

We are a public policy, evaluation and research consultancy firm based in Wellington, New Zealand.

We are experts in the full policy cycle, including framing, developing, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating policies and programmes to inform improvement and decision making, and to provide accountability.

We mobilise passionate and capable people to tackle the challenges facing society. We strongly believe we can partner with governments, private and not-for-profit organisations to lead important social change.

We give a damn, we are courageous, and we are committed to making a difference. People we work with appreciate our approach, our honesty and our courage to challenge the status quo. They have confidence in our ability to deliver practical solutions with clarity and precision.

WE DELIVER DIVERSE EVALUATION AND RESEARCH WORK

We offer the full ambit of evaluation and research services at operational and strategic levels, from determining need through to reporting and supporting use. We deliver external, independent evaluation and research services, and we provide mentoring, training and technical support to clients to enable them to undertake evaluations themselves.

We do evaluation and research work in New Zealand, Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region. Our work spans health, international development, education, transport, workplace health and safety, indigenous peoples' development, social services, justice, environment, sport and local government sectors.

Our experience ranges from completing rapid reviews of stand-alone programmes or projects, through to multi-year evaluations of complex and complicated policies and suites of programmes.

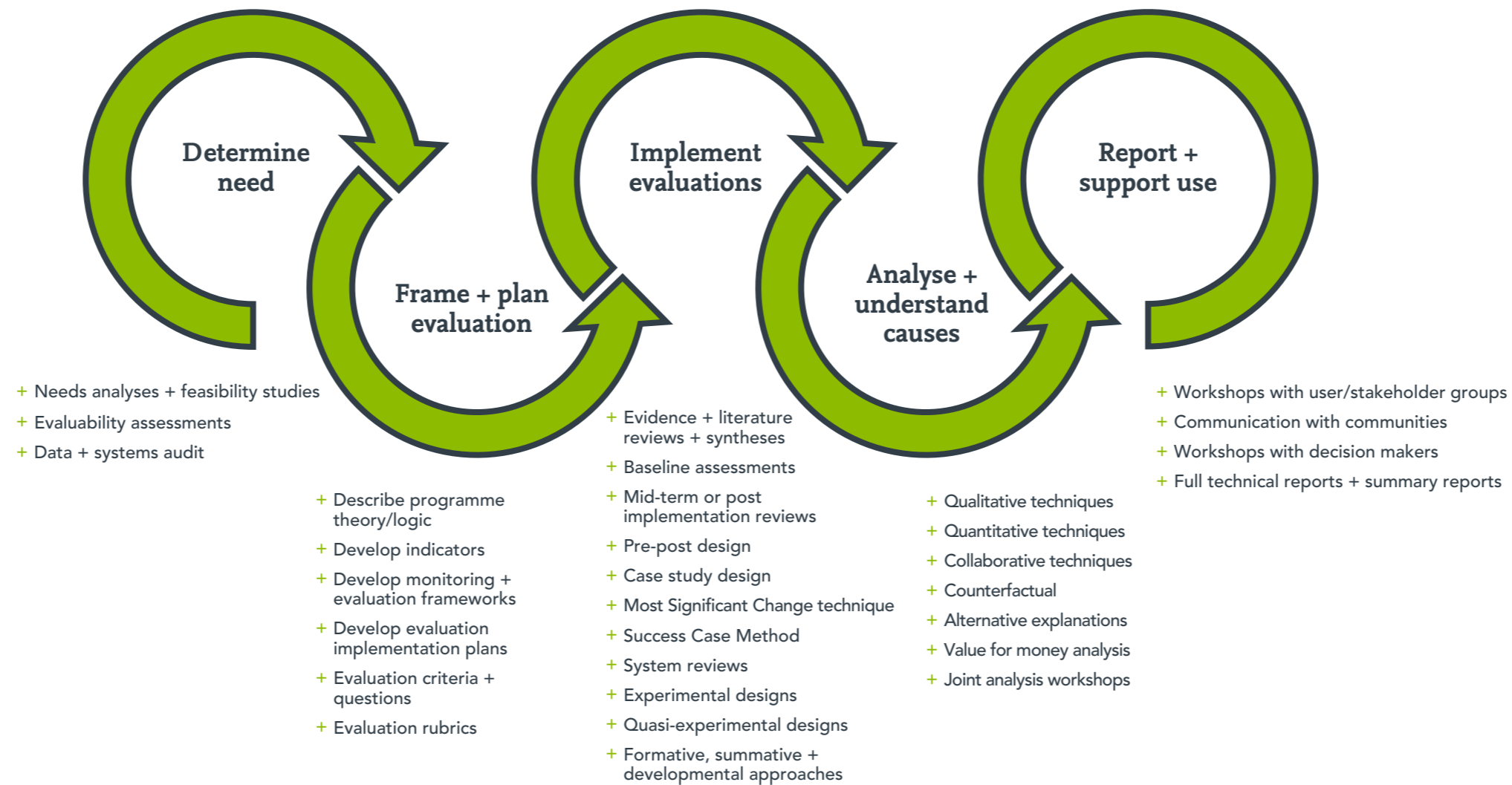
OUR EVALUATION VALUES AND EXPERTISE

Our approach to evaluation is underpinned by national and international professional evaluation practice standards and codes of ethics informed by principles of utility, feasibility, propriety and accuracy, and cultural responsiveness.

We take a bespoke and up-to-the-minute good practice approach – ensuring our evaluations are made to fit the needs and preferences of each client, and the intended use of findings.

We undertake evaluations using a range of evaluation specific methodologies that consider design, process, outcomes and impact.

We are experts in a full range of qualitative and quantitative techniques and tools across the evaluation cycle:



EVALUATION + RESEARCH SERVICES

RESULTS DELIVERED FOR OUR CLIENTS

EVALUATION OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE ABROAD (VSA), 2014–2015

