

Emerging evaluators' reflections on the 2022 ANZEA conference

A number of emerging evaluators were supported by scholarships to attend the 2022 ANZEA conference. We asked them if they would reflect on the conference, and here is what four had to say.

Jessica Goodall

Tēnā tātou.

I had the privilege of attending the ANZEA conference through MartinJenkins' Demystifying Evaluation scholarship. At first, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. The world of evaluation was reasonably new to me. I knew a career in policy



was something I desired and that the insights I would gain from the conference would be largely beneficial. Boy, was I in for a treat! The ANZEA conference not only provided me with invaluable learnings, but I got to meet some pretty inspiring people along the way.

I was deeply moved to hear the presentations from Dr Catherine Savage, Jeph Mathias, Dr Fiona Cram, Debbie Goodwin, and Dr Amohia Boulton (to name a few). It was inspiring to see how kaupapa Māori practices were heavily integrated into evaluation and how it continues to develop and unfold in new, innovative ways.

In all, attending the ANZEA conference provided me with invaluable insight into how evaluation creates meaningful change. I now understand the plethora of positive social impacts evaluation

has in New Zealand and all over the world. The conference sparked a personal interest in evaluation, and I am eager to continue growing in the field of evaluation when I leave university. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank Martin Jenkins and ANZEA for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Valda Howard

It was indeed an honour and privilege to be part of the ANZEA conference 2022 in Wellington from 10 to 12 October. The conference provided a platform for me to build my network and to also learn about the different perspectives which many of our Pacific evaluators shared during their presentations and tea breaks.



As development organisations, we are all finding ourselves placing a greater emphasis on measuring for results, looking for evidence of impact, justifying our effectiveness, and responding to a growing demand for accountability. Development organisations are continually experimenting with innovative approaches to monitoring and evaluation.

From the moment I received the advice that I had been awarded the sponsorship provided by ANZEA through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in New Zealand, right up until the last day of the conference, I was truly inspired and amazed at the amount of amazing people—presenters, organisers, participants, facilitators, and so forth. It was a sea of wonderful, talented, and brilliant people

who gave me further insight into being a more purposeful evaluator and thinking beyond.

Huhana Moselen

(Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Te Ata.)

Ngā mihi aroha ki ngā rau rangatira mā o Te Mā te Rae me ANZEA mō tō koutou tautoko ki ahau ki te haere ahau ki te kaupapa o ANZEA 2022. He rawe rawa atū te kaupapa rā! My sincerest thanks to Mā te Rae and ANZEA 2022 for supporting me with a scholarship to attend ANZEA 2022. I was honoured to be selected to attend and the experience was nothing short of awesome!



This was my first time attending an ANZEA conference and I felt even more privileged because I was presenting (alongside Nan Wehipeihana, Kataraina Pipi, and Kahiwa Sabire) on Te Koha: An iwi approach to scaling and its implications for evaluation. While it was a privilege, I was also very nervous, this being my first presentation at my first ANZEA, yikes! So I was thrilled when I found out we were presenting on day one so that I could just relax and enjoy the rest of the conference.

I got to attend some wonderful presentations over the three days delivered by some of our most renowned evaluators, both here in Aotearoa, and internationally. I got to whakawhanaunga at the hui Māori hosted by Kataraina Pipi, where I got to sing “I’m still standing” with Dr Fiona Cram and some other wonderful people. I enjoyed the various panel discussions, especially those hosted by

Kate McKegg. Dr Jesse Kokaua's talk was brilliant on *tīvaeae* as a cultural framework for integrating quantitative and qualitative data and the value of good statistical practice. Tony O'Connor's *kōrero* on ethics reviews was on point, as was Amohia Boulton's *kōrero* on reflection and the future of evaluation through an *iwi* lens. Louise Were's *kōrero* on the capacity of *aroha* for positive change was also wonderful. Louise especially made me think about how important it is to acknowledge those that have helped us along the way—*kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua*.

I will continue to reflect on ANZEA 2022 and take forward into my practice as an emerging evaluator the wisdom and knowledge that was shared. *Ngā mihi aroha anō ki a koutou katoa*. Again, my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved and for awarding me a scholarship to attend this year's ANZEA conference—it was an enormously enriching and rewarding experience.

Cassidy Russell

Kia ora, I am Cassidy, and I had the pleasure of attending the ANZEA 2022 Conference through the MartinJenkins Scholarship.

I am in my third and final year of a Bachelor of Arts degree, double majoring in economics, political science, and international relations at the University



of Canterbury. Throughout my degree I have had limited experience relating to what evaluation is and means; this conference however taught me that my interests align with evaluation. It was extremely

inspiring to have so many talented and successful women in this field and has enabled me to consider evaluation as a possible future career path to pursue.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the ANZEA Conference and learnt a great deal. What I particularly enjoyed was the focus on indigenous culture and the decolonising of evaluation. During my university degree I have had the opportunity to volunteer as a consultant for 180 Degrees Consulting, where I am working with a Pasifika charity. When consulting with this charity I have found it challenging to navigate my consulting role for a culture that I am not personally familiar with. Therefore, I found many of the presentations on Pasifika culture and how to respectfully participate as a Pākehā evaluator particularly interesting; this has added to my future skillset as I can bring this experience to further volunteering as a consultant and in my working career.

Thank you to Martin Jenkins for this invaluable opportunity to attend the ANZEA Conference 2022, it was an enlightening experience— as well as the ANZEA board for organising this event.