

# Evidence informed decision-making in the social sector

---

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



# Improving outcomes



# Investing for results

---

- ④ Improve the lives of New Zealand's most vulnerable children and their families
- ④ Social investment
- ④ Customer at the centre



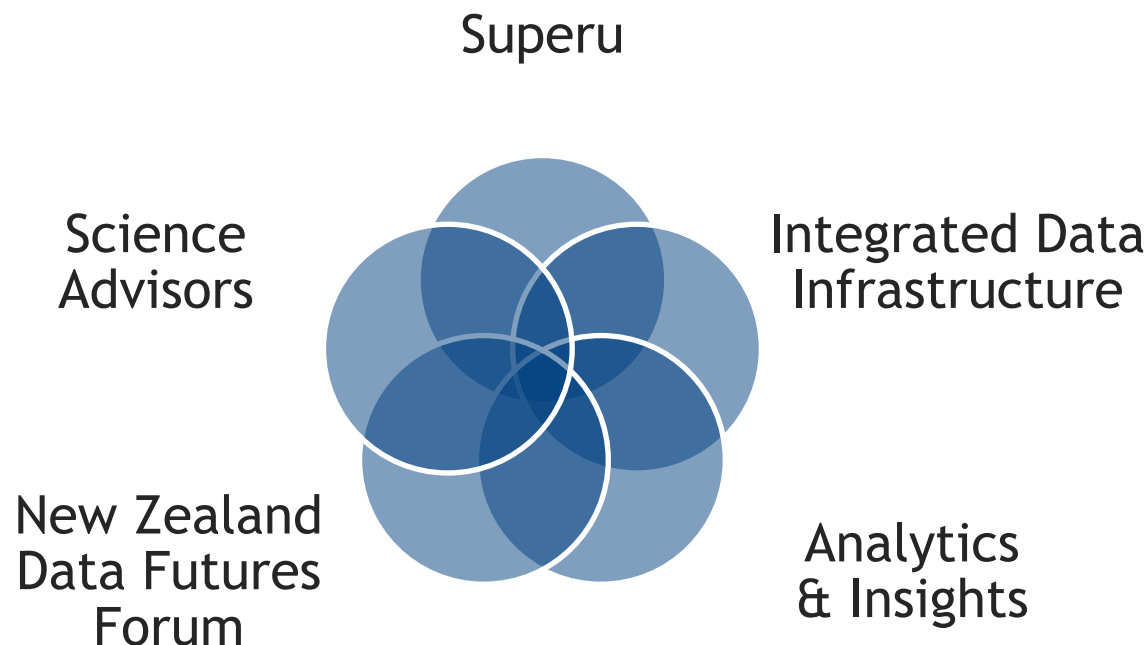
- ④ Policy makers, funders, service providers need to use evidence about what works and what doesn't

“we’ll be buying what works” (MoF)

