

Quasi experimental and mixed methods evaluations using linked data



Why include quasi-experimental methods and linked data?

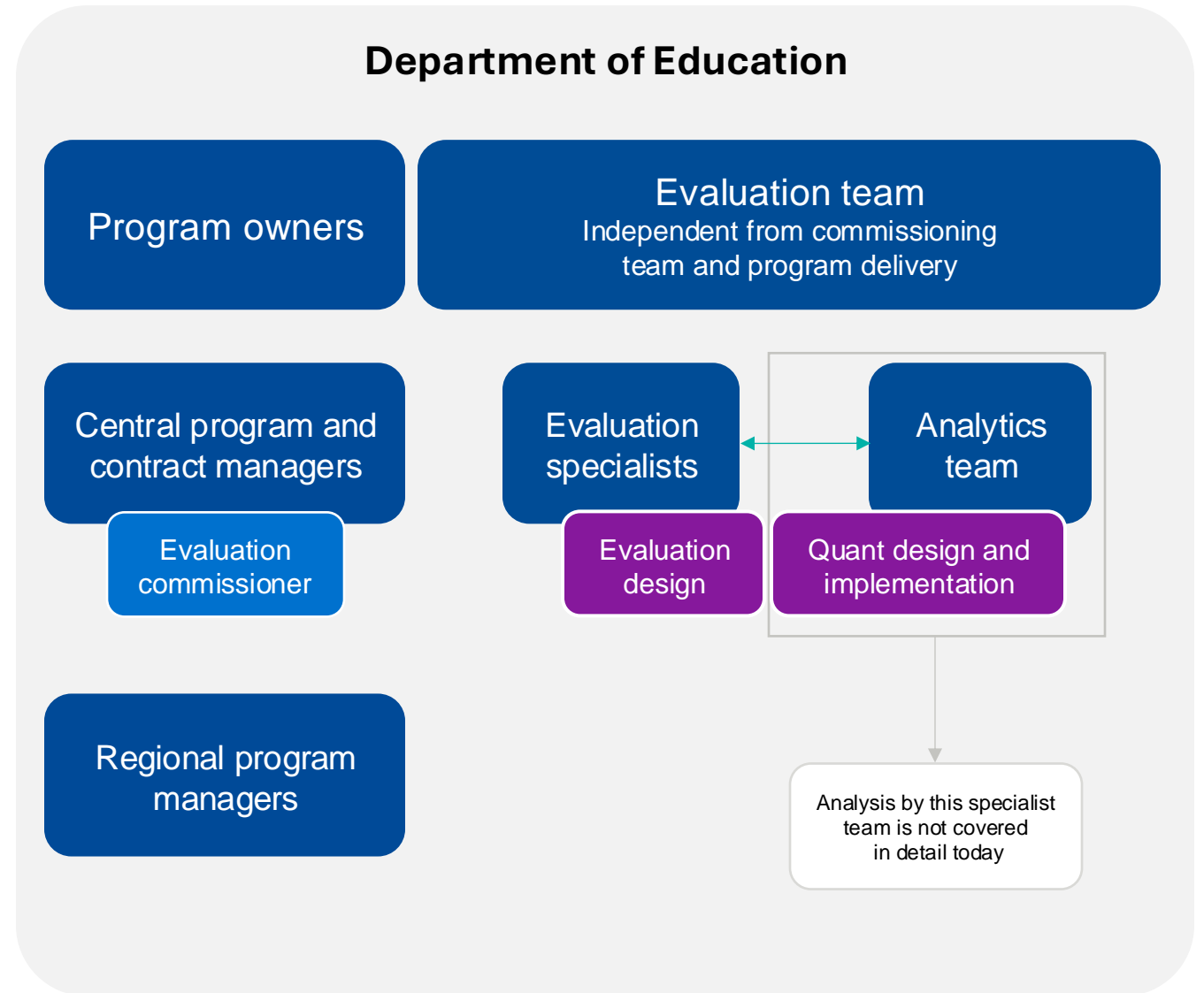
1) Demand for robust and multi-method evidence

- I. Victorian Government lapsing program requirements
- II. Quasi-experimental and other quantitative methods
- III. Economic Evaluation and investment approaches
- IV. Qualitative

2) Significant increase in data availability

- I. Departmental data
- II. Linked data – state and commonwealth level (on the horizon)

3) Example project structure



What is a quasi-experimental approach?

1

A part of the quantitative models (toolkit) of impact measurement methods

2

Aims to establish a cause-and-effect relationship

- I. an independent (intervention)
- II. dependent (outcomes) variable

3

Uses a comparison group

- I. Assignment to groups on non-random criteria (not randomised)
- II. Matching methods

How does DE incorporate quasi-experimental methods in evaluations?

- 1) 6 program evaluations reviewed which used quasi-experimental approaches
- 2) Used multi-methods - quant, qual and economic
- 3) Were at different stages – midline or endline
- 4) Focused on system and cohort level outcomes
- 5) Key outcomes indicators:
 - I. School engagement
 - II. Wellbeing
 - III. Teaching staff shortages
 - IV. STEM
 - V. Mental health
- 6) 2 of the programs used Victorian linked data on service use
 - I. Homelessness
 - II. Mental Health

How do we ensure robustness and relevance?

1

Sensitivity tests

How variation in model could affect results?

- I. Subgroup analysis

2

Triangulation

What else might be relevant to challenge or explain the results?

- I. Qualitative findings
 - II. Literature
- III. Past evaluations

3

Interpretations

What do the results mean?

- I. At what stage is the program?
- II. Were we able to model all key long-term outcomes?

How are the results used?

1

Refinement

- I. Present to executive
- II. Present to project sponsor

2

Communication

- I. Main report
- II. Bulleting for stakeholders

3

Use

- I. Findings and recommendations support business case for funding
- II. Insights inform design of the next funding agreement with supplier

4

Example recommendations

- I. Expand the scope of avoided cost calculations by linking more datasets
- II. Improve measurement of student outcomes during service delivery

Questions & answers

Thanks to our colleagues

- The 6 evaluations that informed this presentation were conducted by the Evaluation and Program Impact Branch and Analytics and Insights (A&I) team members.