



Annual Review
2003

Social Policy Evaluation and Research (SPEaR) is an inter-agency committee that co-ordinates and prioritises the New Zealand Government's spending on social policy evaluation and research.

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Forewords



Minister's Foreword: Hon. Steve Maharey

To improve the knowledge base, we are seeking greater strategic alignment in social policy research and evaluation. If we can “join up” government social activity better while engaging constructively with the broader social science sector, we can make important progress.

The Government's focus on social development outcomes is central to national development. High quality social research and evaluation connecting to policy is fundamental for progress.

While we recognise a great deal of good work is being done, we have signalled a desire for continuous improvement, enhanced capacity and capability, and greater programme alignment across government agencies.

The SPEaR Committee is an inter-agency vehicle that is a key component of our approach. It assists Government agencies to work together for an increasingly collaborative high performance social research and evaluation climate. SPEaR has already generated momentum in its first year of operation by progressing shared understanding, priority setting and associated activity across Government.

As outlined in this report, SPEaR's three objectives are beginning the process of “wiring up” agencies, building capacity and capability, and forming a context where we can invest in priority areas for sustainable knowledge production. Assisted by improving communications, we are building a strengthening professional community both within and beyond Government.

I welcome SPEaR's inaugural Annual Review, which documents progress to date. With world-leading social research and evaluation informing social policy, our potential is immeasurable. Together we can improve practice and lift performance to build on the momentum that is evident in SPEaR's activities.

Hon. Steve Maharey
Minister for Social Development and Employment



SPEaR Chair's Foreword: Dr Arthur Grimes

In his opening chapter to the 1988 Report of the Royal Commission on Social Policy, W.H. Oliver interpreted social policy “to include all things deliberately done by government to promote wellbeing and to limit the effects of misfortune”. In undertaking such deliberate policy actions, government must be aware of the nature and causes of problems to be addressed, potential policy interventions, the likely efficacy of such interventions, and their side-effects – both immediately and over time. The information required to underpin effective social policy programmes is immense. Poor information can lead to well-intentioned programmes failing to achieve their targeted outcomes or even making matters worse.

These imperatives mean that government has a strategic interest in ensuring the delivery of high quality research to inform its social policy initiatives. It also requires government programmes to be subject to rigorous evaluation, designed and undertaken in conjunction with proposed programmes.

SPEaR was established to assist in the co-ordination and provision of such research and evaluation (R&E). Co-ordination is a crucial task. Having identified required R&E elements through the “Improving the Knowledge Base” (IKB) process, a mechanism was required to ensure the required elements were being delivered. SPEaR's mapping of existing social policy R&E work and its identification of gaps in the work plays an important role here.

While co-ordination is vital, the delivery of quality research and evaluation is essential. Poor quality research is more dangerous than a complete lack of research: it may suggest that something is known when it is preferable for a policy-maker to know that reliable information simply does not exist. SPEaR has a crucial role in building R&E capability in ways that will assist the delivery of new policy-relevant information over coming years. It has implemented capability-building programmes, as outlined in this report. SPEaR also has an important role in advising related agencies (e.g. The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology) on the quality of R&E proposals when Cross Departmental Research Pool (CDRP) and other proposals are being considered.

SPEaR has already improved co-ordination of R&E activities across government and its work in capability-building is starting to bear fruit. The goal is that these activities underpin high quality social policy programmes now and into the future. If they are effective in promoting wellbeing and limiting the effects of misfortune, these activities will be worthy indeed.

Overview

About SPEaR

The New Zealand Government spends more than \$30 million¹ annually on social policy research and evaluation. SPEaR is the inter-agency committee responsible for advancing co-ordination.

In brief, SPEaR's responsibilities include:

- improving co-ordination of social research and evaluation across agencies
- improving the quality of social research and evaluation through capacity and capability building
- focusing cross-sectoral priorities to encourage greater alignment of social research and evaluation with the Government's social policy priorities
- providing a communications hub and building connections in the social research sector
- linking social policy research and evaluation evidence to policy decisions.

Established in November 2001 as a result of the Improving the Knowledge Base (IKB) for Social Policy review, SPEaR responds to the demand highlighted for high-quality social research and evaluation that informs social policy. The SPEaR Committee's terms of reference, as approved by Cabinet, and a key point summary of SPEaR's early development in 2002, are in Appendix 7, page 35.

Who forms SPEaR?

The SPEaR Committee comprises senior officials from 22 Government agencies involved in social research and evaluation. The membership for 2003 is listed in Appendix 3, page 32. It is headed

by an independent chair, Dr Arthur Grimes, and is supported by a Secretariat hosted by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). It is located within MSD's Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (CSRE).

The Committee reports to the ministers responsible for Social Development and Employment (the Hon. Steve Maharey) and Research, Science and Technology (the Hon. Pete Hodgson), through MSD's Chief Executive.

How does SPEaR work?

The SPEaR Committee meets once every two months to guide developments, make decisions, build understanding and exchange information. It was supported by subcommittees through 2003 that meet more frequently to advance business in their respective areas. They were the Priorities Subcommittee, the Linkages Subcommittee and the Evaluation Subcommittee. The Secretariat comprises a Project Manager and a Principal Analyst, who are responsible for managing and advancing the Committee's activities. Financial accountability rests with the General Manager of CSRE.

¹For further explanation refer to pages 10-11.

Summary of Programme

SPEaR's portfolio of projects falls into three key categories of activity, with the following high-level objectives:

1. ALIGNMENT AND PRIORITIES

Establishing a coherent picture of current social policy research and evaluation activities, and establishing priorities for the future

- ☞ Priorities Subcommittee
- ☞ Understanding Resourcing
- ☞ IKB Mapping
- ☞ CDRP Advice
- ☞ FRST Advice
- ☞ TEC Advice

2. COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATION

Fostering understanding and sharing knowledge for improved communications between agencies and across the wider social policy research and evaluation sector

- ☞ SPEaR Website
- ☞ SPEaR Bulletin
- ☞ Stakeholder Liaison

3. CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Lifting performance with targeted investment in key areas, combined with building best practices

- ☞ Linkages Programme
- ☞ Evaluation Subcommittee
- ☞ Best Practice Guidelines

Figure 1: Financial Summary for 2003

1. Alignment and Priorities	
Expenditure	
• Staffing/overheads	61,428.00
• Other	-
Total	61,428.00
% of Total Expenditure	20%

2. Communications and Collaboration	
Expenditure	
• Staffing/overheads	53,749.50
• Website and Bulletins	48,126.00
• SPRE Conference	35,000.00
Total	136,875.50
% of Total Expenditure	45%

3. Capacity and Capability	
Expenditure	
• Staffing/overheads	38,392.50
• Linkages Programme	67,506.00
Total	105,898.50
% of Total Expenditure	35%

