Evaluation update no. 2

An annual evaluation review on the implementation of the Western Cape Government Provincial Evaluation Plan

June 2015
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual publication provides a review of the implementation and progress of all provincial evaluations undertaken that form part of the Provincial Evaluation Plan to support evidence-based decision making, planning and monitoring and evaluation. This publication provides strategic management information on the implementation of evaluations linked to the provincial priorities of the Western Cape Government in line with the national and provincial imperatives. This publication is produced annually. It is the second evaluation update and takes into account the Provincial Evaluation Plan (PEP) and subsequent plans produced within the period 2013/2014 to 2014/2015.

The Western Cape Government (WCG) Provincial Evaluation Plan (PEP) for 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 was approved by the Provincial Cabinet during March 2013 and was developed as part of the roll-out of the National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF). The focus of the PEP is in line with the NEPF and its six (6) recommended types of evaluations. The criteria and process used for the selection of evaluations for the WCG PEP is in line with the National Evaluation Plan (NEP). The provincial institutionalisation of the National Evaluation System (NES) in the Western Cape Government (WCG) is done through the development and implementation of a three- (3) year plan, which is updated annually through the completion of a proposal for an evaluation in the format of concept notes submitted to the Department of the Premier.

The roll-out of the NEPF was piloted in the WCG in 2012/2013; and thus the first provincial evaluation plan was developed for implementation during the 2013/2014 financial year. This plan consisted of 10 evaluations that were agreed upon as provincial priorities. An amended PEP was developed in 2013/2014 that made provision for two (2) evaluations that were submitted by the Department of Human Settlements. Updated PEPs were subsequently developed in the 2013/2014 financial year focusing on six (6) evaluations to be implemented during 2014/2015, and the 2014/2015 financial year focusing on five (5) evaluations to be implemented during 2015/2016. The evaluations contained in these PEPs were aligned to key government interventions that placed an emphasis on the WCG provincial priorities. It is important to note that the updated PEP for 2014/2015 is the final annual updated plan relating to the PEP 2013/2014 to 2015/2016. The following three- (3) year plan for the financial years 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 will be developed during the 2015/2016 financial year.

In terms of the implementation of the evaluations, since the first implementation year, nine (9) evaluations were implemented during the 2013/2014 financial year consisting of three (3) implementation evaluations, five (5) impact evaluations and one (1) diagnostic evaluation. Eight (8) of these evaluations were completed during 2014/2015. One (1) evaluation was not completed due to a request for a review to be conducted on the implementation of the WCG Provincial Strategic Objective 12. Five (5) evaluations are being implemented during the 2014/2015 financial year consisting of two (2) implementation evaluations and three (3) impact evaluations. In total, 16 evaluations are currently managed for completion by the WCG Evaluation Technical Working Group throughout this evaluation cycle.

In terms of the establishment of a provincial evaluation system and the related implementation of the PEP, the Department of the Premier delivered the following:

- two (2) provincial guidelines relating to the implementation of the PEP;
- since its inception, technical input into the National Evaluation System: commentaries were provided to DPME on the guidelines for the six (6) types of evaluation;
- technical input for the Evaluation training course Module 3 material;
- a briefing session where a call for evaluations was issued with training provided to the implementing departments on the development of concept notes. These concept notes culminated in the development of the updated PEP for the 2015/2016 financial year;
- four (4) quarterly provincial Evaluation Technical Working group engagements with the purpose of engaging the members regarding progress relating to the implementation of the WCG PEP; and
- regular briefing notes were sent to the Provincial Top Management and EXCO forums.
In terms of establishing the National Evaluation System, the Chief Director: Strategic Management Information within the Department of the Premier served as a nominated representative on both the National Evaluation Technical Working group and the MPAT Evaluation Technical Working Group. The WCG was also invited to present the content and process of the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan at the MPAT case study workshop in support of documenting good practices emanating from the MPAT 1.4 assessments to aid improvement.

In line with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) evaluation quality assessment process, the Department of the Premier has submitted six (6) evaluations during 2014/2015 to be subjected to the DPME Quality Assessment Tool. All of these evaluations have received a quality assessment score above 3. A score of three (3) indicates that the evaluation is of an overall adequate quality.

