

Part IV: DFAIT EVALUATION POLICY

Note: This policy must be read in conjunction with the Review Policy

INTRODUCTION

The Review policy establishes the general requirements for conducting all types of reviews, including evaluation. This policy sets the specific requirements for evaluation, which is expected to contribute to mainstream decision-making, innovation and sound accountability practices at all levels. The policy is intended to strengthen DFAIT evaluation practices. To achieve this objective, the effective and visible support of Branch and other senior managers and DAEC is essential.

Evaluation is expected to deliver timely, relevant and credible information on the continued relevance of DFAIT policies and programs; on whether, and to what extent they are achieving their objectives; on the impacts they are producing and on opportunities for using alternative and more cost-effective policy instruments or program delivery mechanisms to achieve objectives. Evaluation is expected to produce timely and pertinent findings that can be used with confidence to assist the management of programs and rendering accountability.

Evaluation is seen as focusing on what is really working, what isn't and on finding innovative ways of achieving the department's goals more cost-effectively. It is also seen as providing value-added support to policy and line managers on matters such as performance frameworks and monitoring, establishing client-oriented service standards, accountability reporting, rethinking regulatory activities. Finally, evaluation is seen as promoting organizational learning within the department, for example, by communicating lessons learned from existing programs and performance benchmarks for the use and management of policy instruments and program delivery mechanisms.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To ensure that evaluation enhances the relevance, results and cost-effectiveness of key policies and programs, and credible reporting on their performance.

POLICY STATEMENT

- *The department shall have an independent Evaluation Function that will strategically evaluate its key policies and programs and use the findings for decision-making and reporting on performance.*
- *The Evaluation Function will provide evaluation frameworks, assessments, evaluations and more specialized services such as case studies and surveys, as requested by senior management and/or directed by DAEC. This will be particularly required where DFAIT is expected to make attestations as to performance, in documents such as the*