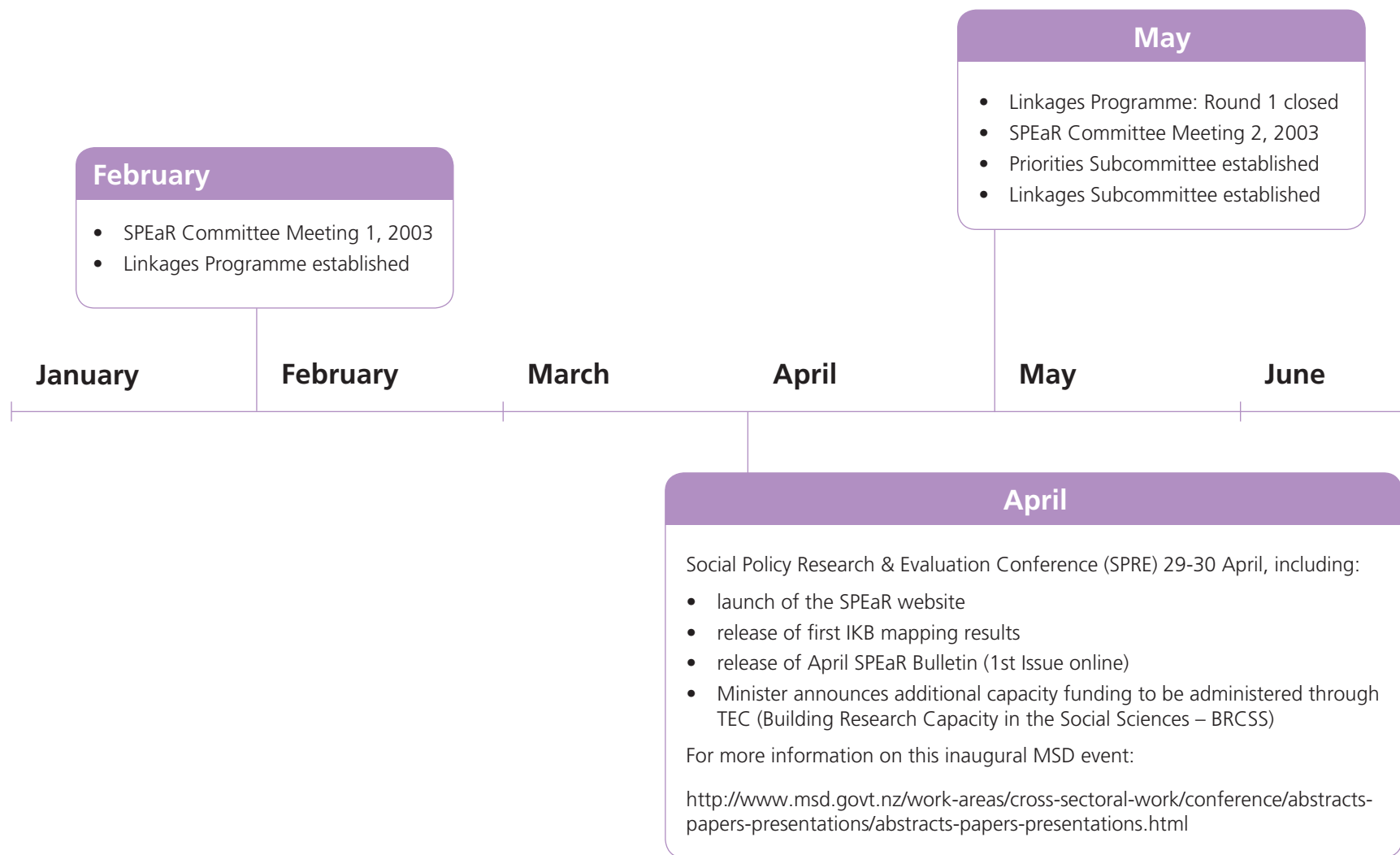
Total Expenditure 2003: \$304,202.00

Notes to Figure 1:

These figures are actuals for the calendar year 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003. The allocation for the financial year 2003/04 is \$661,750.00. Due to the ramping up of SPEaR's activities it is projected that the allocation for the fiscal year will be utilised fully. These figures are GST exclusive. The percentage breakdown of staffing and overheads by activity area is as follows: 1. 40%; 2. 35%; 3. 25%. Website and Bulletins – includes website establishment, launch and maintenance in 2003, along with the production of four Bulletins. Linkages Programme – includes development expenses and the awards paid by 31 December 2003, which does not represent all the awards made in the period.



Highlights for 2003



September

- Release of September SPEaR Bulletin (3rd Issue)
- SPEaR Committee Meeting 4, 2003
- Evaluation Subcommittee re-established
- Workshop: Two Way Learning - Policy & Practice for Stronger Community Initiatives, hosted by SHORE / Whariki, Massey University (30 September)

August

- Linkages Programme: Round 2 closed

July

August

September

October

November

December

July

- Release of July SPEaR Bulletin (2nd Issue)
- Seminar: Lessons for NZ from the English Vocational & Training Policy, hosted by Industry Training Federation (ITF) (14 July)
- SPEaR Committee Meeting 3, 2003

October

- Workshop: Strategies for Social Science Research: Building Capacity, hosted by Royal Society of NZ Social Sciences Committee (9 October)
- Workshop: Pikipikihama Kae Vaevae Manava - Research Methodology in the Pasifika Context, hosted by Association of Social Science Researchers (ASSR), (10 October)
- Symposium: Ageing & the Wellbeing of Older People in New Zealand, hosted by Zealand Institute of Research on Ageing, Victoria University of Wellington (21-22 October)

November

- Linkages Programme: Round 3 closed
- Release of November SPEaR Bulletin (4th Issue)
- Workshop: Enhancing the Contribution of the Research Community to Improving Educational Outcomes for Young New Zealanders, hosted by Social Science Research Centre (SSRC), University of Canterbury (11-12 November)
- Workshop: Saving & Sharing Research Data – Policy & Practice, hosted by The Health Research Council (HRC) (25 November)
- Seminar: Developing & Using an Agent-based Model of the Criminal Justice System in Policy Analysis, hosted by Ministry of Justice (26 November)
- SPEaR Committee Meeting 5, 2003 November

December

- Symposium: Strengthening Family Relationships, Centre for Family Studies, hosted by Victoria University of Wellington and Ministry of Social Development (4 December)
- Conference: Globalisation & Knowledge Society, Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (SAANZ) (9-11 December)

Key Activities

ALIGNMENT AND PRIORITIES

Establishing a coherent picture of current social policy research and evaluation activities, and establishing priorities for the future

SPEaR's terms of reference require it to understand, track and align investment in social policy research and evaluation (R&E) across government agencies and to advise on setting social policy R&E priorities. The following section outlines work undertaken by SPEaR in 2003 to address these objectives.

Priorities Subcommittee

SPEaR established a Priorities Subcommittee in May 2003 as an advisory body to assist it with:

- identification and dissemination of key social policy knowledge needs
- development of research and evaluation agendas to meet identified social policy knowledge gaps
- integration of research and evaluation information into evidence-based policy development.

The Subcommittee oversees the development of cross-departmental research and evaluation priorities that build on the Improving the Knowledge Base (IKB) framework (summarised on page 10), and ensures that cross-departmental work is aligned to those strategic priorities.

Its emphasis is on work where there are clear benefits from inter-departmental co-ordination. It does not aim to duplicate priority-setting exercises within individual departments.

Activities in 2003 included managing the provision of lines of advice on priorities to the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) and the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). In 2004, the Subcommittee will oversee the strategic review of SPEaR and further cross-agency priorities work.

For more information, refer to the Priorities Subcommittee's terms of reference in Appendix 4, page 33.

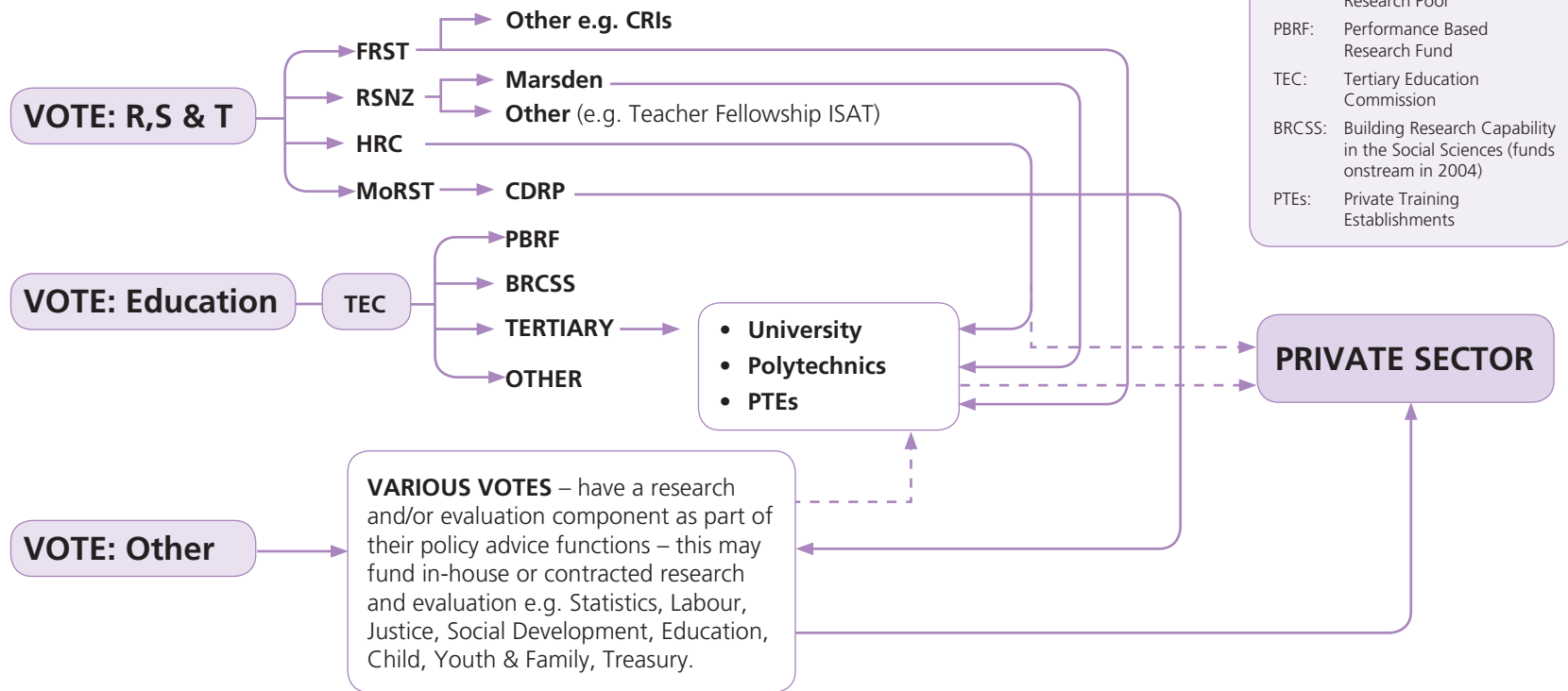


Understanding Resourcing

In order to map and understand the magnitude of investment in social policy R&E, it is necessary to consider what resources are channelled through key government votes and subsequent sites where activity occurs. Social policy R&E is viewed as the activity generated by vote expenditure through key agencies in government, education and research.

