

Charting the Course: Measuring Organisational Evaluation Capacity Building

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A partnership for evaluation capacity building

In 2021, WAAC (WA AIDS Council) and Curtin established a five-year partnership that aimed to:

- Support WAAC to deliver evidence-informed services.
- Build evaluation capacity within WAAC to support continuous improvement and sustainability.
- Contribute to the evidence base of ECB partnership models.

Used a co-location model. Activities included developing TOC, MEL frameworks, implementing new systems and software for data collection and reporting, training and mentoring.

Survey aims and methods

Aims of survey

1. Understand the level of evaluation capacity to inform actions of the partnership.
2. Assess the presence of relational factors that support the development of evaluation capacity.
3. Understand the impact of the partnership on evaluation capacity 12 months after inception.

The online survey was developed by modifying two existing tools (1) an evaluation practice analysis survey (Schwarzman 2020) and (2) survey to assess capacity building partnerships (Tobin, under review).

Understanding existing levels of capacity to inform action

At baseline, evaluation capacity was assessed across six domains of capacity (Schwarzman, 2020).

1. **Evaluation attitudes and beliefs**
2. **Evaluation skills**
3. **Organisational evaluation culture**
4. **Leadership for evaluation**
5. **Evaluation systems and structures**
6. **Tools for evaluation**

Evaluating the impact of the partnership

The second survey was administered one year after the partnership commenced. It combined the baseline questions with additional questions related to the relationship between the evaluation team and WAAC staff on a five-point Likert scale (Never-Always). Questions included:

- 1) The support I received was relevant to my work.
- 2) The support I received met my expectations.
- 3) The Curtin Team can be relied on to do what they say they will do.
- 4) The Curtin Team and I worked together to effectively problem solve and overcome difficulties.

Charting the course of the partnership

The survey was a valuable tool in charting the course of the partnership. It provided:

- Insight into areas for the partnership to focus on at different time points e.g. leadership for evaluation.
- A useful method of assessing the health of the WAAC-Curtin relationship and its ability to foster evaluation capacity.