As part of the WCG activities for the 2015 Year of Evaluations, the WCG hosted two (2) capacity building sessions, namely:

1. a two-day evaluation capacity building session in collaboration with the provincial Department of Agriculture on the development of a Terms of reference and management plans; and
2. a two-day evaluation capacity building session in collaboration with DPME on evaluation methods that served as Module 3 of the DPME capacity building initiative for provinces.

In addition to the above, the WCG also attended relevant evaluation events and submitted an abstract proposal relating to institutionalising the National Evaluation System of South Africa at a provincial level for the Western Cape Government to the American Evaluation Association (AEA). The Chief Director was also selected to review 12 abstracts for the AEA.

The National Evaluation System is aligned to the Provincial-wide Monitoring and Evaluation System (PWMES) within the context of data management and data assessment. The PWMES is a Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) system and operates through an effective indicator and data management system. As part of the data quality and assessment work, the Department of the Premier produced a core directory of common data sources/evaluation dictionary: Western Cape Government evaluations: 2015. This dictionary provides a product output of Strategic Management Information that informs the use of evaluation findings to support the global agenda and sub-national data requirements. This product is to be updated annually. As part of the DPME process in developing an Evaluability Assessment tool, the WCG served as a pilot through the testing of the Evaluability tool on the evaluation: ‘An evaluation of the Western Cape Government Corporate Services Centre’ to be conducted by the Department of the Premier.

Progress relating to the evaluations contained in the PEP 2013/2014 – 2015/2016 and the amended PEPs of 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 are cumulatively recorded in this annual provincial evaluation update, as well as a list of the evaluations to be implemented in 2015/2016. Key implementation issues in terms of the PEP 2013/2014 – 2015/2016 still refer mainly to technical support provided by the Department of the Premier, the work of the Evaluation Technical Working Group, the commencement of the management responses for the draft evaluation reports and the improvement plans for the final evaluation reports as well as funding for the plan.
ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

This annual publication provides a review of the implementation and progress of all provincial evaluations undertaken that form part of the Provincial Evaluation Plan to support evidence-based decision making, planning, and monitoring and evaluation. It provides strategic management information on the implementation of evaluations linked to the provincial priorities of the Western Cape Government in line with the national and provincial imperatives, and is produced annually. It is the second evaluation update and takes into account the Provincial Evaluation Plan (PEP) and subsequent plans produced within the period 2013/2014 to 2014/2015. The source for producing this update is the Provincial Evaluation database. The purpose of this database is to build and maintain an updated evaluation body of knowledge that comprises the institutionalisation of the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan.

The sections in the report cover:
- the institutionalisation of the National Evaluation System at the provincial level;
- the development and institutionalisation of the Provincial Evaluation System;
- the alignment of the National Evaluation System to the Provincial-wide Monitoring and Evaluation System;
- the progress of evaluations undertaken in 2014/2015; and
- key implementation issues.

INSTITUTIONALISATION OF THE NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEM AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL

The National Policy Framework and its evolution at a provincial level

The focus of the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan is in line with the NEPF and its six (6) recommended types of evaluations namely diagnostic evaluations, design evaluations, implementation evaluations, impact evaluations. The criteria and process used for the selection of evaluations for the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan is also in line with the National Evaluation Plan (NEP). The roll-out of the NEPF was piloted in the WCG in 2012/2013 for implementation over a three year period from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016. The first provincial evaluation plan was developed for implementation during the 2013/2014 financial year. Subsequently, updated PEPs were developed in the 2013/2014 financial year for implementation during 2014/2015 as well as in 2014/2015 for implementation during 2015/2016. In this regard, the updated PEPs were compiled sequentially in the 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years; and these plans were also approved.

The key achievements to date relating to the WCG PEP process are:
- the implementation of quality evaluations and the continuous reporting on the progress of these evaluations;
- promoting the use of evaluations to improve the impact of government programmes; and
- promoting the importance of evaluations for development and the linking of these evaluations to the government strategic planning and budgeting processes.