A number of funding frameworks and mechanisms exist in the social sector. These are modelled in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Resource Flow Model



IKB Mapping

Improving the Knowledge Base (IKB) mapping is a central component of SPEaR's activity. It records and aggregates the social policy R&E expenditure of all government agencies. The expenditure is mapped against the IKB framework, which consists of seven Knowledge Theme Areas and five Key Knowledge Questions:

Knowledge Theme Areas (KTAs)

- the changing nature of work
- developing human capabilities: knowledge and skills
- disparities between groups: how to change the picture
- enhancing positive social outcomes: developmental risk and protective factors
- measuring and understanding social wellbeing
- social connectedness
- social and cultural identities.

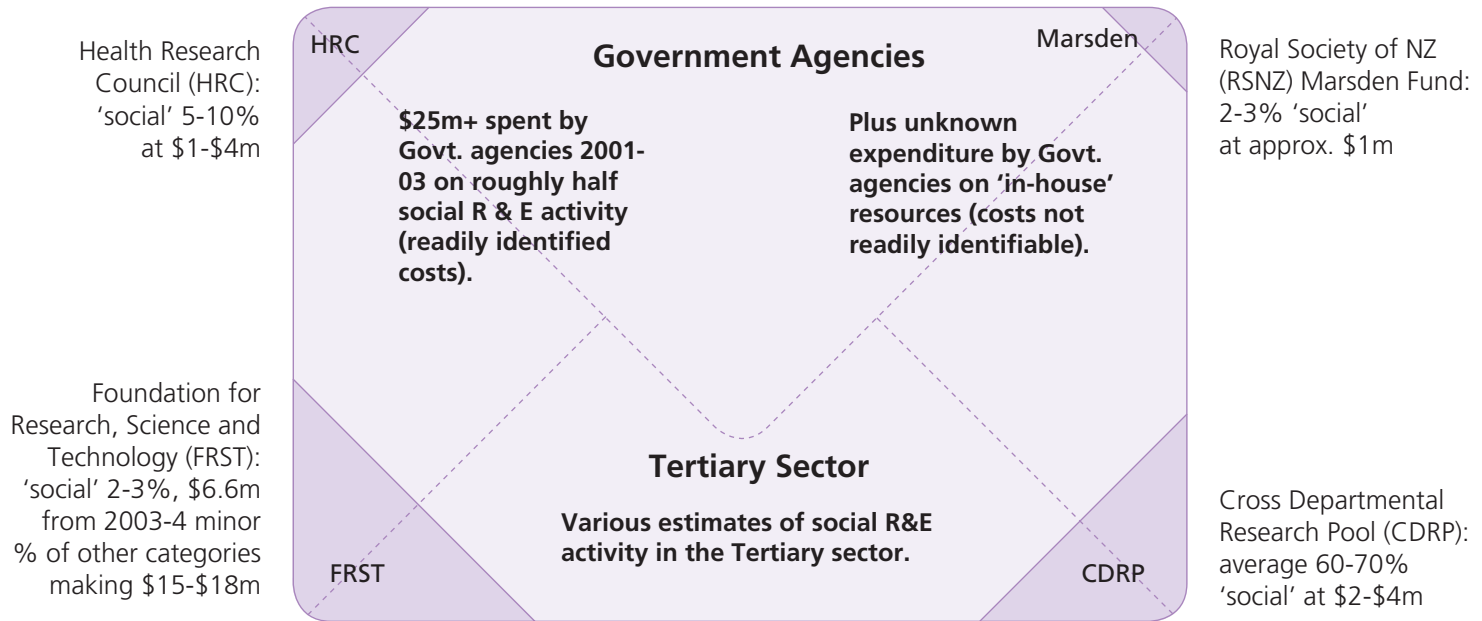
Key Knowledge Questions (KKQs)

- describing and monitoring variation in social outcomes
- understanding the multiple causes of variation in social outcomes
- monitoring key causal factors
- analysing what works to change variation in social outcomes design, delivery and impact of policy
- anticipating the likely impact of future social, socio-demographic and technological trends on social outcomes.

The key finding from the first round of results in March 2003 was the lack of work analysing future trends and causal factors. It was recommended that this should be a focus for future cross-sectoral work.

Figure 3, based on the mapping that uses the IKB framework for classification, outlines the scale of investment in social R&E. It shows that the majority of expenditure and activity occurs within government departments (\$40 million to \$60 million, of which \$27 million can be directly quantified with existing information), while direct social R&E expenditure from Vote:R,S&T is on a smaller scale (at around \$20 million to \$25 million for 2002/3).

Figure 3: The Social R&E “Envelope” 2002/3



Note:

- While the ‘corners’ are approx to scale, estimates on the size of the envelope itself vary from somewhere between \$40-60m for government agencies and between \$50-120m in the tertiary sector (depending on what direct and indirect factors are included).
- The ‘social’ envelope in this estimation does not include clinical medical and health specific research, economic or environmental investments with social dimensions.

CDRP Advice

The SPEaR Committee has been involved in providing advice to the Cross Departmental Research Pool (CDRP) in 2002 and 2003.

The CDRP, which is jointly administered by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology (MoRST) and the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), enables departments to work on joint programmes where there are particular research projects that will benefit from multiple agency involvement.

SPEaR was involved in a two-stage process of assessment advice in 2003. The Committee reviewed the expressions of interest for CDRP funding to assess how well they met SPEaR's criteria and advised which bids should be invited to submit full proposals. SPEaR then looked at the full proposals and provided a detailed line of advice to the CDRP managers on the value that could be achieved from each proposal, as well as noting where proposals could be improved from a cross-agency perspective.

In December 2003, the Minister for Research, Science and Technology, the Hon. Pete Hodgson, allocated \$1.431 million to support six research projects in 2004/5.

FRST Advice

SPEaR, through its Priorities Subcommittee, has provided advice to the FRST on social investment priorities and had input into FRST's draft investment signals for 2003.

Based on that advice, FRST developed three social investment priorities, namely:

- improving outcomes for children and young people/Te whakapai ake i ngā hua ka puta mō ngā tamariki me ngā taiohi
- improving participation in employment, earnings and quality of

employment/Te whakapai ake i ngā huarahi whakauru ki te mahi, te moni utu me te kounga o te mahi

- enhancing wellbeing in an ageing society/Te whakarei i te oranga i roto i te porihanga e kaumātuaia ana.

For more detail on these priorities refer to Appendix 6, page 34.

In November 2003, SPEaR, through its Priorities Subcommittee, provided a line of advice to the FRST social investment reference group on the 18 proposals it received for the 2003 round. FRST has asked SPEaR to continue to provide advice on social investment priorities.

TEC Advice

SPEaR liaised with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) over the establishment of the Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS) initiative funded through Vote:Education. This included providing advice to TEC on its priorities and the request for proposals (RFP) to ensure a strategic fit between the BRCSS initiative and SPEaR's capacity and capability-building dimension. This dialogue will continue as BRCSS funding is allocated and the initiative is developed in 2004 and onwards.

SPEaR and TEC jointly funded a workshop run by the Royal Society of New Zealand in October 2003 to advance capacity issues and to build communications between the government and social research sectors. The workshop provided the opportunity for informed dialogue on the BRCSS initiative.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COLLABORATION

Fostering understanding and sharing of knowledge for improved communications between agencies and across the wider social policy research and evaluation sector

SPEaR has a key role in building networks and fostering inter-agency and inter-sectoral communications focusing on social R&E activities and issues. It addresses this objective through the SPEaR website, the SPEaR Bulletin and ongoing liaison with the social research and evaluation communities.

