



Australian Government  
The Treasury

Australian  
Centre for  
Evaluation

ace

# Australian Centre for Evaluation

AES Conference September 2024

[evaluation.treasury.gov.au](http://evaluation.treasury.gov.au)

# 1. Overview

# Our Purpose

- Put evaluation evidence at the heart of policy design and decision-making.
- Improve the volume, quality, and use of evaluation evidence
- Support better policy and programs that improve the lives of Australians.



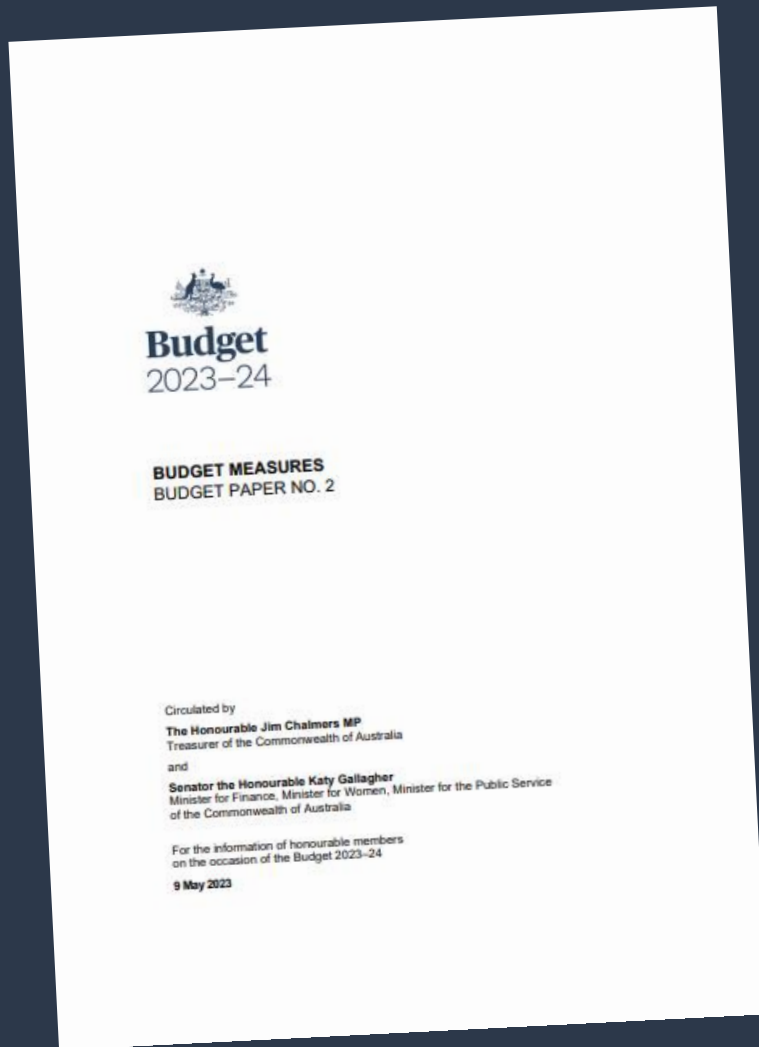
# 2023-24 Budget

In the 2023–24 Budget, the it would establish the Australian Centre for Evaluation, within the Department of the Treasury.

The announcement included funding of \$10 million over 4 years (and \$2.1 million per year ongoing).