The evolution of the WCG PEP process unfolded as follows:

There was a call for evaluations in the 2012/2013 financial year. This call yielded the submission of 12 evaluations, of which ten evaluations were completed; one (1) evaluation was not implemented due to a request for a review to be conducted on the implementation of the WCG Provincial Strategic Objective 12. The first WCG PEP was compiled
and implemented in 2013/2014. An amended PEP was developed in 2013/2014 that made provision for two (2) evaluations that were submitted late by the Department of Human Settlements. The next call for evaluations was made in the 2013/2014 financial year and yielded the submission of six (6) evaluations, of which five (5) evaluations are currently being concluded and one (1) evaluation was not implemented. This was due to a shift in functions related to traffic services that was transferred from the Department of Community Safety to the Department of Transport and Public Works, who indicated that they did not have a budget to conduct this evaluation. An updated PEP was compiled in 2013/2014 and implemented in 2014/2015. A further call for evaluations was made in the 2014/2015 financial year and yielded the submission of five (5) evaluations, which is being implemented in 2015/2016. An updated PEP was compiled to address these evaluations during 2014/2015.

During the 2013/2014 financial year, nine (9) evaluations were implemented, consisting of three (3) implementation evaluations, five (5) impact evaluations and one (1) diagnostic evaluation. Five (5) evaluations were implemented during the 2014/2015 financial year, consisting of two (2) implementation evaluations and three (3) impact evaluations. Five (5) evaluations are being implemented during the 2015/2016 financial year, consisting of three (3) implementation evaluations and two (2) impact evaluations. This indicates that the WCG Evaluation Technical Working Group is managing in total 19 WCG evaluations (2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 financial years) for completion throughout this three- (3) year evaluation cycle.

The table below demonstrates a classified summary of these 19 evaluations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of evaluation</th>
<th>Number of evaluations per type</th>
<th>Informing Provincial Strategic Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation evaluations</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact evaluations</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic evaluation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF) has set the approach for developing a National Evaluation System (NES) in South Africa. This approach in the Western Cape Government (WCG) was piloted during 2012/2013. An evaluation audit was conducted in the WCG in 2012. This audit was done to obtain a sense of the types of internal and external evaluations conducted; the degree to which evaluations were used by government and to use this information for the planning of future evaluations. The audit yielded a finding that 118 evaluations were commissioned during the period 2005 to 2011 which were conducted in the absence of any national evaluation policy guidelines. These 118 evaluations are profiled in the publication ‘Dictionary of Evaluation Studies: Western Cape Government: March 2015’ as produced by the Chief Directorate: Strategic Management Information of the Department of the Premier.

The Department of the Premier approached the practice of government evaluations within the broader framework of facilitating integration with the WCG policy priorities of the Province for the respective periods.

A lesson emanating from the provincial institutionalisation of the National Evaluation System relates to the development of an institutional enabling environment amongst the 13 provincial government departments that constitute the WCG. These 13 departments are the key stakeholders who are conducting evaluations based on key programmes and projects in the WCG, with strategic support provided by Provincial Treasury, with whom concept notes and Terms of Reference are shared to inform funding requirements. The Department of the Premier has also ensured participation on evaluation advocacy, technical support and the development of evaluation standards and competencies.
The institutionalisation of the National Evaluation System has resultantly strengthened the Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation approach as adopted by the WCG. This enables the process of evidence-based decision making towards achieving the outcomes of the priorities of the Province.

The roll-out of the National Evaluation Policy Framework in the Western Cape Government

The institutionalisation of the National Evaluation System in the WCG is significant in that the roll-out of this system considered the existing provincial monitoring and evaluation processes; especially the alignment to the Provincial-Wide Monitoring and Evaluation System (PWMES) and its Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) approach. This alignment takes into account the M&E processes related to stakeholder engagement and readiness assessment, data management and data assessment. The value add here refers to the fact that the system can be replicated in other provinces, regions and sub-national government.

Consistent with the NEPF, all provinces were required to develop Provincial Evaluation Plans (PEPs) in 2013/2014 for implementation in 2014/2015. It is imperative to note that the WCG PEP focuses on a variety of government interventions, with an emphasis on key policy thematic areas as promoted by the Provincial Cabinet, including the various units of analysis on policy, programme, planning and project levels.

In terms of the criteria and selection for provincial evaluation, the approach was based on the following guiding principles of the NEPF.

The WCG has placed the priority on the evaluation of existing interventions and on those that are a provincial priority that are:

- linked to the 12 Provincial Strategic Objectives and the five (5) Provincial Strategic Goals as adopted by the WCG;
- large (with a budget of over R50 million with a wide footprint covering over 10% of the population); and
- strategic, where it is important to improve and to learn.