SPEaR Website

The SPEaR website was officially launched at the Social Policy, Research and Evaluation (SPRE) Conference in April 2003. The SPEaR website can be accessed at www.spear.govt.nz

The site promotes social policy R&E investment that is relevant to policy development, acts as a clearing house for the exchange of information, and enables greater co-operation and collaboration in the social sciences sector.

Phase 1 of the site was rolled out in 2003. This included the progressive development of the site to provide access to a wide range of information about SPEaR and its activities, including coverage of social research news and events, the Linkages Programme, and Best Practice Guidelines. With its list of key players in the sector, the site provides access to extensive networking opportunities (see Related Links on the website).

The latter half of 2003 included planning and design work for Phase 2 of the site, which will extend the searching capability and enable users to access relevant publications and information from across the social policy R&E sector.

SPEaR commissioned CWA New Media Ltd to do an independent review of the development, which found the proposed expansion to be sound.

Table 1 shows the key statistics for the website from 1 July to 31 December 2003.

Table 1: SPEaR Website Usage for 1 July to 31 December 2003

SPEaR WWW	Jul 03	Aug 03	Sep 03
Number of User Sessions	1073	78	871
Average Number of Daily User Sessions	34	25	29
Average Length of a User Sessions	11min 41sec	10min 25sec	9min 25sec

SPEaR WWW	Oct 03	Nov 03	Dec 03
Number of User Sessions	1308	1713	1334
Average Number of Daily User Sessions	42	55	43
Average Length of a User Sessions	9min 51sec	11min 22sec	10min 40sec

SPEaR Bulletin

The Bulletin is a quarterly newsletter for the social policy R&E community. It aims to improve communication networks among social science researchers and policy agencies, and to support the work of the SPEaR Committee.

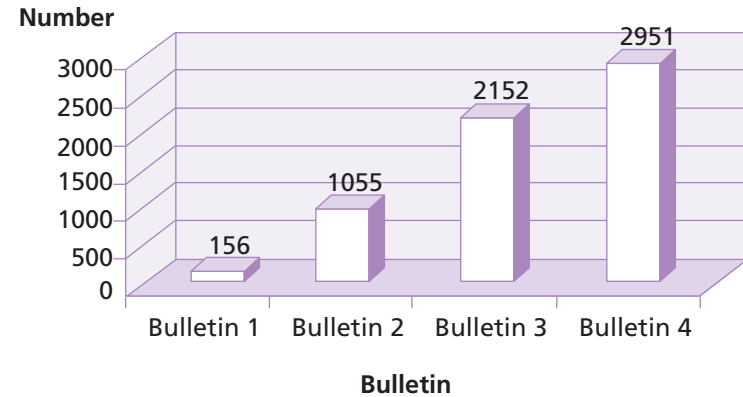
The first issue of the Bulletin was published in April 2003, with approximately 800 hard copies distributed to delegates at the SPRE Conference that month. The three following issues were published online in July, September and November.

It covers social policy R&E conducted within and across government, tertiary and private organisations, as well as providing information on the Linkages Programme, conferences and events within the social research sector, and an update from the SPEaR Secretariat.

Articles have covered a range of topics, including coverage of cross-agency research initiatives such as a longitudinal study to track school leavers and the social statistics programme, updates on the work of funding agencies such as the Health Research Council, the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and the Tertiary Education Commission, coverage of conferences such as SPRE and information on social research initiatives in the June 2003 Budget.

The Bulletin is published on the SPEaR website www.spear.govt.nz in both pdf and html formats, and is promoted through an online database of approximately 680 addresses. Readership has grown strongly over the year, reaching nearly 3000 pdf downloads for the fourth issue (see Figure 4) in 2003.

Figure 4: Bulletin PDF Downloads from SPEaR Website in 2003



Stakeholder Liaison

One of SPEaR's objectives is building social policy R&E networks, both across government agencies and within the wider social R&E community.

It achieves cross-agency networking in the course of conducting SPEaR business, which requires senior officials from different agencies to work closely together. The Secretariat has established links with a range of key players and organisations within the sector, including liaison with the Social Sciences Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ SSC), the Association of Social Science Researchers (ASSR), the Health Research Council (HRC) and social science academics across the country.

The SPEaR Secretariat also liaises closely with the Strategic Social Policy Senior Officials Group (SSPSOG) Secretariat. SSPSOG is responsible for co-ordinating strategic social policy issues across the social sector, including working with SPEaR on research issues. In line with this, SPEaR and SSPSOG will work together in 2004 to establish updated social policy-informed R&E priorities.

The development of Phase 2 of the website in 2004 will provide greater opportunities for the wider social R&E community to access and share information through the online portal. Increased functionality will support greater stakeholder involvement and information sharing.

The Linkages Programme also provides opportunities for SPEaR and the sector to work together to improve the coherence and the quality of social policy R&E. A number of events funded in 2003 created networking opportunities.



CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY BUILDING

Lifting performance with targeted investment in key areas, combined with building best practices

SPEaR is starting to play a key role in lifting performance and improving the quality of social policy R&E. It is building both capacity and capability in the sector through the Linkages Programme, the work of its Evaluation Subcommittee and the development of Best Practice Guidelines.

Linkages Programme

Linkages is a programme of scholarships, fellowships, exchanges and grants to address skill shortages in social policy R&E. Where appropriate, it will specifically address working with Māori, Pacific peoples and other ethnic groups.

In brief, the Linkages Programme aims to:

- build knowledge for informing the development of social policy and improving the evaluation of social policy outcomes
- sponsor initiatives to improve social policy research capability, including research practice within government agencies.

The Linkages Programme awards are open to applicants based in New Zealand and overseas. To qualify for an award, the project must contribute to one or more of the priority Knowledge Theme Areas and the five Key Knowledge Questions, and there must be a clear link to New Zealand government departments or agencies with interests in the development, delivery or evaluation of social policy.

The five categories within the Linkages Programme are Research Methods Workshop Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships, Visiting Speaker Awards, Social Policy Research Awards and Visiting Research Fellowships.

In 2003, there were three award rounds (2 May, 8 August and 7 November). Programme award recommendations are made by the Linkages Subcommittee, which is appointed by and accountable to the SPEaR Committee. The recommendations go to the General Manager of CSRE, who has decision-making authority for the Programme.

Awards made in 2003, profiles of selected events and Linkages Programme criteria are in Appendix 1, page 19.

Evaluation Subcommittee

The SPEaR Committee formed an Evaluation Subcommittee in September 2003 to advance issues in evaluation within and across government agencies.

It was considered that a subcommittee was required to:

- have input, on behalf of SPEaR, on key evaluation issues in the public sector
- assist with co-ordinating initiatives in the social policy area
- monitor capacity and capability progress in the social policy area.

The aim is to develop a culture of quality strategic evaluation across social policy in government by taking an oversight role and providing technical advice.

The six key objectives are:

- initiative alignment
- capability and capacity building
- evaluation mapping
- communications
- workshops and projects
- monitoring.

Activity in 2003 included monitoring new developments and providing input to the Managing for Outcomes (MfO) process aimed at public sector senior management, and developing a working relationship with the Health, Education, Social Services Senior Officials Group (HESSOG) for providing technical advice as required.

Refer to the Evaluation Subcommittee's terms of reference in Appendix 5, page 33.

Best Practice Guidelines

SPEaR is developing Best Practice Guidelines for social policy R&E undertaken by government agencies or commissioned by these agencies.

The guidelines are intended to improve the quality of practice within government agencies and across the social sector. They will be a practical resource for researchers and evaluators and will include case studies, background information and links to further information.

Guidelines are being developed in four areas:

• **Social R&E projects involving Māori**

A working draft is being developed utilising material from a number of agencies. The first draft will be available for consultation later in 2004.

• **Social R&E projects involving Pacific peoples**

A progress report was discussed at a workshop at the SPRE Conference in Wellington April 2003. Several initiatives have recently been developed or are under consultation. A working draft will be available by June 2004.

• **Contracting**

The parties to an R&E contract have a range of legal, fiscal and professional R&E requirements. This guideline will include examples of the various stages of the contracting process and how agencies can address the issues.

• **Applying Ethics**

Government agency R&E practice, both for "in house" and contracted projects, should meet professional R&E standards. A working draft will be available in the second half of 2004 for consultation.

