

I'd like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we are conferencing especially the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We pay respects to ancestors, elders past present & emerging. We acknowledge the unique cultural & spiritual relationships to land, water and seas. We pay homage to all our indigenous brothers and sisters who are here tonight.

E rere kau mai te awa nui nei, mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa.

Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au.

Ko wai au?

He mokopuna o te awa o Whanganui.

Ko Gill Potaka-Osborne tōku ingoa.

E mahi ana au ki Whakauae Research Services.

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou, nau mai haere mai

Tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

### Introduction - Kevin Dolman an Eastern Arrernte man

Welcome everybody, what I just said was very important, it talks about where I come from in Aotearoa New Zealand. I come from a place called Whanganui where the river is important because it provides food, it is a means of travel, a meeting place and a place of spiritual support. In 2017, it was accorded the legal status and rights of a person through Treaty negotiations. Importantly, its interests will be represented by my tribe.

On Monday, Tracy Westerman said "We are a collective culture, we are a collaborative culture". As such I would like to thank my collective, my indigenous brothers and sisters including Doyan. Kevin, Sharon & Kiri who assisted with the award assessment process, the other members of the assessing committee, the board, Bill and Michelle whose hard work makes this conference happen. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Andy Moore, Teresa Taylor, Margaret Cargo, Lynley, Maaki & Bertz some of my fellow evaluators.

I would also like to thank Dr Amohia Boulton, Director of Whakauae Research Services; past AES board member, a student of Jennies and my boss; who gave me the time to participate in the award process.

Before I present the award I would like to tell a story. In 2015 I was the recipient of a conference support grant – a very daunting process. In 2016 & 2017 I attended both

conferences presenting on community projects. In 2018, my community was awarded an excellence award and now in 2019, I am part of the assessing committee. This journey shows that anything is possible. When I first met Kevin, he asked me are you a Dr or a Professor?

I replied (feeling fraudulent) “I am just indigenous”. It is only recently that I have realized the impact of what I said, because the communities I work with don’t care about a tertiary qualification, they care about my connections to people, to land and that I will do an excellent job of making sure their authentic voice will be heard.

Now on to the indigenous award

The Indigenous Evaluation Award recognises Indigenous evaluation practice. This includes evaluations led by Indigenous peoples, and/or conducted in partnership with Indigenous peoples. It also recognises evaluation capacity building with Indigenous peoples in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Pacifica.

This year, the Indigenous Evaluation Award is given to an exemplary Australian evaluation conducted by a team committed to enabling Indigenous self-determination and empowerment from the outset. This was due in large part to the Indigenous leadership within the team combined with the skill and experience of the other team members’ previous work in this context.

The evaluation demonstrated how collaborative and participatory approaches, together with a strong partnership model enabled and paid respect to the roles and cultural imperatives of the two organisational partners involved, as well as to the intended objectives of the NSW government agency involved., as well as to the intended objectives of the NSW government agency involved.

Overall, the Award winner has made a strategic contribution to fostering a culture of evidence building and evaluation capacity for the ongoing monitoring and review of the Aboriginal services sector in NSW.

The judges are confident that their work will lead to increased benefits for the two organisation’s service recipients, who are Aboriginal families whose children are at risk of removal, and Aboriginal boys aged 12–15 years who are seeking to develop their resilience and life skills.

**The winner of the 2010 Indigenous Evaluation Award is ...**

- Indigenous Evaluation Award ARTD Consultants: Simon Jordan, Sue Leahy, Ruby Leahy  
ARTD Consultants: Simon Jordan, Sue Leahy, Ruby Leahy Gatfield, Kieran Sobels, Christine Eastman, Stephanie Quail, Imogen Williams, Holly Kovac
- Aboriginal Evidence Building Team, Their Futures Matter: Nattlie Smith, Sharon Macleod
- Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Community Centre Inc (Abcare): Garry Mathews, Greg Bennett, Trent Matthews
- Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural and Development Centre: Matt Watts, Damien Thorne, Beverley Tucker, Department of Communities, and Justice Troy Mott, Department of Education

For the Aboriginal Evidence Building Partnership Pilot