Additional features that were considered include those interventions that:

a. are innovative;
b. signify a keen public interest;
c. have not been evaluated recently;
d. are at a critical stage, where decisions need to be taken for which an evaluation is required in order to provide the necessary data and information;
e. have monitoring data and or spatial information in order to inform the evaluation process; and
f. have a potential budget for evaluation.
THE DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTIONALISATION OF THE PROVINCIAL EVALUATION SYSTEM

Purpose of the Provincial Evaluation Plan

- The purpose of the PEP is to provide details of the evaluations approved by the Provincial Cabinet and by the Director-General of the WCG as priority interventions to be undertaken, and to summarise the situation with ongoing evaluations.
- The focus is on 21 evaluations agreed upon as provincial priorities that are currently being implemented as part of the plan roll-out over the three-year period.
- The selection of evaluations indicated that the WCG Heads of Department agreed that the evaluation topics that were selected were important.
- The call for evaluations is made annually and the PEP is updated over the three-year period to ensure that it is a rolling three-year plan.
- The use of evaluation findings to inform planning is a recommendation in the Budget Circular compiled by the Provincial Treasury.
- Concept notes and the related Terms of Reference are shared with the Provincial Treasury to inform evaluation funding requirements.
- Funding for evaluations comprise an agenda item at the Medium-term Expenditure Committees (MTEC).

Methodology and guidelines

In line with the NES, the WCG produced the following guidelines during 2014/2015:
- the development of a project plan to implement an evaluation; and
- an annually updated milestone and activity schedule for the implementation of the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan.

This was done to facilitate a standardised implementation approach across the WCG PEP 2013/2014–2015/2016 and the updated PEPs for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 respectively.

Technical input into the National Evaluation System

During the second implementation year (2014/2015) of the WCG PEP, commentaries on the following were provided to DPME:
- guidelines for the six (6) types of evaluation (diagnostic, design, implementation, impact, evaluation synthesis and economic); and
- the evaluation training course Module 3: Deepening evaluations.

Technical support through engagements with the Evaluation Technical Working Group

- An engagement was held in June 2014 with the WCG implementing departments. During this engagement, all WCG departments were guided on how to submit proposals for evaluations for the 2015/2016 financial year.
- All implementing departments received technical support in the development of the concept notes through two levels of technical and language editing processes. The responses through the submission of concept notes culminated in the development of the updated Provincial Evaluation Plan for 2015/2016. The departments made a concerted effort to advocate the submission of proposals for evaluations, especially
amongst the governance departments. The Department of the Premier submitted the first proposal in the area of governance for an implementation evaluation of the WCG Corporate Services Centre to be conducted during 2015/2016.

• The Department of the Premier hosted Quarterly WCG Evaluation Technical Working group engagements during 2014/2015 with the purpose of engaging with the members regarding progress relating to the implementation of the WCG PEP 2013/2014–2015/2016.
• Preparation for the WCG activities for the 2015 Year of Evaluations was a key item on the agenda for these quarterly engagements.

ALIGNMENT OF THE NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEM TO THE PROVINCIAL-WIDE MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

Audit of evaluations

• The Provincial Evaluation System forms an integral part of the Provincial-wide Monitoring and Evaluation System (PWMES) which is aligned to the Government-wide Monitoring and Evaluation System. Within this context, the Department of the Premier has produced a core directory of common data sources/evaluation dictionary: Western Cape Government evaluations: 2015.
• This evaluation dictionary provides a product output of Strategic Management Information that informs the use of evaluation findings to support the global agenda and sub-national data requirements. This product is guided by the National Evaluation Policy Framework and the resultant Western Cape Provincial Evaluation Plan (2013/2014–2015/2016), and takes into account the Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation approach as implemented through the PWMES as advocated by the WCG. This product is grounded in the data management and data assessment processes within the PWMES, the WCG Business Intelligence process as well as key thematic areas as designed specifically for the Core Directory process. This product will be updated annually.

