

Southern Lakes & Campbelltown sites - NSW C4C Local Evaluation

Facilitating Partner : The Benevolent Society

Local evaluator: Paul Bullen

October 2007

Notes for presentation on Local evaluation
at C4C Forum on 7 & 8 November 2007

The Local evaluation is guided by:

- 10 focal points of interest
- Key ideas & decisions underpinning the approach to the evaluation

What's happened / What's next in the Local evaluation

- From mid 2006 to 2007
- Strands for 2008

Reflections

- Ideas

A. Ten focal points

1. The site community
2. The site services network
3. The process and evolution of the C4C site and projects
4. Foundational ideas and evidence
5. Site projects
6. Service networks changes
7. Change in families
8. Change in neighbourhoods
9. Change in the community
10. Evaluating the evaluation

B. Key ideas underpinning the approach to the evaluation

1. Three purposes

- guide and improve practitioners' work
- help practitioners' and other stakeholders to know if the work has made a difference
- describe what was done and its value for colleagues

2. There will be one holistic evaluation report across both sites.

3. The local evaluator will:

- help develop evaluation frameworks
- support projects in their evaluation work
- undertake "whole of site" activities (eg focus groups about the evolution of C4C in each site)
- write 'one' report.

4. Each Community Partner will write its own project evaluation report(s) (with support as necessary).

5. Reports will be a "readable report for colleagues".

6. Evaluation reports will cover:

Story - Extent - Value (focus on one key question) - Learnings

C. What has happened in the local evaluation process?

1. Thinking things through (Evaluation Steering Committee)

2. Establishing evaluation frameworks (10 focal points & approach)

3. Introductory workshops for Community Partners (to provide frameworks and set expectations)

4. Decision to use local evaluator

5. One to one discussions with many Community Partners (to help think through projects and data etc needed for evaluation)

6. Whole of site evaluation activities - focus groups, staff survey, etc and initial feedback

7. Project support for some projects on specific evaluation tools, etc

8. Moving from generic approaches and support to specific project support

D. Strands in 2008

1. Support for projects

2. Whole of site activities - focus groups, staff survey, family surveys etc

E. Some reflections

1. Seeing the **site as a whole**, including its history and development, identification of projects, role of funding program site evolution, is VIP.
2. Having Community Partners responsible for their **own evaluation reports** is VIP, especially for guiding and improving work and capacity building.
3. Using a **"Patchwork Quilt"** process model is VIP
4. Project staff are very busy focussed on **delivering services**; their skills are in delivering services. Support is needed for projects to get the most from their evaluation strategies. This varies from project to project. Individualising is VIP but takes time.
5. The **FACSLA reporting** / reporting frameworks are **problematic**.
6. Ideally the **national evaluation and the local evaluations** need to connect and add value - this is not yet visible.
7. There are a very large number of **bits and pieces to integrate** - and there are a **large number of stakeholders** - more thought less action.