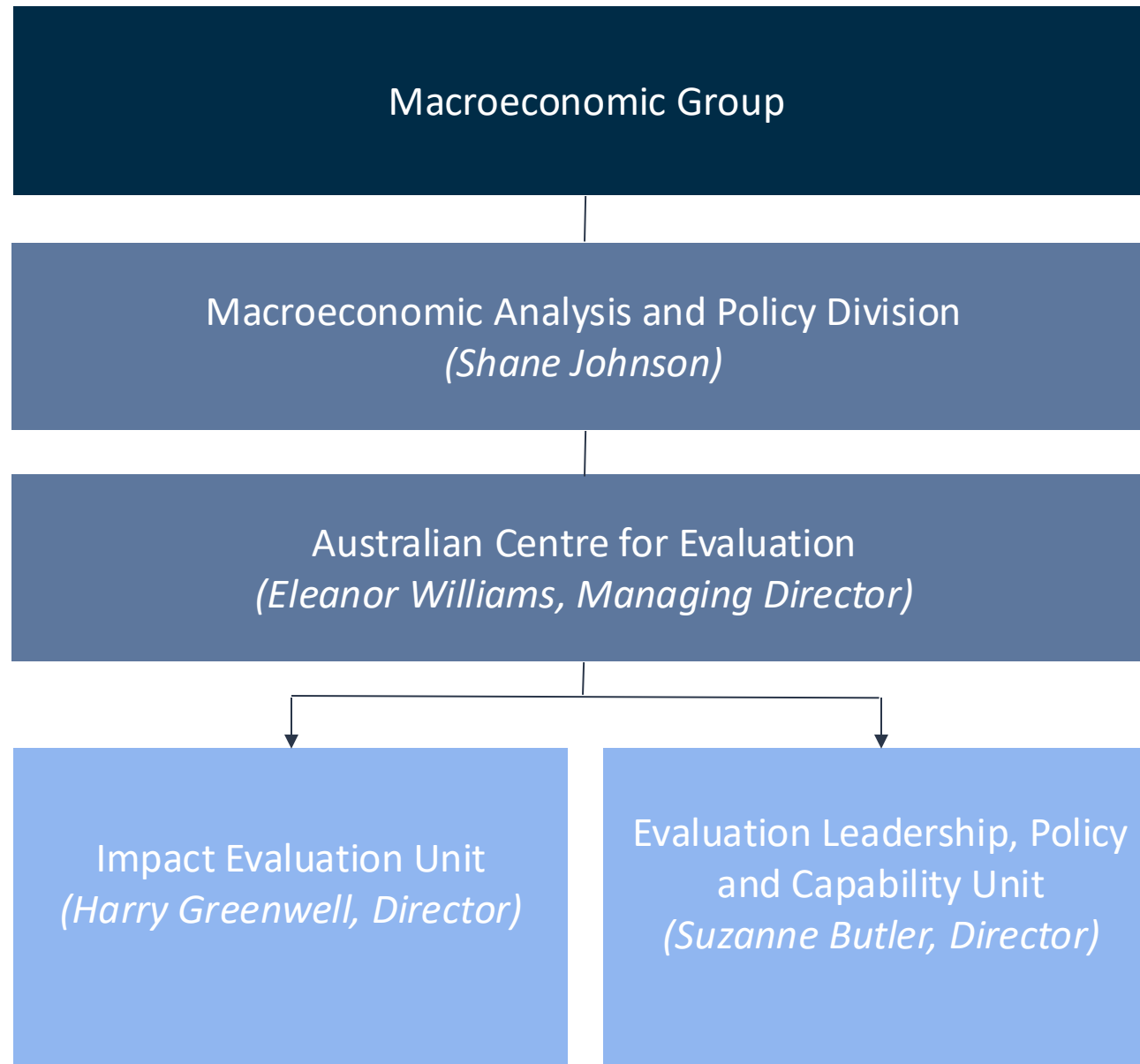
The aim of the ACE was to provide leadership and support to improve evaluation capability across government and lead a small number of impact evaluations.

[Budget Paper No. 2: Budget Measures](#) (p 213)