superu<sup>+</sup>

# One of a number of initiatives

---



superu



# 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





# Using evidence to save lives



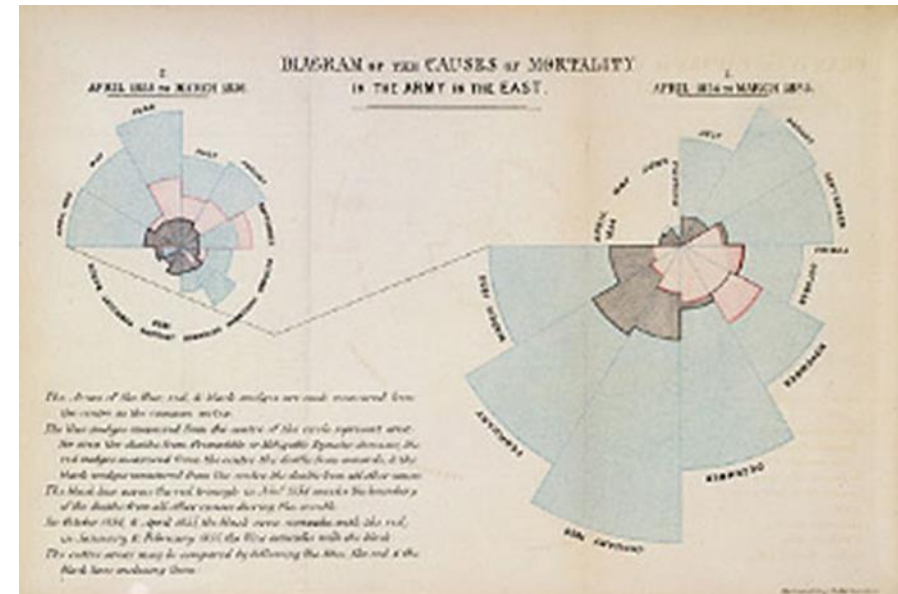
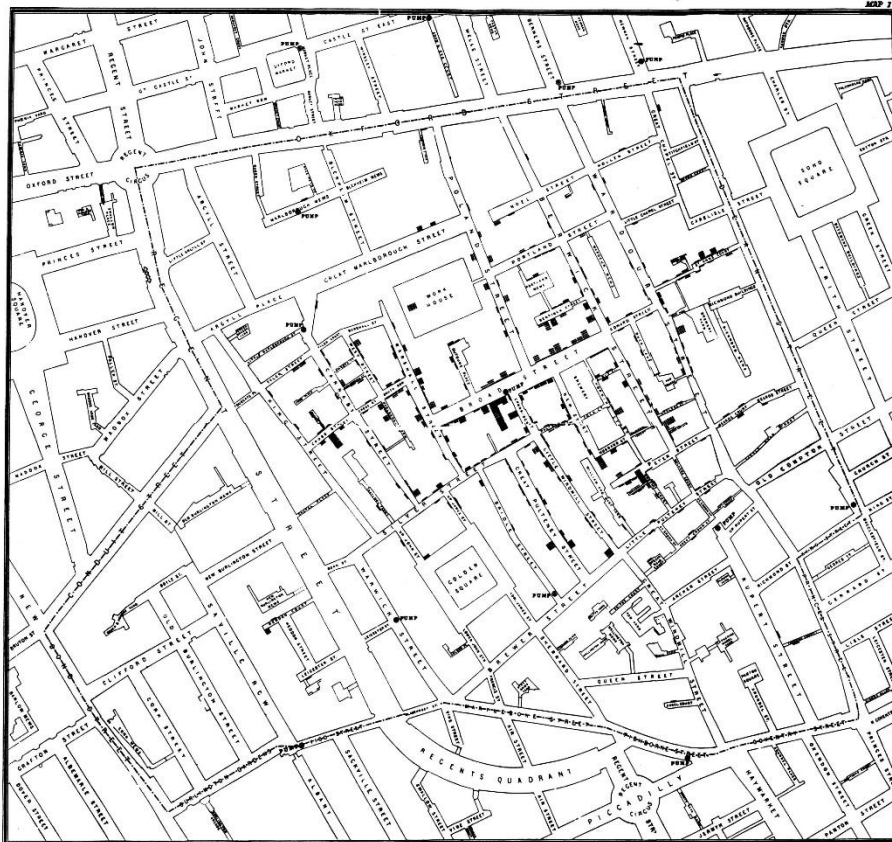
John Snow

Florence Nightingale



“We do not want impressions, we want facts.”

An early infographic!



## Improving social sector outcomes

Children and families can't benefit from something they don't get



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

Children and families can't benefit from something they don't get



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

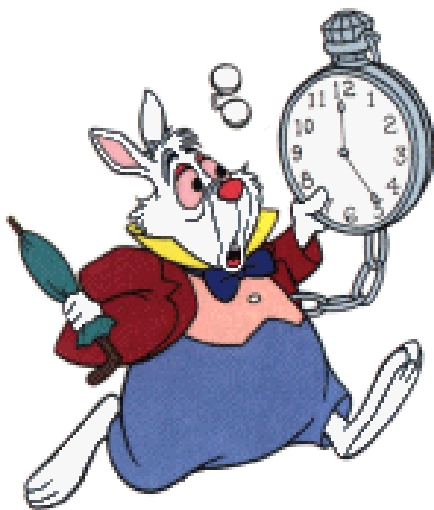
## Effective implementation



*"There's been a lot of research lately on your condition. Now I'm sorry I didn't read any of it."*

