



Principles for the Future?: The *STrengthening Evaluation Practices and Strategies (STEPS)* in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand Project

Amohia Boulton, Lisa Warner, Sharon Clarke, Lynley Cvitanovic,
Jenni Judd, Margaret Cargo

ANZEA Conference, Wellington, 18 July 2016

Acknowledgments

- Members of the team who can't be here today
- Our respective organisations
- Those who have participated thus far

Today's aims

- Introduce team members
- Provide an overview of the two key phases of the STEPS Project
 1. identifying a set of principles
 2. concept mapping
- As part of the concept mapping phase, invite participants to brainstorm strategies to strengthen evaluation practice

Aim of the STEPS Project

To strengthen the evaluation practices of evaluators and commissioners of evaluation in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand so that evaluations are more strongly aligned with Indigenous evaluation principles

Objectives

- Identify a set of strategies and practices to enable culturally safe evaluation in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand
- Rate and prioritise a set of identified strategies for use in an evaluation context
- Use the results to inform the development of recommendations, resources and actions that can be implemented by mainstream organisations to strengthen culturally safe evaluation

Rationale

- As evaluators we draw on a set of values or principles in the conduct of our work
- What is the interface between our values and those of the community in which we work?
 - Who is the evaluand?
 - Who comprises the community of interest?
 - What judgements are being made, based on what criteria/knowledge/worldview?

We Asked Ourselves:

- Is there merit in developing overarching Trans-Tasman principles to guide evaluation activities with Indigenous communities in New Zealand and Australia?
- Is it possible to develop a set of practice-based principles to guide culturally appropriate evaluation with Indigenous populations?

Phase 1: Principle Identification

- Literature and scoping review 2013
- Ethics approval
- Development of draft evaluation principles to guide culturally safe evaluation practice
- Draft principles presented to
 - AES Conference 2013, 2014
 - Australian Health Promotion Association Conference, 2014
- Development of principles

The Principles

1. Respect Indigenous people's right to **self-determination**
2. Actively **engage** the Indigenous community in the evaluation
3. Respect for **diversity amongst indigenous peoples** and their **respective cultural protocols**
4. Respect and support **Indigenous cultural values, knowledge and belief systems**
5. Develop Indigenous **capacity** during the evaluation process
6. **Trust, respect** and **reciprocity** characterises the relationship between the evaluators and the Indigenous community
7. Evaluators demonstrate **flexibility** in carrying out the evaluation such that the evaluation is **responsive** to the needs and issues raised by the Indigenous community
8. Evaluation contributes to broader **social change**
9. Evaluation projects must be **relevant and findings used** in a way that meet the needs and priorities of the Indigenous community
10. Guided by, and follow, existing institutional and/or Indigenous **codes of research ethics** or ethical principles

Phase 2: Concept Mapping

- Moving into a phase of primary data collection cf literature review
- Convened a Project Advisory Group
- Developed a focus prompt
- Brainstorm strategies
- Sort and rate strategies
- Interpret findings

Knowledge Translation

- Inform professional development and capacity building activities for evaluators
- Implications for commissioners of evaluation on how to support culturally safe evaluations
- Implications for communities on what they should expect when they get involved in an evaluation
- Potentially produce written or e-resource

Contact Us....

- if you would like to participate in the next stage of the project or simply want more information

Dr Amohia Boulton

amohia@whakauae.co.nz

Associate Professor Margaret Cargo

Margaret.Cargo@unisa.edu.au

Prompt:

To ensure the planning and conduct of an evaluation benefits Indigenous people, these are the things that I **MUST** think, feel, see, and/ or do