**Our structure:**

**ACE sits in the  
Australian Department  
of the Treasury**



## 2. Brief History

# Australian Public Service Reform Context

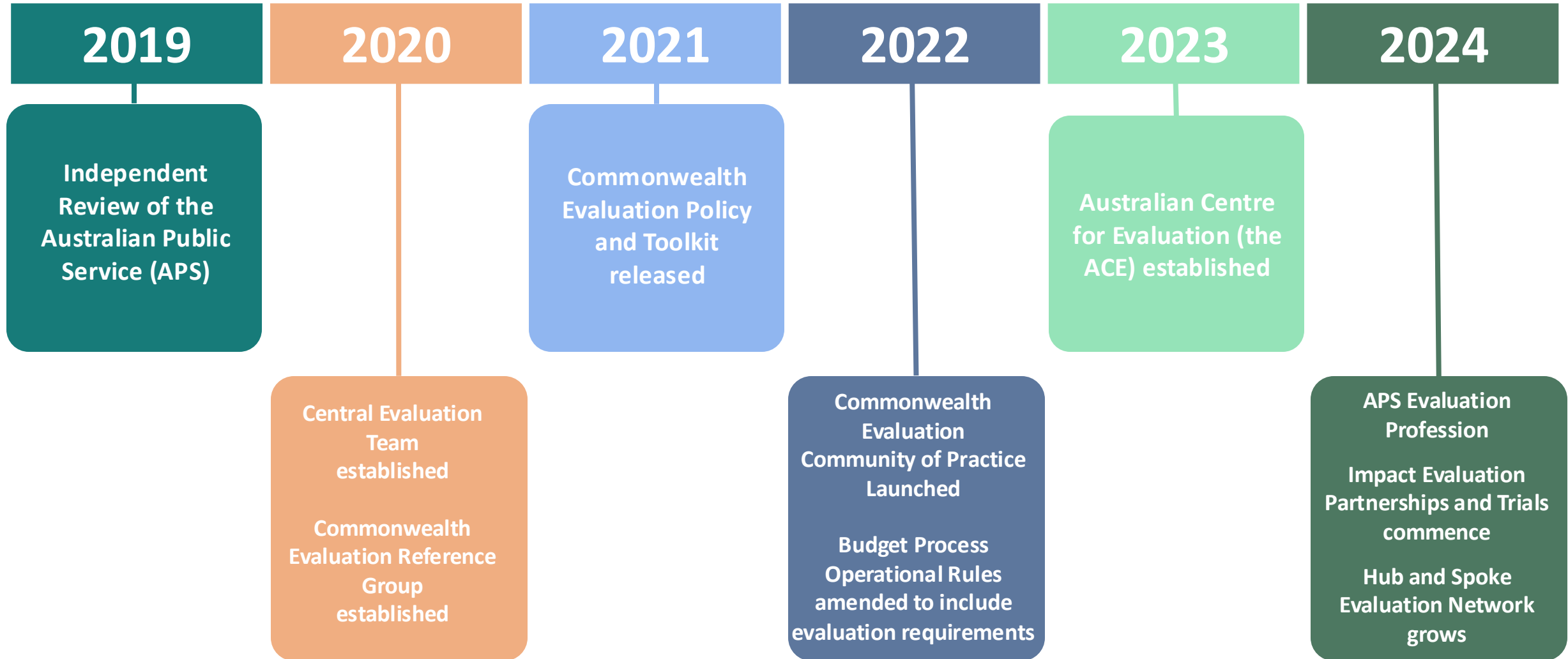


