



**Flinders
University**

Research Centre for
Palliative Care, Death & Dying

Incorporating Evaluation Thinking about Impact

National Palliative Care Program Forum 2023



Research Centre for Palliative Care, Death, and Dying

CRICOS No. 0014A



Making a difference
to care at the end of life

Acknowledgement of country

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples who are the traditional custodians of the Canberra area and pay respect to the elders, past and present, of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.



Understanding evaluation

Evaluation is a systematic process to determine merit, worth, value or significance. (American Evaluation Association Statement)

Need to understand the purpose of your evaluation

Program logic can be helpful in clarifying the relationship between inputs, outputs, outcomes and the assumptions about why you think things will change.



What do we mean by impact?

Going beyond what we do in terms of delivering the activities to what happens because of doing these activities.

Focus can be identifying impacts or measuring the achievement of the intended impacts.

In broadest terms, impacts address the contribution that the research or activity make to the economy, society, environment or culture



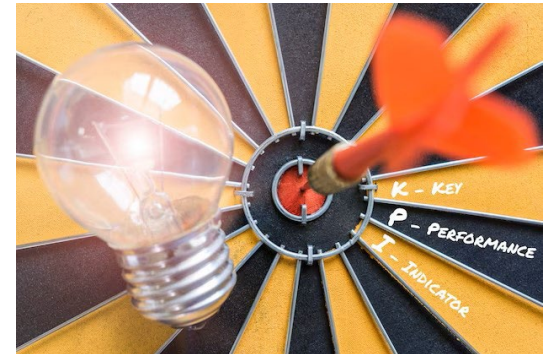
Context matters

Governments are increasingly interested in evaluation and impact.

The Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet even has The Office of Impact Analysis.

National Palliative Care program provides the context for your thinking about evaluation and impact assessment.

Activity workplans now include performance indicators and activity deliverables with measures of success.



Challenges

Clear sense of the meaning of the impact measure

Ability to collect meaningful data without disrupting the ability to deliver the work program efficiently

Think about the intended users or population. Are you interacting with a representative sample? If not is that ok?

So, do you need ethics? And what will that do to your timeline?

Test data measures and collection processes.



Power of the many

Given that all projects are now meeting common program purposes, can we collaborate?

Are there opportunities to use common measures. Even basic ones (eg Monash Modified Model for geographic, same denominators for health professional groups)

Can we exchange and cross support to increase reach and effectiveness of evaluation and impact assessment?



Opportunities

Collaborating with other projects will support whole sector capability and engagement across health and aged care sectors and the community.

Good to develop a common language to discuss the National Palliative Care Program, its intent and how the projects fit together.

Create a **#pallcare impact platform**. Share not only findings but products, tools and resources.

Think about sustainability but also scalability



Helpful resources

Better Evaluation knowledge platform and global community

<https://www.betterevaluation.org/>

Australian Institute for Family studies: Practice Resources (Evaluation and Evidence Support)

https://aifs.gov.au/research_programs/evidence-and-evaluation-support

CareSearch Evidence Centre

<https://www.caresearch.com.au/tabid/6165/Default.aspx>

Greenhalgh, T., Raftery, J., Hanney, S. *et al.* Research impact: a narrative review. *BMC Med* **14**, 78 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-016-0620-8>

London School of Economics Blogs (Filter for impact)

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/recent-posts/?category=Impact>



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