



Evaluate: helping you understand the value and impact of policies and programs

A guide for policy agencies

What is Evaluate?

The Sax Institute is a leader in independent evaluations that help decision makers understand the value, impact and outcomes of programs and policies.

We specialise in pragmatic, real-world evaluations, and offer our clients a unique skillset and approach that combines academic rigour with a deep understanding of the policy landscape.

Since 2016, our team has evaluated a wide range of health and social services, including suicide prevention, health service delivery, integrated care and disability inclusion.

We work with you to understand your evaluation questions and offer best-practice approaches to solving them.

What makes evaluate different

Our Evaluate team is skilled at identifying why a program or policy works, and applying this knowledge to make improvements and optimise outcomes. We have expertise in developmental, formative, and summative evaluation, and can access economic evaluation expertise as required. We can help you with:

- Evaluation planning, including program logic development
- Conducting developmental, process and outcome evaluations
- Training and capacity building in evaluation methods and approaches
- Helping you optimise the impact of findings with stakeholders

Contacting us early will give you a better outcome

The best time to start an evaluation is at the beginning of a project. While we can help at all stages, starting early means we can contribute to your policy or program's design or implementation, and help you achieve the best results.

Why policy agencies choose us

Nationwide expertise

We draw on the topic expertise of the Sax Institute's 60-strong members, who include numerous centres of research excellence Australia-wide – giving us access to the country's top experts, and experts from overseas when appropriate.

Innovative approaches to evaluation

We stay in touch with new methods in the rapidly developing field of pragmatic evaluations to ensure that our work remains best practice. We specialise in mixed-methods, quasi-experimental designs and integrating data from different sources.

Solutions that work for you

Our team has turned being 'easy to work with' into an art form – we take a highly collaborative approach and work with you from the start to define the problem, ask the right questions, deliver the best available evidence, and where possible embed evaluation approaches into policy design and implementation.

Proven track record

We have extensive experience working with governments and agencies to answer evaluation questions. Our team understands your world and is highly experienced in the realities, imperatives and time pressures faced by people in policy and government agencies.

Who we've worked with

- NSW Health
- NSW Department of Communities and Justice
- NSW Mental Health Commission
- icare
- Canteen
- Cancer Institute NSW
- BUPA
- Victorian Department of Health
- ACT Health
- Queensland Health
- University of Sydney
- Australian Government Department of Health

We wanted an independent eye on what we were implementing. The Evaluate team clearly understood what our needs were and helped us clarify what we wanted to do.

– Youth Health and Wellbeing Team,
NSW Health

Find out more

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About the Sax Institute

The Sax Institute is an independent Evidence Specialist – we help decision makers find and make the best use of evidence to solve real-world policy challenges.