The Evaluations Quality Assessment System

The Western Cape Government is currently utilising the quality assessment system for evaluations as developed by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. With reference to the 2013/2014 Western Cape Government Provincial Evaluation Plan, out of the eight (8) completed evaluations, all eight (8) evaluations have been quality assessed:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of evaluation</th>
<th>Type of evaluation</th>
<th>Implementing department</th>
<th>Quality assessment score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating the implementation of the Transversal Skills intervention in supporting economic growth and job creation</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Economic Development and Tourism</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An impact evaluation of the Market Access Programme</td>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>3.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evaluation of the impact of Agricultural Learnerships in the Western Cape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Evaluation of the impact of the literacy and numeracy strategy by examining factors contributing to improved language and mathematics in 20 schools</td>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Western Cape Education Department</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An impact evaluation of the Safely Home Campaign on road crash fatalities in the Western Cape</td>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Transport and Public Works</td>
<td>3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evaluation of the implementation of the Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth (MOD) Programme</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Cultural Affairs and Sport</td>
<td>3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An evaluation of the outcome of the upgrading of the Informal Settlement Programme</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluating the outcome of the People’s Housing Process</td>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Human Settlements</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Department of the Premier received feedback on the evaluations subjected to the application of the DPME Evaluation Quality Assessment Tool. Engagements with the relevant Heads of Departments who submitted evaluations will now be set up to discuss the quality assessment reports as well as the strategy on how to deepen/strengthen future evaluations conducted by the departments.

The WCG continuously submits final evaluation reports to DPME as per the WCG three- (3) year rolling Provincial Evaluation Plan for the quality assessment process.
The evaluability tool

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) conducts annual evaluations of national programmes, projects and other interventions in terms of the National Evaluation Plan. Having conducted several evaluations that have run into difficulties, DPME contracted the Wits Health Consortium to develop an Evaluability Assessment Tool to be used to assess the evaluability of the proposed evaluations before the Terms of Reference are developed. ‘Evaluability’ refers to the extent to which and whether a programme can be evaluated in a reliable and credible manner. It is an initial assessment of whether the proposed evaluation can be carried out. Problems of evaluability often point to the need for an approach to evaluation that is aimed at consolidating the parameters of the programme through redefining the theory of change and the logic of the intervention, as opposed to conducting an outcome level assessment.

As part of the process of developing that Evaluability Assessment Tool, a pilot of the tool was carried out on a proposed implementation evaluation of the Corporate Services Centre (CSC) of the Department of the Premier in the Western Cape Government (WCG). The overall finding of the WCG Evaluability pilot was that there are no major obstacles to conducting an implementation evaluation of the CSC. The concept note was well constructed and comprehensive and the team that constructed it was commended.

Capacity building and workshops

During the second year of implementation of the WCG PEP, the WCG implementing departments attended the following two (2) capacity building sessions to kick-start the WCG 2015 International Year of Evaluation activities and to assist them with the implementation of the WCG PEP:

A two-day evaluation capacity building session: Development of terms of reference and management plans
The Department of the Premier in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture hosted a capacity building session to support the development of terms of reference and management plans for evaluations of 16 and 17 March 2015 at Elsenburg in Stellenbosch, Western Cape. This training provided an opportunity to think through the methodology, methods of data collection, theory of change and management strategy. Through this capacity building session, the implementing departments were placed in a position to proceed with the implementation of the approved evaluations contained in the WCG PEP.

A two-day evaluation capacity building session, Module 3
The Department of the Premier in collaboration with the national Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation hosted this capacity building session. The evaluation training ‘Evaluation Methodology’ provided participants with technical guidance on how different methodologies and approaches apply to each type of evaluation. Through this training, implementing departments gained expertise on different research methodologies as they apply to evaluations within the National Evaluation Policy Framework. The NEPF identifies six (6) types of evaluations and the Evaluation Research Unit at DPME developed guidelines to provide technical guidance to implementing departments on how different methodologies and approaches apply to each one of these evaluations.

These collaborative (WCG, DPME and the provincial Department of Agriculture) evaluation capacity building sessions enhanced the evaluation capacity of the responsible officials within the implementing departments.

DPME national workshops and provincial engagements

National Evaluation Technical Working Group
The national evaluation system is supported by a cross-government Evaluation Technical Working Group. Particular functions relating to the operations of this working group refer to the approval of evaluation guidelines and templates, commenting on evaluation standards and competencies for evaluators and government staff
managing evaluations as well as providing input and comments to a set of capacity building courses that have been developed to support the national evaluation system. The Chief Director for Strategic Management Information within the Western Cape Government’s Department of the Premier serves as a nominated representative on the National Evaluation Technical Working Group.

**Advocacy**

**MPAT Evaluation Working Group**  
The Chief Director also serves as a member of the MPAT Evaluation Working Group providing advisory comments and peer reviews to the national MPAT Implementation Evaluation Study.