## *Recommendation 26*

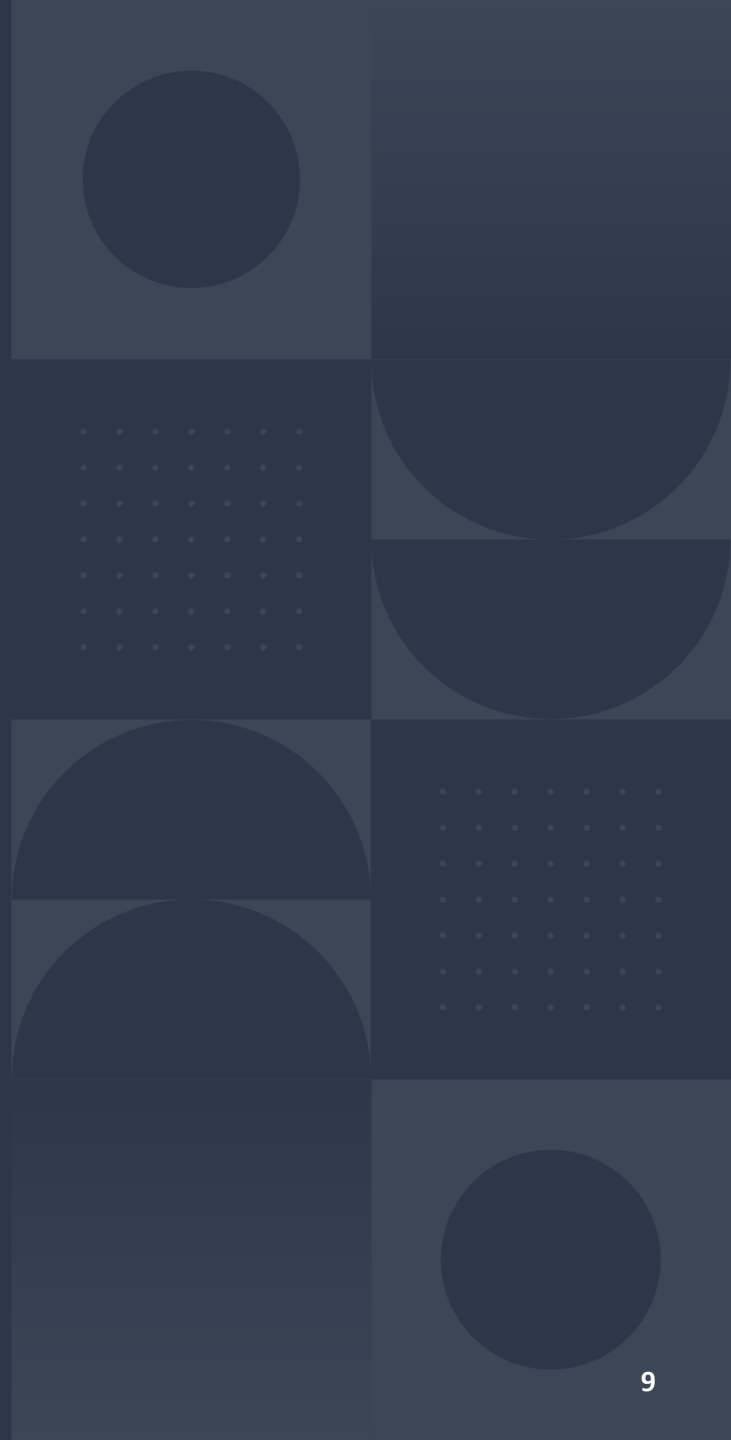
Embed a culture of evaluation and learning from experience to underpin evidence-based policy and delivery.

