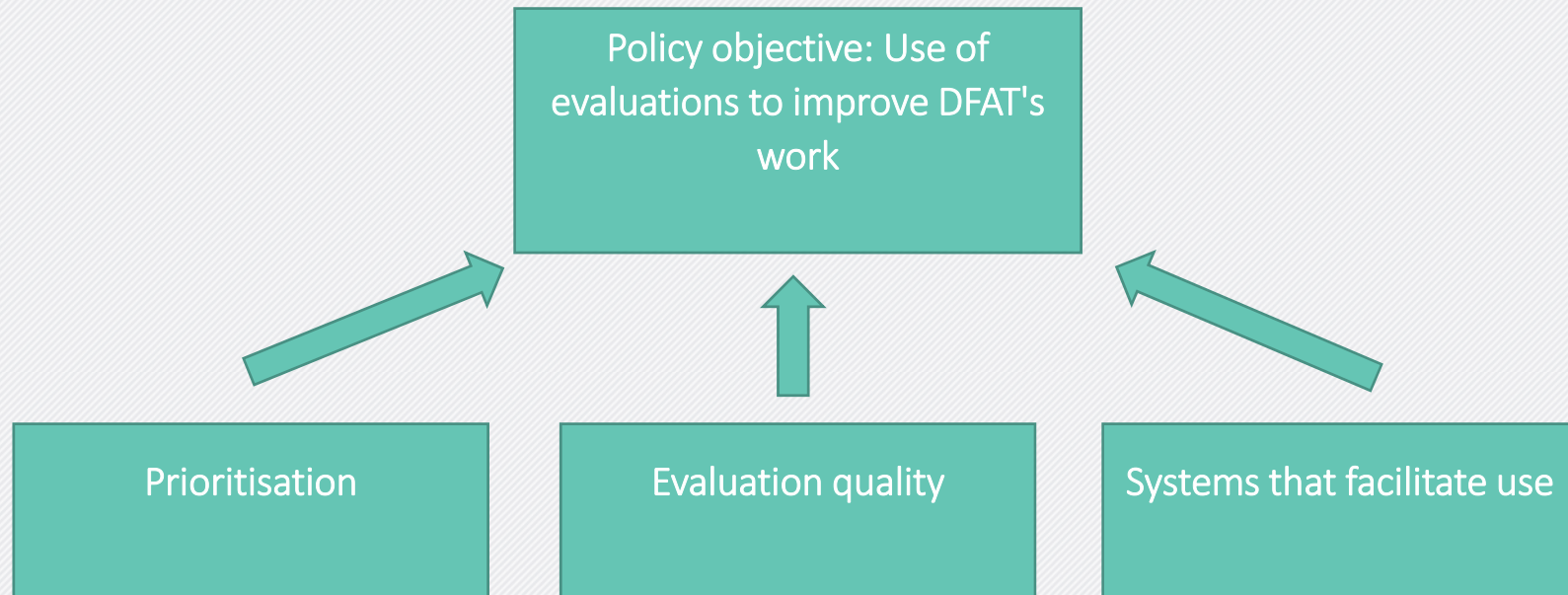
# DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



## **EVALUATION QUALITY**

- Led by an independent person
- Include DFAT staff on evaluation teams
- Early engagement with partners
- DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards
- AES guidelines for ethical conduct

# DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



## **SYSTEMS THAT FACILITATE USE**

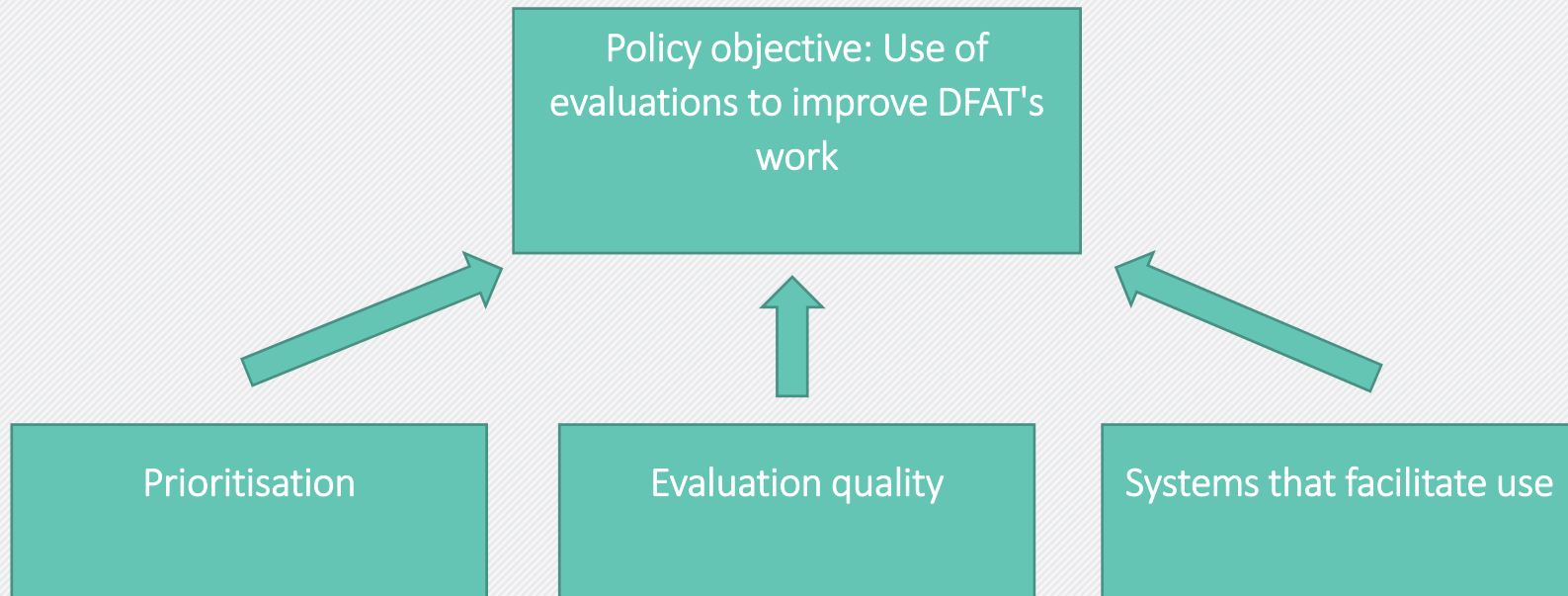
- Management responses required
- Publication within three months of report completion
- Senior management oversight: Annual Aid Evaluation Plan

## **2017 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN**

- DFAT evaluations to be completed and published in 2017
- Five ODE and 41 program evaluations
- Evaluations agreed to by First Assistant Secretary
- Plan approved by DFAT Secretary
- Available on ODE website



# DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



**Assumption:** DFAT senior managers (SES) know how to use evaluations to drive program improvement, and are committed to doing so

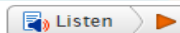
## **MEASURING POLICY SUCCESS**

- Management response and publication rates
- Monitoring of prioritisation process
- Review of Program Evaluations: evaluation quality and practice



# The Office of Development Effectiveness

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<a href="#">Current work</a>	
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<a href="#">ODE evaluations</a>	+
<a href="#">Other work</a>	+
<a href="#">Program evaluations</a>	+
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**Annual Aid Evaluation Plan**  
ODE has released an Annual Aid Evaluation Plan [Read more](#)

- Annual Aid Evaluation Plan**
- Investing in roads**
- Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Assistance**
- The Office of Development Effectiveness: 10 years on**

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) builds stronger evidence for more effective aid. ODE assesses DFAT's internal performance management systems, evaluates the performance of the Australian aid program and contributes to evidence and debate about aid effectiveness.

### ODE Updates

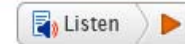
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## ODE evaluation publications

[2017](#) | [2016](#) | [2015](#) | [2014](#) | [2013](#) | [2012](#)

### 2017

- › [Evaluating a decade of Australia's efforts to combat pandemics and emerging infectious diseases in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2015: are health systems stronger?](#)
- › [Investing in roads – lessons from the Eastern Indonesia National Roads Improvement Program](#)
- › [Humanitarian Assistance In The Pacific: An evaluation of the effectiveness of Australia's response to cyclone Pam](#)

### 2016

- › [Evaluation of the management arrangements for the Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund](#)
- › [Evaluation of the partnership between the Pacific Community \(SPC\) and the Government of Australia](#)
- › [Review of Operational Evaluations completed in 2014](#)
- › [Investing in teachers](#)
- › [Gearing up for Trade](#)

### 2015



**Australian Government**

**Department of  
Foreign Affairs and Trade**