**MPAT Case Study Workshop**  
In support of documenting good practices emanating from the MPAT 1.4 assessments, and with the intention of sharing knowledge gathered with other departments to aid improvement, the WCG was invited to present the content and process of the WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan at the MPAT case study workshop held on 19 November 2015. The participants of this workshop included those departments across the country that scored at levels 1 and 2 during the MPAT 1.4 self-assessment phase.
OVERVIEW OF STATUS OF EVALUATIONS IN 2013/2014 – 2015/2016 PEP

The status of evaluations contained in the 2013/2014–2015/2016 Provincial Evaluation Plan are reported in terms of the following categories:
1. The status of all evaluations that are included in the three (3) year PEP
2. An overview of the number of evaluations per department that are included in the three- (3) year PEP
3. An overview of the type of evaluations that are included in the three- (3) year PEP.

Figure 1 presents an overview of the status of all evaluations that constitute the Western Cape Government three- (3) year Provincial Evaluation Plan (2013/2014 to 2015/2016). This graph demonstrates over a three- (3) year rolling period the number of evaluations completed, in progress, planned and not implemented cumulatively in the period from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 and exhibits the following:
• In 2013/2014, eight (8) evaluations were completed; three (3) evaluations are currently in progress and one (1) evaluation has not been completed.
• In 2014/2015, five (5) evaluations are currently in progress and one (1) evaluation has not been implemented.
• In 2015/2016, six (6) evaluations are planned.
Figure 2 presents an overview of the number of evaluations per department that are included in the three- (3) year PEP. This graph demonstrates over a three- (3) year rolling period the number of evaluations cumulatively in the period from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 conducted per department and exhibits the following:

- The Department of Agriculture has nine (9) evaluations that are being conducted over the three- (3) year period.
- The departments of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Human Settlements, Transport and Public Works and Community Safety each have two (2) evaluations that are being conducted over the three- (3) year period.
- The departments of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Economic Development and Tourism, Health, Education and the Premier each have one (1) evaluation that is being conducted over the three- (3) year period.
- Cumulatively, ten (10) departments are participating in the WCG PEP 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 period.

Figure 3: Type of evaluations in 2013/14 – 2015/16 PEP

These diagrams illustrate the type of evaluations conducted across different years.
The WCG adheres to the following six (6) types of evaluations as advocated in the National Evaluation Policy Framework:

1. Diagnostic evaluation
2. Design evaluation
3. Implementation evaluation
4. Economic evaluation
5. Impact evaluation

Figure 3 presents an overview of the type of evaluations that are included in the three-(3) year PEP. This graph demonstrates over a three-(3) year rolling period, the type of evaluations cumulatively in the period from 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 conducted in the WCG and exhibits the following:

- One (1) diagnostic evaluation, ten (10) implementation evaluations and 12 impact evaluations are being conducted across the WCG over the three-(3) year period.
- No design, economic or synthesis evaluations are conducted in this three-(3) year period.

In summary, the following is reported:

- Three (3) WCG Provincial Evaluation Plans have been completed to date, of which two (2) are updated plans.
- These plans yield that over the three-(3) year period, 21 evaluations have been undertaken by the WCG of which:
  - the number of evaluations completed is 8;
  - the number of evaluations currently in progress is 8; and
  - the number of evaluations planned for 2015/2016 is 5.

PROGRESS OF EVALUATIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2014/2015

The section below outlines a narrative on the progress on each of the evaluations undertaken during the 2014/2015 financial year.

Evaluating the impact of crop rotation trials

This is an impact evaluation conducted by the Department of Agriculture. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. Approval was granted to this department to utilise the DPME-approved list of evaluators to conduct this evaluation. A sound methodology was applied for this evaluation. The draft final evaluation report will be completed at the end of June 2015, after which the report will be circulated for the management response. It is expected that the final report will be available by the end of July 2015. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

Evaluating the impact of abattoir inspections conducted

This is an impact evaluation conducted by the Department of Agriculture. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. Approval was granted to this department to utilise the DPME approved list of evaluators to conduct this evaluation. A sound methodology was applied for this evaluation. The draft final evaluation report was completed at the end of June 2015 after which
the report will be circulated for the management response. It is expected that the final report will be available by the end of July 2015. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

Evaluating the impact of the annual Western Cape Farm Worker of the Year competition