- Finance to develop, for Secretaries Board agreement, an APS-wide approach to build evaluation capability and ensure systematic evaluation of programs and policies.
- Finance to establish a central enabling evaluation function to support APS evaluation practices and expertise.
- Agencies to establish in-house evaluation functions and annual plans, and publish evaluations, unless exempt by the Cabinet.
- Government to amend Cabinet and budget requirements to establish a systematic approach for formal evaluations.

# Evaluation Reform Timeline



# 3. What do we do?



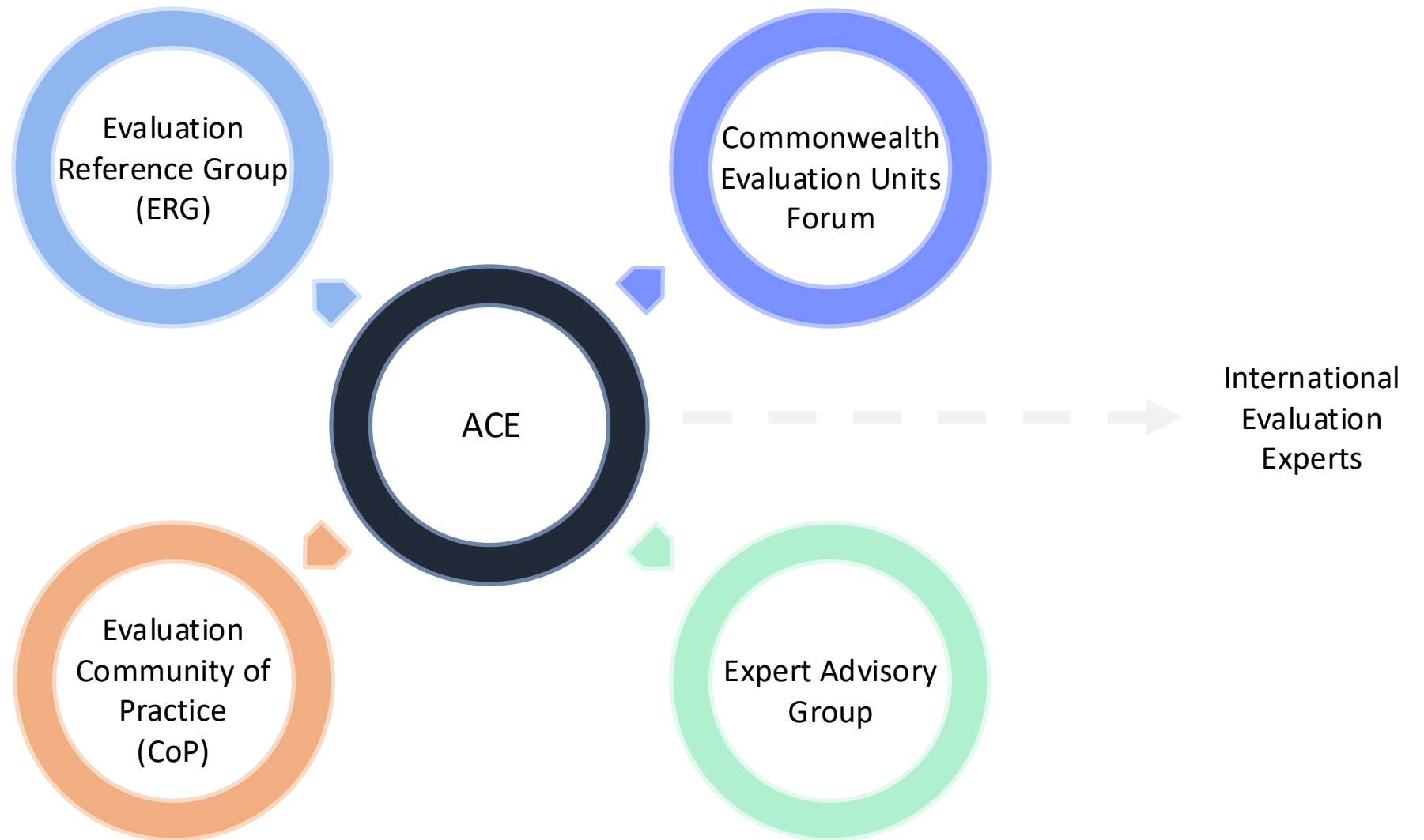
# Four key areas of focus

- 1 Provide central leadership on evaluation
- 2 Drive and deliver high quality impact evaluations
- 3 Help build evaluation capability across the APS
- 4 Support the use of evaluation

impact  
evaluation  
value  
plan  
outcomes  
tracking  
measures  
planning

# 4. How will we do it?

# 1. Central leadership on evaluation



# Commonwealth Evaluation Policy

**Principles-based policy** to support fit-for-purpose evaluative approaches

- The Policy is designed to:
  - embed a **culture** of evaluation
  - improve the **quality** of performance reporting
  - improve the way entities **use** evaluation

# Commonwealth Evaluation Policy (Continued)

## Five key principles



Fit for purpose



Useful



Robust, ethical and culturally appropriate



Credible



Transparent

# Commonwealth Evaluation Toolkit

## Evaluation toolkit



### What is evaluation

Assess the design, implementation or results of programs and activities to support continuous improvement, accountability and decision-making



### Why evaluate

Plan how to evaluate programs and activities early to meet relevant policy and legislative requirements



### When to evaluate

Identify and prioritise the timing and type of evaluation needed at different stages of the policy cycle using risk-based approaches



### Who evaluates

Identify evaluation roles and responsibilities based on the design and purpose of an evaluation and the capabilities within Commonwealth entities



### How to evaluate

Steps involved in planning and conducting an evaluation and key questions to consider



### Impact evaluation

Determine if a program or policy achieves its intended outcomes



### Templates, tools and resources

Comprehensive set of templates, tools and resources to help you plan and conduct an evaluation



### Evaluation planning for new policy proposals

Consider and determine fit for purpose evaluation, monitoring and learning plans for New Policy Proposals (NPPs)



