**PAPER NUMBER #333**

**Evidence to answer second-generation questions for complex policy areas**

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**Objectives/aims**

There is increasing discussion of the need to go beyond the first generation question ‘what works?’ to second-generation questions such as ‘what works for whom, in what situations?’; ‘how does it work?’; ‘what is it that works?’; ‘what other factors are needed for success?’; and ‘how could it be implemented here?’(e.g. Howard White, 2016).

This session focuses on how to make this transition. Users of evidence need to learn to ask second-generation questions, and producers of evidence need to collect and present a wider range of evidence to answer these questions in useful ways.

**Methods**

This session will open with a short presentation by each of the three speakers, with a facilitated discussion with participants about working with second-generation questions, and conclude with a summary from each speaker.

Professor Penny Hawe, The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre, University of Sydney.

Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Community Child Health.

Professor Patricia Rogers, Professor of Public Sector Evaluation, Australia and New Zealand School of Government, and Director, BetterEvaluation.

**Main findings**

This session will help participants understand the importance of addressing these second-generation questions, drawing on practical examples from diverse sectors. It will cover types of second-generation questions, and how evidence users can draw on various types of evidence and reporting to address these questions. The session will also help producers of evidence understand the needs of decision-makers (including communities and clients) and the ways in which evidence can be created and communicated to answer second-generation questions.