## A partnership between two very different animals

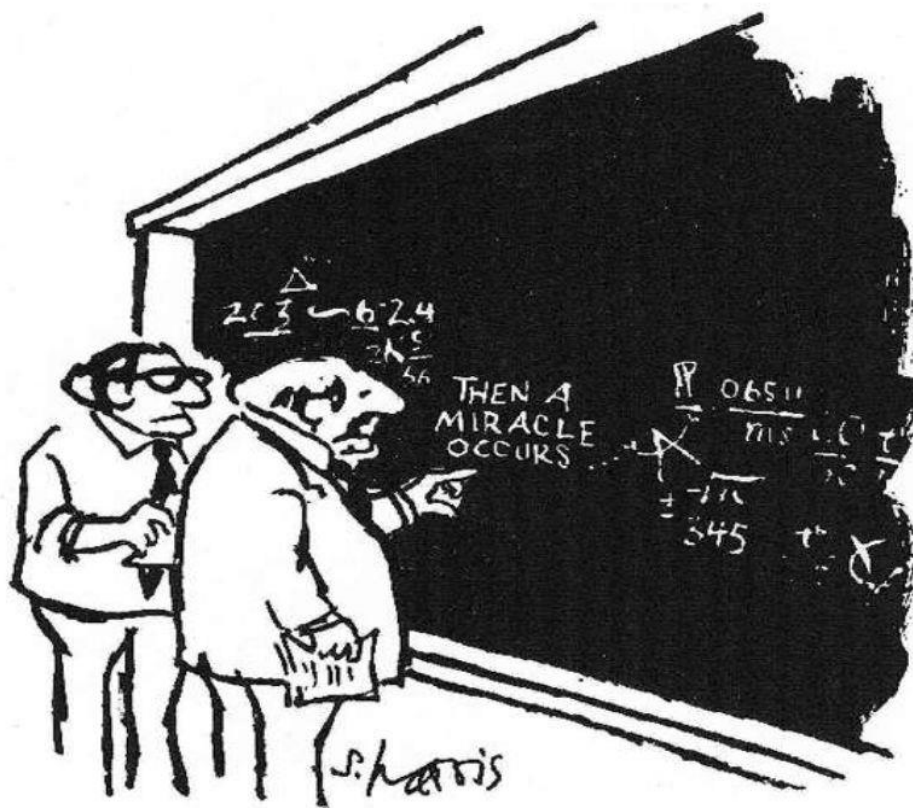
"I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date! No time to say hello, goodbye! I'm late! I'm late! I'm late!"



“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?



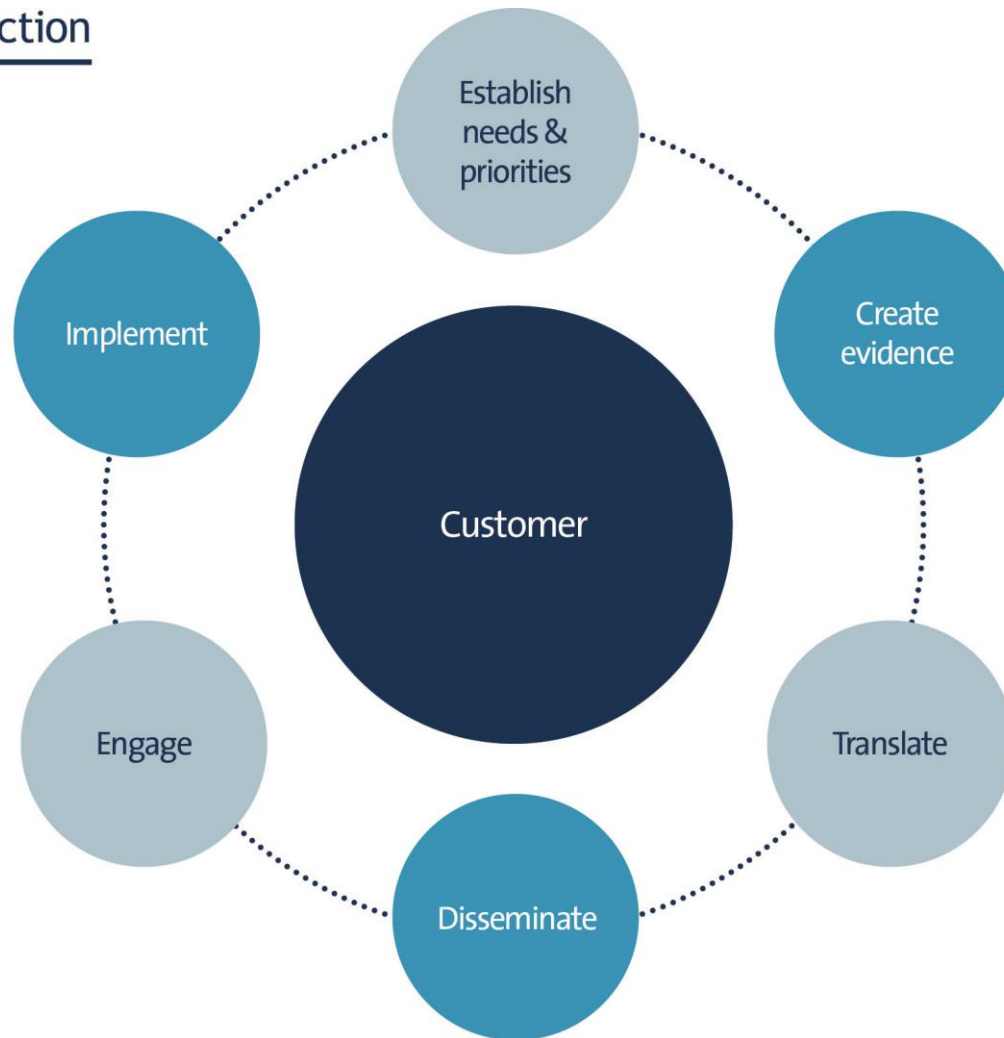
"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."