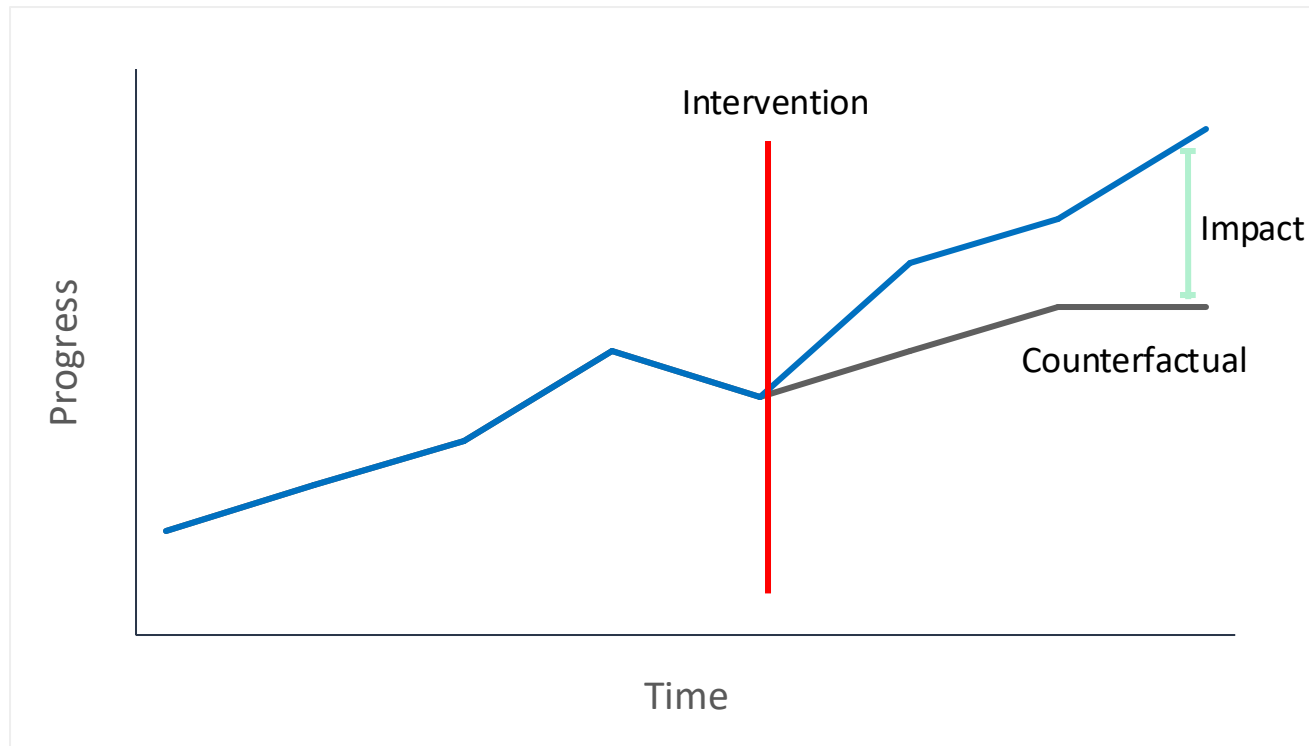
# Commonwealth Evaluation Community of Practice

Launched in September 2022.

Over 850 members from  
**73** Commonwealth entities,  
including **16** Portfolio Departments