This is an impact evaluation conducted by the Department of Agriculture. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. Approval was granted to this department to utilise the DPME-approved list of evaluators to conduct this evaluation. A sound methodology was applied for this evaluation. The draft final evaluation report will be completed at 30 June 2015 after which the report will be circulated for the management response. It is expected that the final report will be available during July 2015. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

Evaluating the Expanded Partnership Programme

This is an implementation evaluation conducted by the Community Safety. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. A sound methodology was applied for this evaluation. The draft final evaluation report will be completed at the end of July 2015 after which the report will be circulated for the management response. It is expected that the final report will be available during August 2015. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

Evaluating the impact of the Safely Home Communication and Education Campaign on road crash fatalities in the Western Cape

This is an implementation evaluation conducted by the Department of Transport and Public Works. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. A sound methodology was applied for this evaluation. The draft final evaluation report is currently being compiled and will be submitted by August 2015. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

Western Cape Government Corporate Services Centre Evaluation

This is an implementation evaluation conducted by the Department of the Premier. A concept note and a ToR for this evaluation was completed and approved. Approval was granted to this department to utilise the DPME-approved list of evaluators to conduct this evaluation. The procurement of the service provider is currently underway. No major challenges are recorded for this evaluation.

A list of the evaluations to be implemented during 2015/2016: (Updated PEP)

In response to a call for evaluations sent out to the WCG departments in June 2014, the following evaluations will be implemented during 2015/2016:

• an evaluation of the availability, extent and utilisation of agricultural economic databases to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture;
• an evaluation of 10 years of training of future agriculturists to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture;
• an evaluation of the Extension Revitalisation Programme to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture;
• an evaluation of the impact of broadband on library users to be implemented by the Department of Agriculture; and
• an evaluation of the Western Cape Government Corporate Services Centre to be implemented by the Department of the Premier.
KEY IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The implementation issues guide the lessons learnt and future initiatives to be embarked upon.

The key implementation issues related to the consecutive WCG Provincial Evaluation Plans

- The Department of the Premier has worked with the respective implementing departments to ensure that the evaluation concepts are of a good quality and are likely to be implemented. Quarterly progress and feedback assumed the format of briefing notes and a quarterly consolidated WCG progress report on the implementation of the respective PEPs as approved by the Evaluation Technical Working Group. Quarterly progress updates on the consecutive PEPs were also provided to DPME. Progress reporting highlights key lessons learnt as well as the management responses to the concluded evaluations as well as the monitoring of the improvement plans for each evaluation conducted during the pilot period (2013/2014). Technical briefing sessions and relevant capacity building was conducted through the Evaluation Technical Working Group.

- Implementing departments have factored the funding of evaluations in their 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 departmental strategic planning processes, and have used the respective Medium-term Expenditure Committee (MTEC) processes as their vehicle to table their requests for funding the evaluations contained in the relevant Provincial Evaluation Plans. The Department of the Premier worked in collaboration with the Department of Provincial Treasury to ensure that all implementing WCG departments utilised a part of their overall budget to conduct the evaluations as contained in the consecutive plans.

- All implementing departments have concluded the evaluations contained in the 2013/2014 PEP and 2014/2015 Updated PEP. The draft final evaluation reports are either in the process of conclusion or have been concluded. The management responses for the draft evaluation reports will be requested and this will lead to the compilation of the final evaluation reports. These final evaluation reports will then be subjected to a quality assessment process.

Priorities for the next implementation year

- As 2015 is the ‘Year of Evaluations’, the WCG implementing departments will be encouraged to compile submissions of abstracts for evaluations.

- The Evaluation update No 2 will serve as a base document for the development of a paper entitled ‘Institutionalising the National Evaluation System of South Africa at a Provincial Level for the Western Cape Government’ that will be presented at the American Evaluation Association conference later this year as part of the global activities for the 2015 International Year of Evaluation.

- We wish to strengthen the alignment with the Provincial Evaluation System.

- For the 2015/2016 financial year and with reference to the evaluation phases, the WCG will focus on the management response, communicating the results of the evaluations and the compilation of improvement plans, as well as the monitoring and reporting on these plans.

- The Call for Evaluations for the next three- (3) year rolling WCG Provincial Evaluation Plan will be made during June 2015.
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Afrikaans and isiXhosa e-versions of this publication are available on request.