- + We undertook an independent evaluation of the VSA Grant Funding Arrangement for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, focusing on implementation subsequent to a strategic refocus on the Pacific Region. The mixed-methods evaluation involved more than 80 consultations including semi-structured key informant interviews, focus group discussions and debrief sessions with programme teams in New Zealand, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea (Autonomous Region of Bougainville and East New Britain).
- + The findings of the evaluation were used to inform decision making around future funding arrangements.

EVALUATION OF THE CHILD HEALTH CHECK INITIATIVE (CHCI) AND THE EXPANDING HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY INITIATIVE (EHSDI), 2009–2011

- + We undertook an evaluation of these two complex health initiatives targeting remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory for the Australian Government Department of Health. The evaluation of the CHCI was summative, and the evaluation of the EHSDI was formative. The mixed-methods approach sought to understand the impact of these initiatives at a systems level. The CHCI summative evaluation included an analysis of the health outcomes for 16,000 children; comparing outcomes for 10,000 children who received a check against the 6,000 children who did not.
- + The high level of stakeholder interaction, particularly for the EHSDI evaluation, enabled real-time learning that informed improvements to the ongoing programme of health sector expansion and reform. The final evaluation reports contributed to the decision to provide long-term funding to the Aboriginal primary health care sector as part of the Australian Government's Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory package.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY RESEARCH FOR THE NEW ZEALAND FIRE SERVICE (NZFS), 2014–2015

- + We designed and undertook research to examine diversity representation within the NZFS paid and volunteer workforce. The project utilised a mixed-methodology approach, combining document reviews, comparative data analysis, key informant interviews and focus groups with a variety of stakeholders to ensure different perspectives were gained. The interviews and focus groups were based around appreciative inquiry, a positive perspective approach to problem-solving that uses inquiry as a way to discover and better understand new possibilities generated by those involved in the research.
- + Research results provided pragmatic and comprehensive information to inform reviews, adjustments, and development of NZFS diversity recruitment strategies, and to guide procedures and policies focused on recruiting, retaining and enhancing the experiences of a diverse workforce.