For information and advice on Best Practice issues, please contact info@spear.govt.nz



The Way Forward

Looking to the immediate future, in summary SPEaR seeks to:

- continue to develop as a dynamic information and analysis hub for social policy R&E
- continue with the Committee guiding progress and forging cross-sectoral communications
- expand the website into Phase 2 providing advanced search facilities that will enable access to quality information across the sector
- continue mapping expenditure on social policy R&E to gauge the extent of gaps and overlaps, and release the second round of IKB mapping in March 2004
- work with the Strategic Social Policy Senior Officials Group (SSPSOG) to develop a set of cross-sector R&E priorities based on the most likely future key social policy needs, to ensure that research is focused on issues relevant to Government
- position research and evaluation results to drive evidence-based approaches to social policy, including ensuring research and evaluation results become available in forms useful to policy-makers and decision-makers
- release SPEaR's Best Practice Guidelines throughout 2004 for research with Māori and Pacific peoples, and for ethics and contracting
- report to Cabinet in August 2004 on progress in addressing problems with the provision and uptake of social research. This will include an independent strategic review, which will be commissioned in 2004, to assess the extent to which SPEaR is making a difference
- use the independent strategic review as a basis for discussion about future strategic directions and related initiatives.

For further details, comments or suggestions, please contact the SPEaR Secretariat at info@spear.govt.nz



Appendices

APPENDIX 1: SPEaR Linkages Awards 2003

The following 2003 awards were made as Research Methods Workshop Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships, Visiting Speaker Awards, Social Policy Research Awards and Visiting Research Fellowships in the three funding rounds.

RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOPS

Two Way Learning Workshop: Policy and Practice for Stronger Community Initiatives

Hosted by SHORE (Associate Director Karen Witten) and the Whariki team, Massey University, Auckland
Held 30 September 2003, Wellington

The workshop provided an opportunity to explore barriers to successful community projects and ways agencies and communities could work together to enhance a project's chances of success. It looked at two projects undertaken by SHORE/Whariki: a meta-analysis of 10 community initiatives; and the development of a Community Projects Indicator Framework.

For more information: Karen Witten, shore@massey.ac.nz
For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml>

Strategies for Social Science Research: Building Capacity (BRCSS) Workshop

Hosted by Rosemary Du Plessis and Professor David Thorns, Royal Society of New Zealand Social Sciences Committee
Held 9 October 2003, Wellington

TEC and SPEaR updated the sector on the BRCSS initiative and gained feedback from the wider social research community on the development of BRCSS criteria. Other presentations from MoRST, FRST, MSD and the Marsden Fund provided the opportunity for this community to contribute to the overall direction of the sector. The workshop helped build a better understanding of Government initiatives, allowed the sector to provide feedback directly to the Minister for Social Development, Employment and Tertiary Education, and enabled sector representatives to build networks that will assist in forming collaborative BRCSS bids.

For more information: Debbie Levy, debbie.levy@rsnz.org

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/sponsored-events/building-capacity.sht>



Rosemary Du Plessis, chair of the Royal Society of New Zealand's Social Sciences Committee, says the workshop on Strategies for Social Science Research: Building Capacity, emphasised the importance of networking across a range of institutions.

"The forum was valuable in that it brought together people in government departments, the tertiary education sector, private research companies and Crown Research Institutes (CRIs). It also included presentations by people from a range of organisations including the Foundation for Science, Research and Technology, the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (Ministry of Social Development), the Marsden Fund, and the Social Policy Evaluation and Research Committee.

"One theme that emerged was that stronger links between CRIs and the tertiary education sector are important for producing good social science research. It also showed that the private social research sector is dynamic, and that it is equally important to develop collaborative partnerships with these social scientists."

Pikipikihama Kae Vaevae Manava: Research Methodology in the Pasifika Context

Hosted by Ngaire Bennie, Association of Social Science Researchers (ASSR)

Held 10 October 2003, Wellington

This workshop on Pasifika research methodologies addressed the need to ensure social policy R&E is culturally appropriate. It discussed theoretical frameworks, and participants worked through a number of scenarios, applying the principles that had been outlined. This added to the evolution of the Pacific Peoples strand of the SPEaR Best Practice Guidelines.

For more information: Ngaire Bennie, ngaire.bennie@paradise.net.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

Introducing Evidence-based Activity and Building Bridges Between Research and Practice

To be hosted by Dr Christa Fouche, School of Social and Cultural Studies, Massey University Albany

To be held in April and May 2004, Albany

These workshops aim to develop a dialogue on research in practice and establish networks involving social work professionals, educators and researchers. They will look at evidence-based social work and the way evidence can be used, discuss models of good practice research, and encourage networking among professionals that gets beyond the "silo" approach.

For more information: Dr Christa Fouche, C.B.Fouche@massey.ac.nz

For event details: info@spear.govt.nz



Symposium organiser Associate Professor Judith Davey says population ageing is a significant issue facing New Zealand.

"An understanding of how ageing relates to other social changes in New Zealand, and an in-depth knowledge of behavioural factors that promote positive ageing, is fundamental to successful social and economic adjustment as the population ages.

"Population ageing has implications for a range of policy domains and calls for cross-departmental initiatives. The symposium exposed the participants to multi-disciplinary approaches to research on ageing and provided a platform for postgraduate students to present their work in a supportive environment, thus helping build research capacity and capability in this important area of social policy."

Symposium on Ageing and the Wellbeing of Older People in New Zealand

Hosted by Associate Professor Judith Davey, New Zealand Institute of Research on Ageing (NZiRA)

Held 21–22 October 2003, Wellington

This symposium helped build capacity and capability in the ageing area which is priority area for social policy R&E, by providing emerging researchers with an opportunity to present papers on their work and to develop networks with other researchers. Forty-five people attended the event and eighteen postgraduate students presented papers on their research.

For more information: Associate Professor Judith Davey, ageing-institute@vuw.ac.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/sponsored-events/emerging-researchers.shtml>

Enhancing the Contribution of the Research Community to Improving Educational Outcomes for Young New Zealanders

Hosted by Dr Jane Higgins, Social Science Research Centre (SSRC), University of Canterbury

Held 11–12 November 2003, Christchurch

Researchers at the workshop shared information about research on young people in transition from school to the post-school world, discussed effective research strategies in youth research and identified ways in which it could be used in policy. This event helped build an emerging community of practice in a key social policy area, with government and academic researchers attending.

For more information: Dr Jane Higgins, jane.higgins@canterbury.ac.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml>



Attended by researchers from around New Zealand and Australia, this workshop focused on R&E related to how young people manage the process of leaving school and moving into the post-school world. Organiser Dr Jane Higgins said it highlighted the innovative research methods being employed in the field of youth research.

"It particularly highlighted the extent to which young people are being involved in the design and the carrying out of research" she said.

"The workshop heard how young people helped to design youth-oriented computer-based interactive surveys, sat on expert panels hearing submissions in youth tribunals and worked as researchers gathering data about youth identity from their peers."

Probabilistic and Micro-Simulation Population, Family and other Demographic Projection Methodologies for Social and Economic Policy

To be hosted by Professor Ian Pool, Demography Department, University of Waikato

To be held in November 2004, Wellington (subject to confirmation)

Population projections are essential for forming social policy objectives, providing information when planning services and interventions, setting benchmarks for monitoring progress of initiatives and for evaluating the impact of initiatives. There have been new genres of projection methodologies developed in recent years. The workshop will expose key senior policy analysts to the new methodologies, with presentations from overseas experts who have state of the art knowledge in new technologies.

For more information: Professor Ian Pool, pool@waikato.ac.nz

For event details: info@spear.govt.nz

Training in user-friendly evaluation for community service providers

To be facilitated by Trish Young and Kelly Gibson

To be held in March to June 2004, in Rotorua and Hamilton

The goal of these workshops is to increase community service providers' knowledge about programme evaluation so as to help them ensure ongoing service delivery effectiveness and to become more accountable for their funding.

For more information: Trish Young, tewairereahiahi@xtra.co.nz

For event details: info@spear.govt.nz

Strengthening Family Relationships Conference

Hosted by Dr Jan Pryor, Associate Professor and Director of the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families, Victoria University and Allen Gomes, Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (MSD)

Held 4 December 2003, Wellington

With presentations by three international speakers, complemented by 13 national panel discussions, the event focused on the ways in which emerging knowledge from social research can help social policy to strengthen relationships within families. It covered themes such as how to help parents build effective and enduring partnerships, how to help parents through transitions such as separation and divorce and fathering in families. This event highlighted the key dimensions of social debate as a forerunner to the establishment of the Families Commission in 2004.

