



Commonwealth Evaluation Policy Video Transcript

Hello!

This video provides an *overview of the Commonwealth Evaluation Policy*. It is relevant for anyone responsible for the design, delivery and effectiveness of government programs in the Commonwealth.

In the next few minutes, we will briefly cover:

- how and why this policy was developed, and
- what it aims to achieve.

The Government's APS Reform Agenda emphasized the need to strengthen evaluation capabilities in order to deliver the best outcomes for all Australians.

This followed research findings in the APS Review that evaluation skills and practices across the service have declined considerably over the past few decades, and recommendations aimed at reversing this decline.

In an increasingly complex policy environment, the APS's role as a trusted adviser to Government is critically important, with strategic advice informed by the best available evidence and expert analysis.

While there are pockets of evaluation excellence across the Commonwealth, the APS Reform included a strong focus on rebuilding evaluation capabilities to help identify emerging issues and evaluate what works, and why.

The Government directed Finance to establish a central evaluation function to drive a service-wide approach, working in partnership with experts from across the Commonwealth through an Evaluation Reference Group.

To support and promote better practice approaches, an extensive collaborative design and user testing process was conducted.

The resulting Policy and Toolkit reflect contributions from over 40 Commonwealth entities and a number of external stakeholders, and provide a strong foundation to build evaluation capability and drive the necessary cultural change across the APS.

The Policy, which is now available on the Finance website, ***applies to all entities and companies subject to the PGPA Act.***

The Policy aims to

- embed an evaluative culture across the APS, and
- Use evaluation to improve the impact of government programs and the quality of performance information.

A set of principles allow managers to determine how to evaluate their programs in order to deliver the most effective and efficient outcomes.

The supporting toolkit provides simple, practical guidance and resources to help build evaluation capabilities and promote better practice evaluation approaches. A separate video on how to navigate the toolkit is also available.

Increasing the capability across the APS to design and deliver robust, credible and ethical evaluations will help to ensure high quality data and evidence is available to decision-makers.

More effective and informed use of evaluation will offer unique performance insights that help to target public expenditure and deliver better outcomes for all Australians.

The policy and toolkit are now available on the [Finance website](#).

If you have any questions or feedback, or would like more information, please contact us at pgpa@finance.gov.au

Thanks for listening.