DATA AND STATISTICAL SUPPORT TO SUPERU, 2016

- + Working for Superu, we derived data from official survey microdata against 26 indicators used to assess family well-being. This involved writing SAS code, sourcing data through the Statistics New Zealand data lab and assisting Superu with data manipulation and quantitative analysis.
- + The services were critical to enabling Superu to deliver the high quality analysis needed to meet their legislative requirement of publishing an annual report that monitors New Zealand families and their well-being. Additionally, the code we developed for the 2016 report can be used by Superu as a basis for updating future years' reports and to build upon other existing research.

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE BUSINESS LEADERS' FORUM, 2013–2014

- + We developed a framework to enable the Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum to evaluate its impact. We then implemented this framework to measure progress towards the Forum's expected outcomes around leadership, learning and development and influence. The evaluation involved surveys and interviews with members of the Forum (CEOs of many of New Zealand's largest companies) and health and safety experts.
- + The evaluation provided an independent validation about what was working well, what needed improving, and highlighted areas for future focus. It also provided the Forum with a baseline with which it can benchmark future performance.

EVALUATION OF THE ROAD USER CHARGES (RUC) SYSTEM, 2013–2016

- + We developed an evaluation framework for the Ministry of Transport and have carried out three subsequent cycles of evaluation of the changes to the RUC system. The evaluations were based around in-depth case studies with road transport users and interviews with transport industry groups. We also analysed a range of data to determine the impact of the changes at the system level, including analysis of RUC revenue, the type and distance of licences purchased and RUC delivery channels.
- + Our evaluations have enabled the Ministry to determine which aspects of the new RUC legislation were working well and which were not, and have informed several amendments to the RUC Act to address the weaknesses identified in the evaluation.



EVALUATION OF A MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN USING WITHIN-SUBJECT DESIGN, 2014–2015

- + We designed and undertook an evaluation of the 'Stop Before You Start' media campaign. The campaign for the Health Promotion Agency (HPA), aims to contribute to smokefree lifestyles among young adults in New Zealand. The evaluation was based on data collected in two questionnaires conducted via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). It measured change according to the campaign objectives, comparing young people's responses at the beginning of the campaign with these same individuals' responses five months after the launch of the campaign.
- + The HPA used the evaluation findings to guide decisions on whether the campaign should be continued and in what form, and to guide decisions on other campaigns.

EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DECISION TO CHANGE THE FUNDING AND SUPPLY OF BLOOD GLUCOSE METERS, 2013-2014

- + We completed a process evaluation for the Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) of a change to the funding and supply of diabetes management devices. A fundamental component of this mixed-method evaluation involved engaging with blood glucose meter users from a range of demographic groups, including Māori and Pasifika individuals and organisations.
- + The project identified the overall costs and benefits of the change, including its impact on providers, the pharmaceutical market and supply chain, and consumers. The results were used to develop a good practice framework to guide future funding and supply changes for medical devices.

EVALUATION OF THE MATERNITY QUALITY AND SAFETY PROGRAMME (MQSP), 2014-2015

- + We evaluated the progress and effectiveness of the MQSP for the Ministry of Health to understand what difference the programme was making and the extent to which it was becoming embedded into practice for local health providers. The evaluation involved reviewing MQSP documents and service administrative data, interviews with key informants, a survey of district health boards, five case studies and 'sense making' analysis and interpretation workshops. There was a strong focus on collecting evidence from Māori stakeholders and about the experiences of Māori service users.
- + The evaluation was key to determining whether, and if so how, the Ministry should support the programme into the future and how national support and local programmes could be improved.

We enjoy seeking answers to our clients' most important questions and tackling the 'so what?' and 'what next?' questions. This makes our evaluation and research findings actionable and meaningful for our clients' policies and programmes.

Our evaluation and research services are provided by a team of specialists, backed up by our wider team of policy professionals and supplemented by external partners.

For more detailed information on the team and current and previous evaluation and research projects, and to access our free evaluation resources, please see our website: www.allenandclarke.co.nz

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