For more information: Dr Jan Pryor, jan.pryor@vuw.ac.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/documents/linkages/strengthening-families-registration.pdf>



Co-organiser Jan Pryor, Director of the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families at Victoria University of Wellington, said the Strengthening Families workshop highlighted factors in family relationships that were universal but also showed differences between New Zealand and other cultures.

"Overall it was a very good initiative for bringing together people to discuss New Zealand policy and practices and to include overseas experts. It opens up debate and keeps us moving our ideas and practice along."

Allen Gomes, of MSD's Centre for Social Research and Evaluation, said the workshop stimulated informed discussion on the issue of family relationships.

"It did not provide answers to all the questions but it presented a range of different perspectives and got people talking about issues in an informed way. We are getting healthy discussion and that's the key to policy development which is grounded in community values."



POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Iris Hutchinson

PhD candidate, School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington

Topic: Pragmatism, Subjectivity and the New Sciences (Q-methodology)

July 2003–August 2004

This research will focus on why Q-methodology, a methodology for the scientific study of human subjectivity, can help resolve complex and seemingly intractable policy situations.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz



Linkages Scholarship recipient Iris Hutchinson says *“Q-methodology can provide breakthroughs in policy situations that are complex and attract controversy.*

“It is used to gain insights into the way people are thinking, and it allows multiple points of view to be taken into account in any particular situation, no matter how complex and intractable it may seem.

“I’ll be looking at why Q-methodology can often show a way forward to a consensus, and the implications of that in the New Zealand social policy and research context.”

Hazel Ashton

PhD candidate, Sociology and Anthropology Department, University of Canterbury

Topic: Creative Media-based Methodology Tools for Participatory Policy Formation

September 2003–March 2004

This study will pilot the use of creative media, by means of a specially created film on video and an interactive website, to stimulate community-based group conversations. The conversations will include people from disadvantaged groups, diverse cultures, business, technology development, academia and policy analysts, with a view to quality policy formation, feedback and ongoing development.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz

Irene de Haan

PhD candidate, Social and Cultural Studies, Massey University, Albany

Topic: A Good Start: Promoting Resilience in Families with Infants

November 2003–November 2004

The research will look at how social policy and programme delivery can enhance factors that foster family resilience. This knowledge can inform the development of effective early intervention programmes in health, education and social work, enhance the wellbeing of families and children, and minimise the costs associated with providing remedial services.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz

Narelle Dawson

PhD candidate, Psychology Department, Massey University,
Palmerston North

Topic: A Longitudinal Evaluation: Independent Youth Benefit
January 2004–December 2004

Through analysis of psychological records of deceased and surviving young people who received the Independent Youth Benefit (IYB) during 1995–2001, and a prospective study of IYB applicants who have attempted suicide, the research aims to: isolate the causes of the negative outcomes that lead to increased numbers of young people at risk of attempting suicide; investigate patterns that maintain negative outcomes; and isolate both the barriers that prevent and the interventions required to change these outcomes.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz

Patrick Nolan

PhD candidate, School of Government, Victoria University of
Wellington

Topic: The Optimal Design of Family and Employment Tax Credits in
New Zealand
January 2004–December 2004

This study investigates the relationship between public policy outcomes and the targeting of social security programmes in the form of refundable tax rebates for dependent children and low income working families in New Zealand. The research will help develop a framework for evaluating social policy initiatives involving refundable tax rebates, which differ in a number of ways from traditional social welfare programmes.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz

Ann Walker

PhD candidate, School of Government, Victoria University of Wellington
Topic: Strengthening Families Strategy
July 2004–June 2005

This research will use a four site comparison of Strengthening Families networks. It will seek to identify the ways in which agencies involved in the Strengthening Families networks collaborate, and what stakeholders see as the critical factors that facilitate or impede the Strengthening Families model of cross-agency implementation.

For more information: info@spear.govt.nz



VISITING SPEAKER AWARDS

Ewart Keep **Deputy Director of the UK Economics and Social Research Council's Centre on Skills Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE)**

Presentation: Lessons for New Zealand from the English Vocational and Training Policy

Hosted by Darel Hall, Director of Industry Training Federation (ITF)

Held July 2003, Wellington

This series of workshops highlighted lessons from the UK model of vocational training for New Zealand policy makers. These include the importance of institutional stability, the need for government to develop partnerships with other players, the difficulty of increasing training volume compared with increasing educational volume, and the need for a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to create an environment where a demand for skills exists.

For more information: Darel Hall, darel@itf.org.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml>

Dr Deborah Mitchell and Sophie Holloway **ACSPRI Centre for Social Research at ANU, Canberra**

Presentation: Saving and Sharing Research Data – Policy and Practice

Hosted by the Health Research Council (HRC), organised by Fiona Gordon

Held 25 November 2003, Wellington

Information and communication technologies are transforming the scientific enterprise and the management of research data, including its storage, access, analysis and distribution. These two presentations brought an international perspective, with a focus on academic research issues, public policy, economic implications, archiving, preservation and dissemination issues. This event built momentum for advancing New Zealand's data co-ordination and progress in this specialist field.

For more information: Fiona Gordon, fgordon@hrc.govt.nz


For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/sponsored-events/hrc-workshop.shtml>

Deborah Mitchell, Director of the Centre for Social Research at the Australian National University, and keynote speaker at the workshop on data saving and sharing, said it was important for data from publicly funded social science research to be widely available and accessible.

"There are strong imperatives to maximise the outputs and outcomes from the data beyond an individual's published output" she said.

Sophie Holloway, Senior Data Archivist at the Australian Social Science Data Archive, said changes in technology allowed for changes in the ways of preserving and accessing data. She said that preservation was the *"building block"* that allows access.

"The ideal is a government-funded central archive that can ensure standards, gain trust and funding, and allow topical archives to emerge - each with specialist knowledge and the ability to add increased value and better serve the user."

 **Paul Henderson**
Head of Modelling and Analysis, Criminal Justice Performance Directorate, London

Presentation: Developing and Using an Agent-based Model of the Criminal Justice System in Policy Analysis

Hosted by the Ministry of Justice, organised by Christopher Clark

Held 26 November 2003, Wellington

Modelling allows different policy options to be tested, and their impacts estimated, before they are implemented. This presentation shared the UK experience of developing a model that seeks to combine knowledge of process across a complex set of interacting agencies in order to improve the delivery of justice: bringing more offenders to justice; aligning sentences with public expectation; and identifying areas where investment can be best targeted.

For more information: Christopher Clark,
Christopher.Clark@justice.govt.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages-sponsored-events.shtml>

 **Professor Gregor McLennan**
Sociological Department, University of Bristol, UK

Plenary Panel Presentation: Sociologists on 'Knowledge Society'

Conference paper presentation: Ideas and Intellectuals in the Knowledge Society Panel Presentation; Third Way Ideologies: a comparative view

Hosted by Professor Charles Crothers, Auckland University of Technology

Held within the SAANZ Conference 9–11 December 2003, Auckland

This speaker brought an international perspective to conference dialogue on the development of a critical and in-depth understanding of the interplay between knowledge, intellectuals, ideologies, the information economy and society, and also addressed issues related to social and cultural identities, including those of cultural relativism.

For more information: Charles Crothers, Charles.Crothers@aut.ac.nz

Copies of papers can be inspected or downloaded from:
<http://saanz.rsnz.org/Con2003papers.html>

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

 **Professor John Micklewright**
School of Social Sciences, University of Southampton, UK

Presentations: The Wellbeing of Children and Educational Disadvantage

To be hosted by Dr Dave Maré, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust

To be held 28 June–9 July 2004, Wellington

The seminars will look at issues such as the welfare of children, particularly issues of child poverty, as well as bringing an international perspective to issues of literacy and educational disadvantage in New Zealand.

For more information: Dr Dave Maré, dave.mare@motu.org.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

 **Professor Stephen Jenkins**
***Institute for Social and Economic Research,
University of Essex, UK***

Presentations: Transitions Between Low Pay and Unemployment and The Gender Gap in Private Pensions in Britain

To be hosted by Dr Dave Maré, Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust

To be held 28 June–9 July 2004, Wellington

These seminars will provide insights on a broad range of issues of relevance for policy in New Zealand such as: low income and poverty dynamics; outcomes for children; outcomes for older workers; retirement and housing; changing patterns of household structure; and benefit dependence. It will contribute to discussion about New Zealand's design and use of longitudinal data.

