

Evidence informed decisionmaking in the social sector

Presentation to IPANZ, 4 March 2015 Clare Ward, Chief Executive









Improving outcomes







Investing for results

- Improve the lives of New Zealand's most vulnerable children and their families
- Social investment
- Output Common Common



Policy makers, funders, service providers need to use evidence about what works and what doesn't

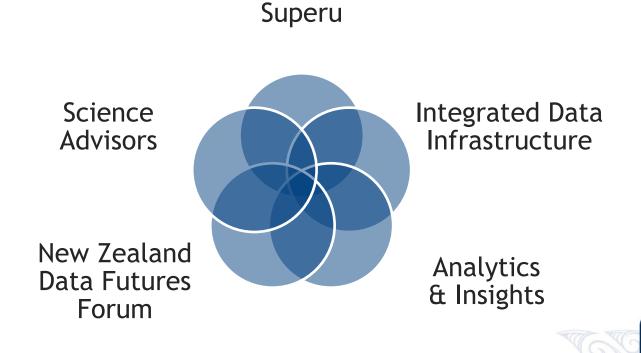
"we'll be buying what works" (MoF)



superu



One of a number of initiatives





Our purpose

To increase the use of evidence by people across the social sector so that they can make better decisions to improve the lives of New Zealanders, New Zealand's communities, families and whānau



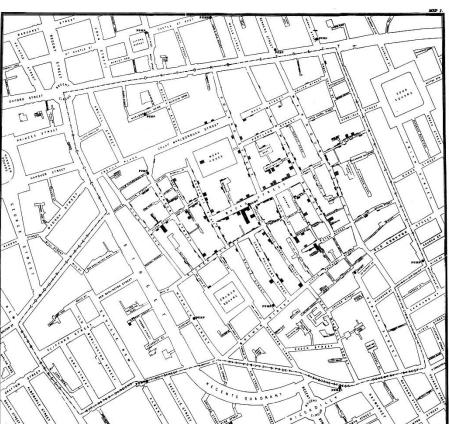
Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit



Using evidence to save lives

John Snow

Florence Nightingale

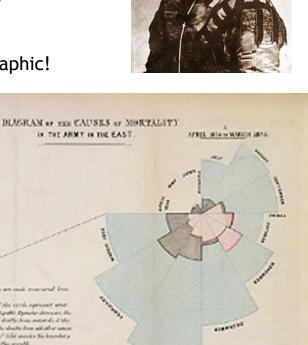


"We do not want impressions, we want facts."

An early infographic!

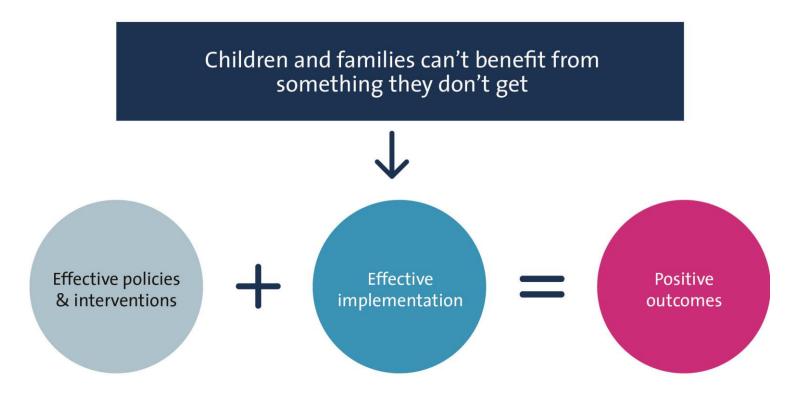
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Aird law analogs there





Improving social sector outcomes



Instead of evidence being on the outside of decision-making we need to bring it inside from the beginning (Obama Administration)



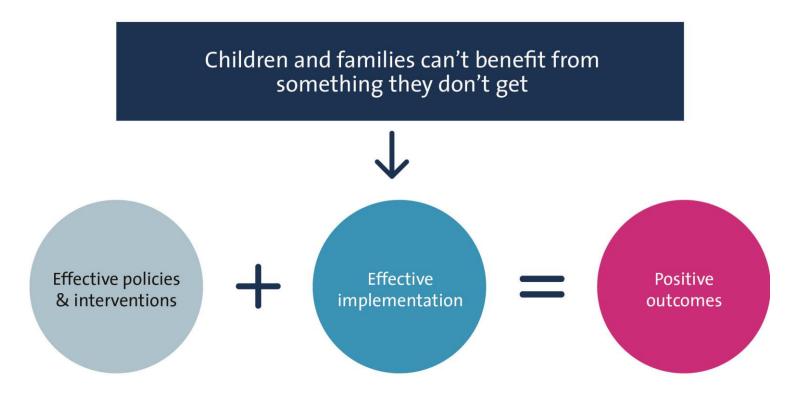
Effective policies and interventions







Improving social sector outcomes

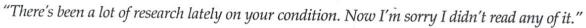


Instead of evidence being on the outside of decision-making we need to bring it inside from the beginning (Obama Administration)



Effective implementation







A partnership between two very different animals

"I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say hello, goodbye! I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!"