## 2. Drive and deliver high quality impact evaluations

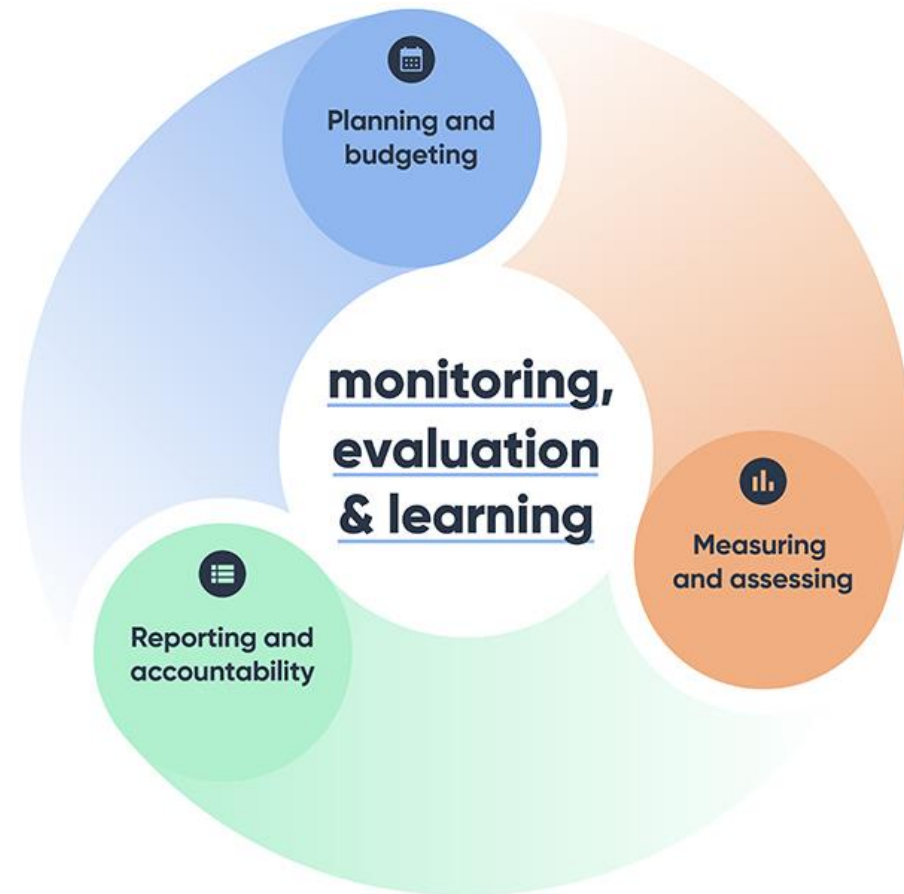
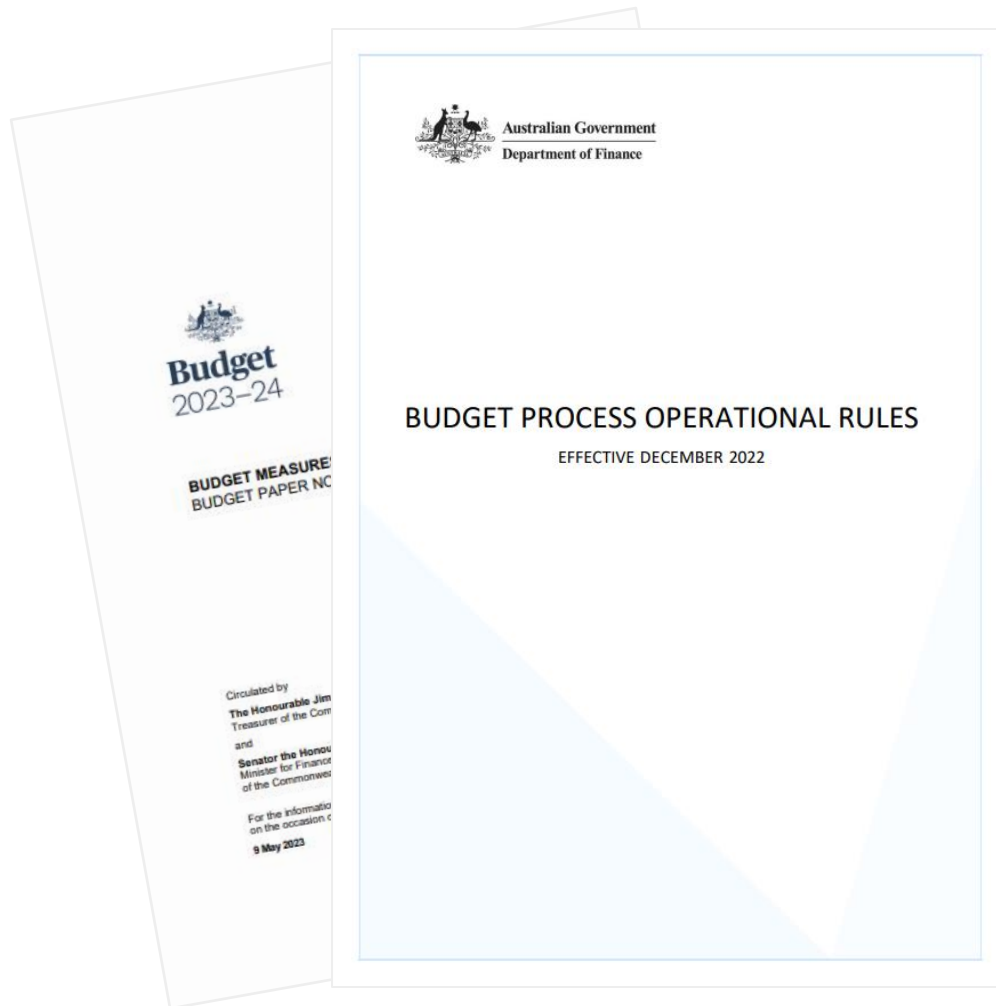


# 3. Help build evaluation capability across the APS



APS Academy, 2021

# 4. Support the use of evaluation



# Contact details and more information

Contact us: [evaluation@treasury.gov.au](mailto:evaluation@treasury.gov.au)

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