For more information: Dr Dave Maré, dave.mare@motu.org.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

 **Tom Healy**
***Senior Statistician, Department of Education and
Science, Ireland***

Presentation: International Developments in Policy-related Work on Social Capital

To be hosted by David Robinson, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

To be held April 2004, Wellington

The presentation will look at the social capital debate, the use of social capital in policy development, and the value of creating a social capital assessment tool.

For more information: David Robinson, david.robinson@vuw.ac.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

 **Pay and Employment Equity for Women
Conference**

International Speakers:

- Dr Pat Armstrong (Professor of Sociology and of Women's Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada)
- Mary Cornish (Senior Partner, public interest law firm Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre and Cornish, Toronto, Canada)
- Philippa Hall (Deputy Director General, New South Wales Department for Women)
- Dr Heidi Hartmann (President, Institute for Women's Policy Research, Washington, DC, USA)
- Aileen McColgan (Professor of Human Rights Law, King's College; Barrister, Matrix Chambers, London)
- Dr Barbara Pocock (Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow and Associate Professor, University of Adelaide).

To be hosted by Suzanne Snively, Chair of the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women (NACEW)

To be held 28-29 June 2004, Wellington

These international speakers will bring to the conference first-hand knowledge of, and expertise in, women's employment issues, including issues relating to pay and employment equity, women and health, work-life balance, and women and welfare.

For more information: www.nacew.govt.nz

For event details: <http://www.spear.govt.nz/news-and-events/events.shtml>

SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH AWARDS

Jon Foley *Senior Analyst, Ministry of Health*

To be hosted by the Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington

Topic: Understanding the Social and Medical Reasons for Discontinuous Primary Health Care Relationships and the Implications for the Design and Delivery of Care

March – December 2004, Wellington

This study will look at the strength of the relationships between the new Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) and those people who historically have missed out on primary care (Māori, Pacific peoples, and deprived persons). The research will: establish reliable measures of continuity of care in PHOs; highlight areas where there are difficulties, and the reasons for those difficulties; and suggest lessons to be learned.

For more information: Jon Foley, Jon_Foley@moh.govt.nz

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Jodie Levin-Epstein *Deputy Director of the Centre for Law and Social Policy, Washington DC*

Topic: Low Income Parents: Paid leave, Sick leave and Enhanced Case Management

To be hosted by David Rea, Strategic Social Policy, MSD
February 2004–August 2004, Wellington

Interviews with low income workers will be conducted as part of a larger investigation of New Zealand work–life balance policies. The overall research will examine parental leave and special leave policies as they relate to low income families and small businesses. The project intends to inform both New Zealand and US audiences about the lessons from implementation of these two work–life policies. The grant also supports a national audio conference on enhanced case management issues.

For more information: Jodie Levin-Epstein,
jodie.levinepstein001@msd.govt.nz



 **Professor Charles Crothers**
*Professor of School of Social Sciences, Auckland
University of Technology*

Topic: Using the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) to Map the New Zealand Social Science Sector
To be hosted by Eric Pyle, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
April 2004–May 2004, Wellington

The study will examine the Tertiary Education Commission's published data on the PBRF and map it alongside other public data on social R&E. This will reveal strengths and weaknesses in the tertiary-based social science sector, help provide understanding of social research capability, and assist officials' understanding of the links between R,S&T social policy and the social R&E work done in the tertiary sector.

For more information: Eric Pyle, eric.pyle@morst.govt.nz

 **Kaye McLaren**
Independent contract researcher

Topic: The Development of a Best-Practice Assessment Tool for Youth Justice Interventions
To be hosted by Warren Young, Ministry of Justice
January 2004–June 2004, Wellington

Currently, youth justice interventions are funded with little guarantee they will have an effect on offending. Developing an assessment tool means funders will be able to assess whether an intervention is likely to reduce offending and identify areas where improvement is needed. It will also allow multiple providers to assess the strengths and weakness of their interventions.

For more information: Warren Young, warren.young@justice.govt.nz

SPEaR LINKAGES: GENERAL CRITERIA

These guiding criteria are applicable to all applications to the SPEaR Linkages Programme. They form the assessment basis for the Linkages Subcommittee. The objectives of Linkages are three-fold:

1. to build knowledge and capacity of benefit to New Zealand, in particular for informing the development of social policy and improving the evaluation of social policy outcomes
2. to enhance cross-departmental development, delivery or evaluation of social policy
3. to build capability for delivering cost-effective social policies and services.

The following five criteria unpack these general objectives further:

1. relationship of the proposal to the KTAs and KKQs. Applications should specify how their project will advance knowledge in these priority areas for New Zealand social policy
2. potential for the development of highly skilled people, who potentially may pursue careers in social policy development, delivery or evaluation
3. potential to contribute to achievement of desirable social policy outcomes
4. potential for development of innovative methodologies or techniques for social policy analysis or assessment of outcomes
5. potential for development of new knowledge.

For further information on the Linkages Programme:
www.spear.govt.nz/linkages-programme/linkages.shtml

APPENDIX 2: Social Policy Evaluation And Research Committee (SPEaR): Terms of Reference

Terms of reference as per SEQ Min (01) 25/1, November 2001

Background

1. High-quality social research has a fundamental role in the development of evidence-based social policy. Moreover, the uptake of social research into policy is a key characteristic of effective use of information by a policy community.
2. Greater co-ordination of the research spend by social policy agencies is considered to lead to improvements in the uptake of research and evaluation information into social policy development. Accordingly, the Government is interested in improving the alignment of its social policy research purchase around known policy priorities. In particular, it is seeking to improve the linkage between departmental research priority setting and key social policy drivers by establishing the Social Policy Evaluation and Research Committee (SPEaR)

Role and Functions

3. The role of SPEaR is to oversee the Government's social policy research purchase. In particular, the:
 - a. Identification and dissemination of key social policy knowledge needs;
 - b. Development of research agendas to meet identified social policy knowledge gaps;
 - c. Assurance of quality and relevance of government-purchased social policy research; and
 - d. Integration of research and evaluation information into evidence-based policy development.

4. In undertaking this role, SPEaR will have the following specific functions:
 - i. To encourage the uptake of research and evaluation information into social policy development;
 - ii. To co-ordinate departmental research priority setting (in conjunction with Strategic Social Policy Senior Officials Group (SSPSOG));
 - iii. To provide a strategic framework for the social research component of the Departmental Contestable Research Pool;
 - iv. To act as a vehicle for gathering agency views on sectoral research capacity issues;
 - v. To disseminate information relevant to the government's social policy research agenda;
 - vi. To sponsor initiatives aimed at improving social policy research capability (including agency research practice);
 - vii. To liaise with the Social Science Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand; and
 - viii. To promote the utilisation of "best practice" approaches, tools and techniques through development (where necessary) and/or dissemination.

Logistics

5. The Ministry of Social Development will provide a full-time secretariat (consisting of 1 FTE and overheads) and chair for SPEaR. Dedicated financial resources to fund the activities of SPEaR will be appropriated annually into Vote Social Services.
6. Membership of SPEaR will consist of officials involved in research activities (nominated by their Chief Executive) from the following agencies:
 - Ministry of Social Development;
 - Ministry of Research, Science and Technology;
 - Treasury;

- Ministry of Justice;
- Ministry of Education;
- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Women's Affairs;
- Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs;
- Ministry of Youth Affairs;
- Te Puni Kokiri;
- Statistics New Zealand;
- Department of Child, Youth and Families Services;
- Department of Internal Affairs;
- Housing;
- Accident Compensation Corporation.

7. In delivering its functions it is expected that SPEaR will:
- Meet regularly to consider general issues;
 - Form sub-committees to examine specific issues;
 - Co-opt members from other agencies to sub-committees; and
 - Consult with external stakeholders.

Key relationships

8. SPEaR will report to the Ministers of Social Services and Employment and Research, Science and Technology through the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development. This includes providing updates on progress and evaluations of government initiatives to improve the development of evidence-based social policy.
9. SPEaR will also liaise regularly with SSPSOG over the identification and dissemination of the government's social policy knowledge needs and the integration of research and evaluation information into social policy.

10. It is expected that SPEaR will ensure key public sector and social policy research stakeholders are informed of their activities and wherever practicable, be given an opportunity to participate in discussions. These key stakeholders include:
- Social Science Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand;
 - Research Committee of the New Zealand Vice Chancellor's Committee;
 - Foundation for Research Science and Technology;
 - Tertiary Education Commission; and
 - Science and Innovation Advisory Council.