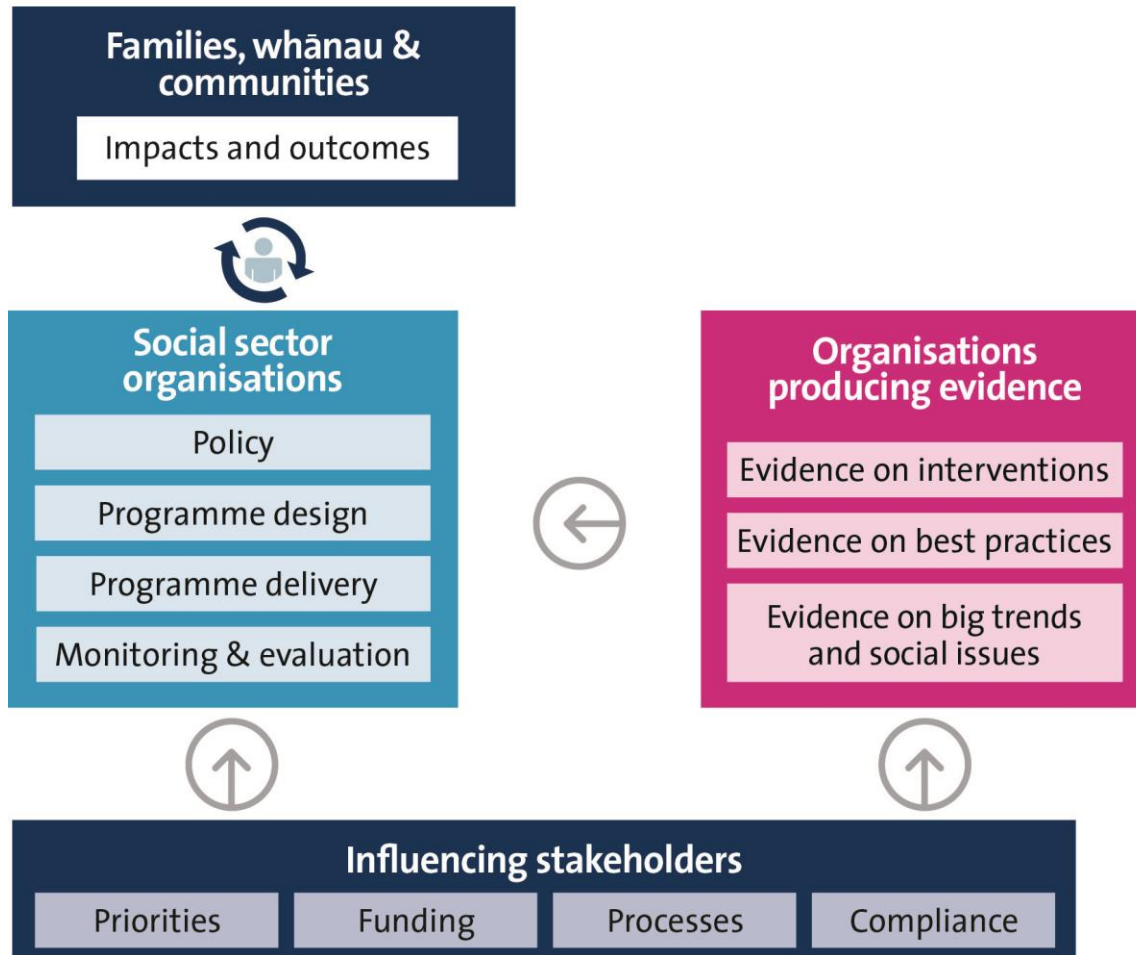
## Superu - bridging the gap



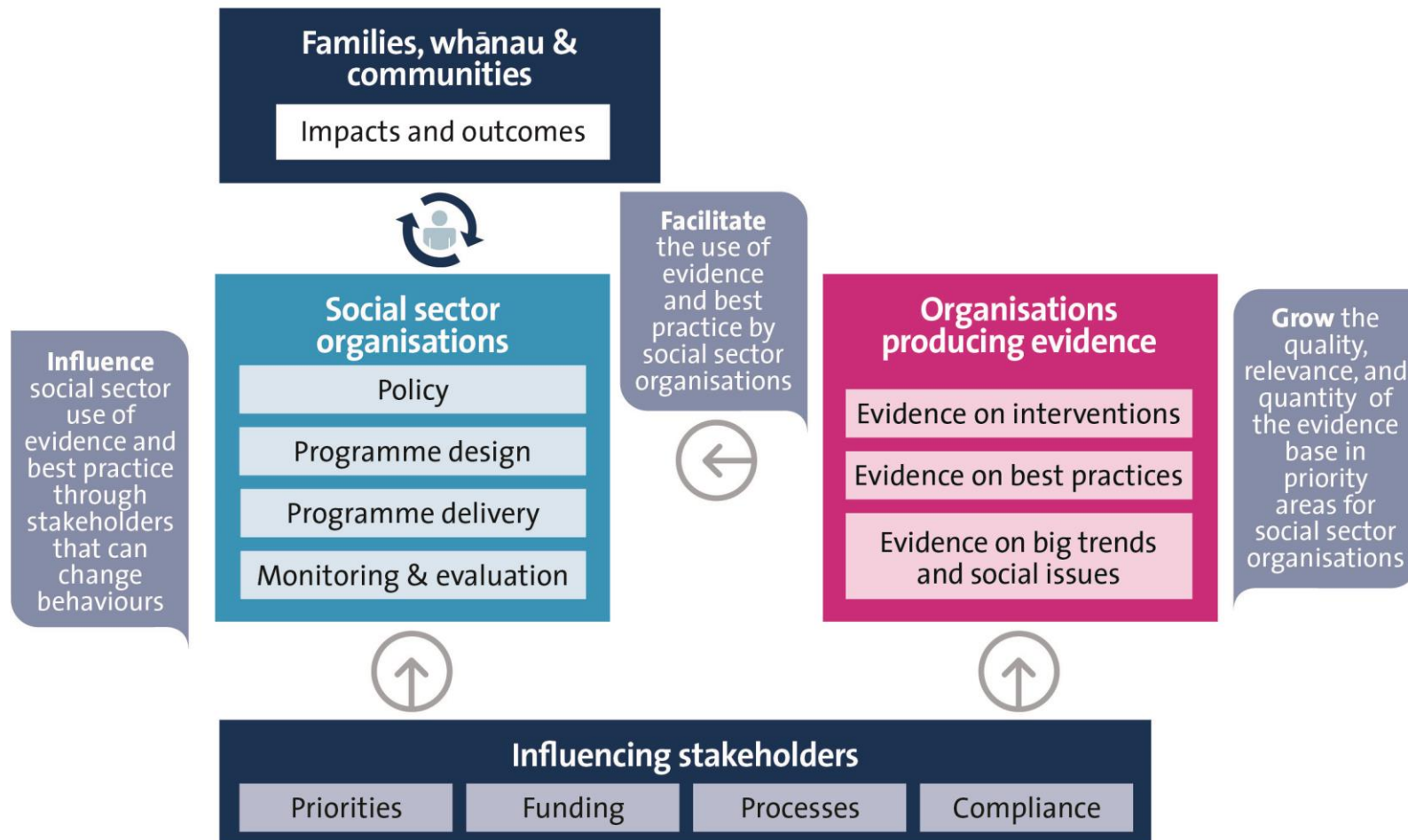
## Knowledge to action



## Participants in our sector

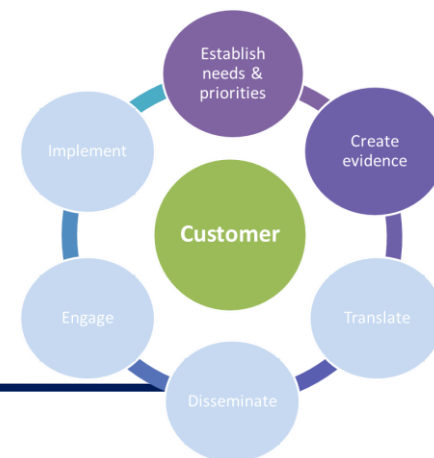


## Our roles within this sector



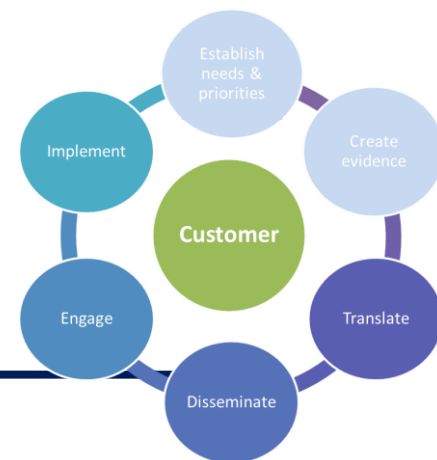


# Grow the evidence base



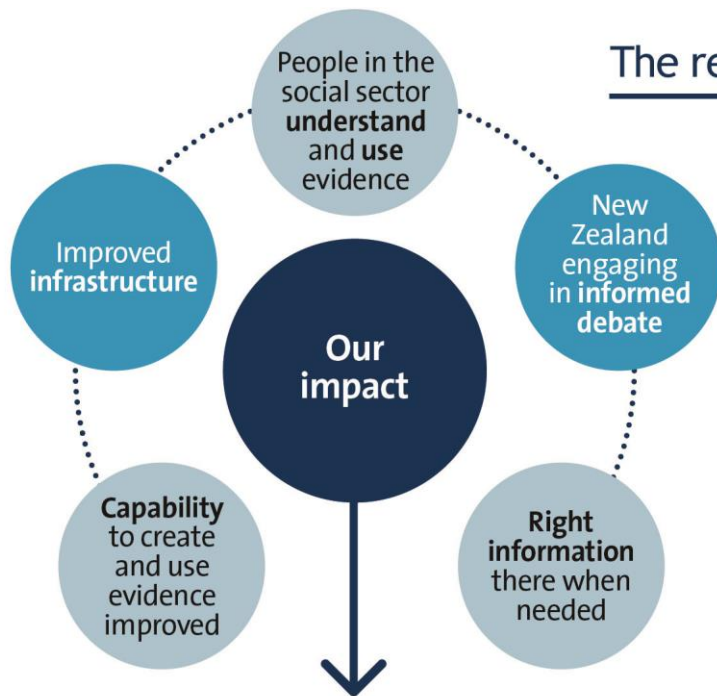
- ⑤ Influence the providers and funders of social science research & evaluation
- ⑤ Influence the development of sustainable research assets and infrastructure
- ⑤ Commission or do good social science research and evaluation

# Facilitate use



- ④ Make social science research and evidence easier to access and understand
- ④ Stimulate awareness of evidence, its importance, and of big social issues for NZ and for families and whānau
- ④ Actively support the use of evidence by decision-makers

## The results of our work



### Social policy is current

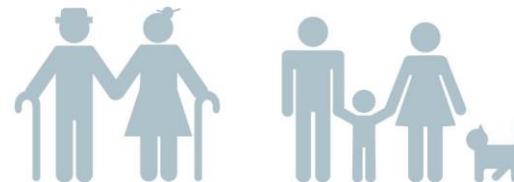
- Reflects today's reality
- Keeps pace with societal changes

### 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



superu<sup>+</sup>

# Making good progress

---

- ④ Advice and expertise is increasingly sought
- ④ New fact sheets and evidence briefs are making information easier to understand and use
- ④ Synthesis work has been used to inform purchasing decisions
- ④ Evaluation work is helping NZ learn about what works in improving youth mental health
- ④ ISO Fund will see us working with NGOs to learn about what works in improving outcomes for our most vulnerable families
- ④ Good progress building R&E infrastructure
- ④ Positive feedback



# Challenges remain

---

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

# Questions

---

