Developmental Evaluation: Values engaged evaluation practice

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My mountains are the Tararua ranges
My river is the Manawatu
I was born in Palmerston North
My family is McKegg
My name is Kate McKegg
What is Developmental Evaluation?

Developmental evaluation (DE) is an evaluation approach that brings together evaluative thinking and evidence to those developing and implementing innovative initiatives in complex situations. It is an approach that sits alongside and supports emergent, innovative and transformative development and on-going adaption (Patton, 2012).
DE’s principles in practice

The fidelity and integrity of DE is defined more by a suite of principles of practice, rather than a set of standards or rules.

https://www.developmentalevaluation.institute/guiding-principles/
The developmental evaluator...

- works closely and collaboratively on the innovation and the evaluation
- will play a number of roles, and innovators will also become evaluators
- supports innovators insights and learning by:
  - Making clear the innovation touchstones, decision points and adaptation processes
  - helping people track their development and results
  - facilitating ongoing, real-time, data-based sense-making and decisions throughout the developmental process.
Innovators

• These people are often different from people implementing typical programs. They value rapid, real-time feedback, have a high tolerance for ambiguity, embrace uncertainty, learn quickly, and adapt rapidly to changed conditions.

• They’re propelled into action more by vision.

• They’re not always sure how to get where they’re heading, so they resist being boxed in by concrete, pre-set activities, outcomes or targets.

• They know that disrupting systems leads to unexpected actions and reactions.

• They want an evaluation approach attuned to their fast pace and innovative spirit. They are at home in complex dynamic systems. Such systems characterize the world in which they live and work. Thus, they want an evaluation approach attuned to complexity.
Developmental Evaluation is ‘wayfinding’

“Wayfinding requires that we become ‘explorers of our world’ seeking to discover and shine light upon that which is not seen. To become an explorer of the world is to set sail beyond the compass of our existing knowledge and to traverse uncharted waters in ourselves and in the world.”

Developmental evaluation is values based

- Values / processes / relationships become very important
- ‘How’ outcomes / results are achieved is very important
- Process matters
- People and relationships matter
- Where the end is unpredictable and emergent, values and process become anchors.

‘[DE] sits alongside, doesn’t control or dampen the core values of innovation’
(Wehipeihana, cited in Patton, 2010).
My journey into developmental evaluation
Whose perspectives count in DE?
No one’s imagination can encompass another's reality

The evaluation has affirmed sport as a vehicle for cultural affirmation and revitalization...and contributed to the survival and expression of a unique Māori identity...

Te Miri Rangi, Kaiwhakahaere, He Oranga Poutama

Value of DE?
The power of DE – gives wings for dreams to fly
### Challenges ahead

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<th>Question</th>
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<td>How prepared are we to draw on and utilise a wide range of perspectives</td>
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<td>and networks to understand different situations and contexts?</td>
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<td>How prepared are we to listen deeply to others?</td>
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I would like to acknowledge:

- Sport NZ and the He Oranga Poutama providers
- Foundation North and the MPEI projects


In *Developmental Evaluation Exemplars*:


[www.kinnect.co.nz](http://www.kinnect.co.nz)

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