Amendments to Terms of Reference

11. Any amendment to these Terms of Reference will be by the agreement of the Ministers of Statistics, Social Services and Employment, and Research, Science and Technology.



APPENDIX 3: SPEaR Committee Membership

SPEaR Committee 2003

Chair: Dr Arthur Grimes (Motu Economic and Public Policy Research Trust)

The Committee consists of one representative per Government agency, as appointed by each agency's CEO. 2003 membership and representation included:

ACC* (Clare Dominick)
DCYF (Ingrid van Aalst/Penny Hawkins)
DIA (Sue Walker/Ben Amey)
DoL (David Turner)
FRST (Shane Stuart/Mary Adams/Emma Speight)
HNZC (Louise Hoather)
IRD (Prue Oxley)
MoE (Lynne Whitney)
MoH (Elizabeth Knopf)
MoJ (Alison Chetwin/Judy Paulin)
MoRST (Marten Hutt)
MPIA (Abba Fidow)
MSD (Nicholas Pole/Anne Jackson, CSRE)
MWA (Sarah Howard/Alison Robins)
MYA (David Hanlon)
SNZ (Dallas Welch)
TPK (Lucy Te Moana/Elizabeth Bridge)
Treasury (Roger Waite)

SPEaR Secretariat

Project Manager: Paul Honeybone
Principal Analyst: Raewyn Good

* see list of Abbreviations, page 36



APPENDIX 4: Priorities Subcommittee: Terms of Reference

Aim

To develop social policy research and evaluation priorities for Government through an oversight role and the provision of priority setting knowledge and advisory activities.

Key Objectives

- Knowledge building: developing criteria and updating systems of prioritisation for social research and evaluation across government, utilising the IKB mapping framework
- Investment alignment: informing the key funding mechanisms in the sector of priorities (such as FRST, CDRP, BRCSS, and the SPEaR Linkages Programme) and systemically seeking alignment
- Monitoring: monitoring the shifts achieved through this work over the short, medium and long term
- Communications: overseeing work to promote the findings of IKB mapping and engaging across agencies to build the utilisation of this knowledge base
- Demonstration projects: identifying potential areas for collaboration and overseeing the development of specific projects or networks.

Priorities Criteria

The criteria for identifying research and evaluation priorities should reflect:

- Strategic fit
- Cross-cutting issues
- Potential impact
- Best practice approaches.

APPENDIX 5: Evaluation Subcommittee: Draft Terms of Reference

Aim

To develop a culture of quality strategic evaluation across social policy in Government through an oversight role and the provision of technical advice.

Key Objectives

- Evaluation mapping: building a picture of activity across government through IKB mapping and other activities to understand the nature of, and oversee, the Government's investment in social policy evaluation (in tandem and inclusively with research).
- Initiative alignment: systemically seeking alignment of evaluation initiatives across government, including with work of SSC and Treasury with the Review of the Centre (ROC) and Managing for Outcomes (MfO).
- Capability and capacity building: identifying activities and providing advice that contributes to informed capability and capacity as required for a stronger evaluative culture (e.g. advice to other SPEaR subcommittees, Best Practice Guidelines, HESSOG and MfO).
- Communications: acting as a communications hub to facilitate work on engagement across agencies to build the utilisation of evaluation (e.g. utilisation of website and Bulletin).
- Workshops and projects: recognising resource limitations, potentially identifying areas for collaboration and overseeing the development of specific projects or workshops that are of cross-agency interest.
- Monitoring: maintaining a 'watching brief' on the field and monitoring developments over the short, medium and long term.

APPENDIX 6: FRST outcome areas for social research investment

Building on the current state of knowledge and policy priority, the Foundation has identified three outcome areas for its investment in social research. These are:

1. Improving outcomes for children and young people/Te whakapai ake i ngā hua ka puta mō ngā tamariki me ngā taiohi

Understanding the factors that contribute to wellbeing for children and young people, including for example:

- Those subject to multiple disadvantages in their development and the impact of child poverty
- Taking a lifecourse/lifecycle perspective to understanding within whānau, families and communities
- Impact of changing family and whānau dynamics, such as the acquisition and transmission of intergenerational factors (e.g. attitudes, values, skills)
- Demonstration and analysis of the linkages between risk, resilience and social outcomes
- Issues for or perspectives of particular groups (e.g. gender, culture, ethnicity).

2. Improving participation in employment, earnings and quality of employment/Te whakapai ake i ngā huarahi whakauru ki te mahi, te moni utu me te kounga o te mahi

Addressing issues for vulnerable people in marginalised labour markets, including for example:

- Implications of changes in the nature of work and labour markets

- Connections between socio-economic conditions, employment and unemployment; such as the capacity of individuals, households, whānau and communities to adjust positively to fluctuations in the labour market
- Connections between productivity, profitability, growth and workforce changes in the labour market, and access to employment for marginalised groups and workers
- Implications of changing family, whānau and childcare responsibilities
- Transitions to and from various forms of work through the lifecycle, including barriers and triggers to access
- Factors that contribute to engagement with and exclusion from work
- Issues for or perspectives of particular groups (e.g. gender, culture, ethnicity).

3. Enhancing wellbeing in an ageing society/Te whakarei i te oranga i roto i te porihanga e kaumātua ana.

Building knowledge about emerging changes and future social cohesion as New Zealanders live longer lives, including for example:

- Maximising social participation and minimising exclusion in older age, including positive roles older people can play
- Understanding changing patterns of inter-generational dynamics and dependencies, and changing expectations for families/whānau and the state
- Implications of changing roles for individuals, families, whānau, iwi, communities, cultures and the state for future infrastructure and policy
- Issues for, or perspectives of, particular groups (e.g. gender, culture, ethnicity)

- Changing patterns of workforce participation and attitudes to the ageing worker
- Understanding differences between various cohorts reaching retirement in the context of increasing population diversity.

In order to achieve these outcomes, we [FRST] are seeking research that supports evidence-informed policy formation and delivery of social services for better outcomes, that provides a “deep”, causal understanding of issues at a macro level and/or within a framework of systems thinking and meta-analysis of what makes for improved outcomes. Within each of these priority outcomes there is a need for contextualised problem definition, research and analysis for a more coherent knowledge base in the social sector.

APPENDIX 7: Summary of Achievements

Achievements in 2001/02

- SPEaR Committee convened (first meeting November 2001)
- Information sharing practices implemented
- Preliminary scoping discussions and priorities identification
- Resources on-stream (1 July 2002)
- Round 1 mapping process established
- CDRP round 1 advice process (October 2002)
- Website development (phase 1) for site launch (April 2003)
- Linkages Programme development (public February 2003)
- First edition of SPEaR Bulletin developed (launched April 2003)
- Agreement to engage Project Manager established.



List of Abbreviations

ACC	Accident Compensation Corporation	MoJ	Ministry of Justice
ASSR	Association of Social Science Researchers	MoL	Ministry of Labour
BRCSS	Building Research Capability in Social Sciences (a 2003 Budget initiative managed by TEC)	MoRST	Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
CDRP	Cross-departmental Research Pool (administered jointly by MoRST/FRST)	MPIA	Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
CRI	Crown Research Institute	MSD	Ministry of Social Development
CSRE	Centre for Social Research and Evaluation (part of MSD)	MWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
CYF	Department of Child, Youth and Families Services	MYA	Ministry of Youth Affairs
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs	PBRF	Performance Based Research Fund
FRST	Foundation for Research, Science and Technology	PP	Pacific peoples
HESSOG	Health, Education, Social Services Sector Senior Officials Group	R&E	Research and Evaluation
HNZC	Housing New Zealand Corporation	RFP	Request for Proposals
HRC	Health Research Council	ROC	Review of Centre (SSC and Treasury's review of central government)
IKB	Improving the Knowledge Base	R,S&T	Research, Science and Technology
IRD	Inland Revenue Department	RSNZ	Royal Society of New Zealand
ISAT	International Science and Technology Linkages	RSNZ SSC	RSNZ Social Sciences Committee
KKQs	Key Knowledge Questions	SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
KTAs	Key Theme Areas	SPEaR	Social Policy Evaluation and Research Committee
Linkages	A SPEaR-administered programme of scholarships, fellowships, grants and awards to build capacity and capability in social research and evaluation	SPRE	Social Policy Research and Evaluation Conference
MfO	Managing for Outcomes	SSC	State Services Commission
MoE	Ministry of Education	SSPSOG	Strategic Social Policy Senior Officials Group
MoH	Ministry of Health	TEC	Tertiary Education Commission
		TPK	Te Puni Kōkiri
		Treas.	Treasury