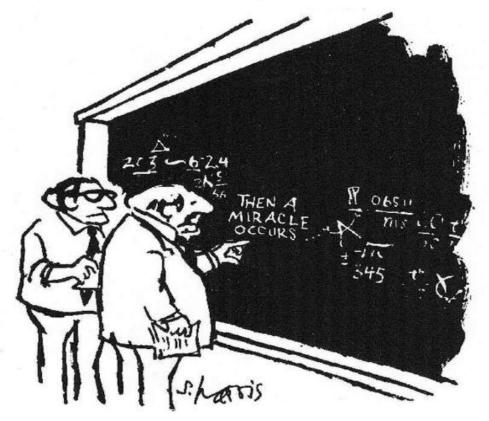


"Evidence based policy is to the statistical profession, much what the tooth fairy is to dentistry"

Jon Hall, ProgBlog Blogging for Progress in Society



What works well and what doesn't?



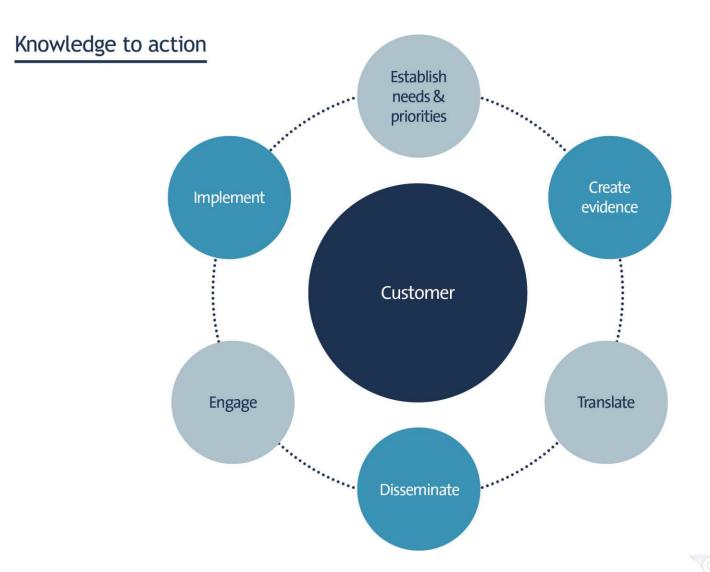
"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



Superu - bridging the gap







Participants in our sector



Impacts and outcomes



Social sector organisations

Policy

Programme design

Programme delivery

Monitoring & evaluation



Organisations producing evidence

Evidence on interventions

Evidence on best practices

Evidence on big trends and social issues





Influencing stakeholders

Priorities

Funding

Processes

Compliance



Influence

social sector

use of

evidence and

best practice

through

stakeholders

that can

change behaviours

Our roles within this sector

Families, whānau & communities

Impacts and outcomes



Social sector organisations

Policy

Programme design

Programme delivery

Monitoring & evaluation

the use of
evidence
and best
practice by
social sector



organisations

Facilitate

Organisations producing evidence

Evidence on interventions

Evidence on best practices

Evidence on big trends and social issues

Grow the quality, relevance, and quantity of the evidence base in priority areas for social sector organisations





Influencing stakeholders

Priorities

Funding

Processes

Compliance

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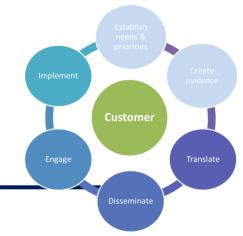
Grow the evidence base



- Influence the providers and funders of social science research & evaluation
- Influence the development of sustainable research assets and infrastructure
- Commission or do good social science research and evaluation

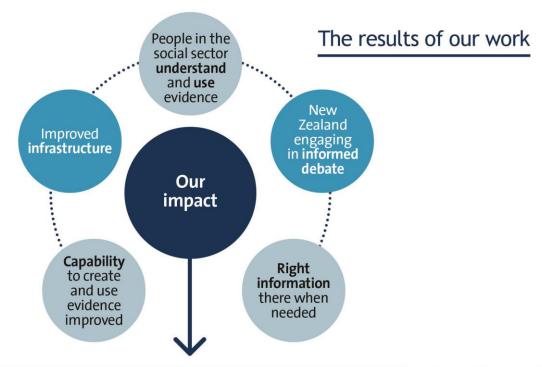


Facilitate use



- Make social science research and evidence easier to access and understand
- Stimulate awareness of evidence, its importance, and of big social issues for NZ and for families and whānau
- Actively support the use of evidence by decision-makers





Social policy is current

- Reflects today's reality
- Keeps pace with societal changes

Social programmes and services are effective

- Government and community organisations
- Understanding about:
 - society
 - · what works and what doesn't



The people of New Zealand, New Zealand families and whanau, are strong and resilient







Making good progress

- Advice and expertise is increasingly sought
- New fact sheets and evidence briefs are making information easier to understand and use
- Synthesis work has been used to inform purchasing decisions
- Evaluation work is helping NZ learn about what works in improving youth mental health
- Signature 1. Iso Fund will see us working with NGOs to learn about what works in improving outcomes for our most vulnerable families
 Superu

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- Good progress building R&E infrastructure
- Positive feedback

Challenges remain

- Relevance
- Focus where we can have impact
- Relationships
- Culture and capability within Superu and externally



Questions



