

Collaborative Evaluation Unit

Newsletter, March 2022



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Launch of the Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG)



On Monday the 21st of February, Federation University officially launched the Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG) to support non-government and community organisations to evaluate projects, from local health initiatives to school and community support programs.

With governments increasingly requiring evidence to support grant applications, our work in CERG will prove invaluable for community organisations seeking funding.

We will provide local knowledge to organisations, while also tapping into the broad network of research expertise across a range of subject areas within the university.

This builds on the work of our Director, Federation University Associate Professor Joanne Porter since 2018 in developing significant partnerships with organisations like the Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network and Latrobe Regional Hospital in evaluating their programs.

This strong connection to Gippsland will be used as the blueprint for expanding the service to other parts of regional Victoria and Australia through the CERG.

Quotes attributable to Federation University Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Duncan Bentley

“As Victoria’s premier regional university, we have a key role to play in driving economic growth and jobs and industry and community partnerships are at the heart of this.”

“The Collaborative Evaluation and Research Group will work with organisations to embed evaluation within local projects, giving them the best chance of success in helping our regions prosper.”

“Governments want to see evidence-based research and data to know that programs they are funding are delivering value and making a difference the community – we will support regional communities to do this through our new research centre.”

Quotes attributable to Federation University Collaborative Evaluation and Research Group Director, Associate Professor Joanne Porter

“We’ve seen the vibrant partnerships we’ve already built in Gippsland through a collaborative, local approach to evaluation, and we are excited to expand on that work.”

“Organisations have different needs. They may be health-based, education-based or environmental but we are able to tailor our team of researchers to suit.”

“Having access to the university’s wealth of experts and researchers ensures that we can meet local needs.”

You can find out more about us by clicking the image below to watch our launch video.

If you'd like to contact us about an upcoming project, please get in touch by emailing CERGroup@federation.edu.au



Click the above image to watch our launch of the Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG) video.

Health Innovation Project - Workshop 3

The Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group has partnered with the Latrobe Valley Authority to deliver the Health and Wellbeing stream of the Gippsland Smart Specialisation Strategy (GS3). The Smart Specialisation approach is based on three principals:

- **Smart:** Identify the regions own strength, comparative and competitive assets
- **Specialisation:** Prioritise research and innovation in competitive areas
- **Strategic:** define and develop shared vision for regional innovation

Working in partnership with stakeholders, we'll be exploring current and future strengths and challenges in the health sector through a series of six workshops. These workshops will include participants from a number of industries, including education and training experts; key health professionals from a variety of disciplines; representation from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; acute health care; health employment agencies; and the higher education sector.

WORKSHOP 3: INQUIRY

Workshop 3 began the Inquiry Phase of this project. This workshop was held face to face at the Morwell Innovation Centre and encouraged participants to start identifying key ideas or initiatives which could be used to address the health and innovation needs of Gippsland. These ideas were built upon from the themes which were identified during the Discussion Phase of this project, and will be taken into the next Inquiry Phase workshop to be further defined and turned into actionable strategies moving forward.

We were so excited to be able to work with participants face to face during this workshop.

We can't wait to share more stories about these workshops with you as we start to move through each phase of the collaborative and evidence based Discovery, Inquiry and Design process.

Would you like to get involved in the Health Innovation Project?

We welcome your input and would love to hear from you. Email us at: CERGroup@federation.edu.au

[Find out more on our website](#)

About us

The Collaborative Evaluation & Research Group (CERG) works in partnership to build evaluation capacity, research and expertise. CERG understands the value of listening to the community and has the ability to deliver timely, rigorous and sustainable evaluations tailored to the needs of a wide variety of organisations. CERG provides training, workshops and mentoring to build capacity to enable organisations to conduct meaningful evaluations.

[Visit our website](#)

[View our publications](#)



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and Research Group