



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AID EVALUATION POLICY AND ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

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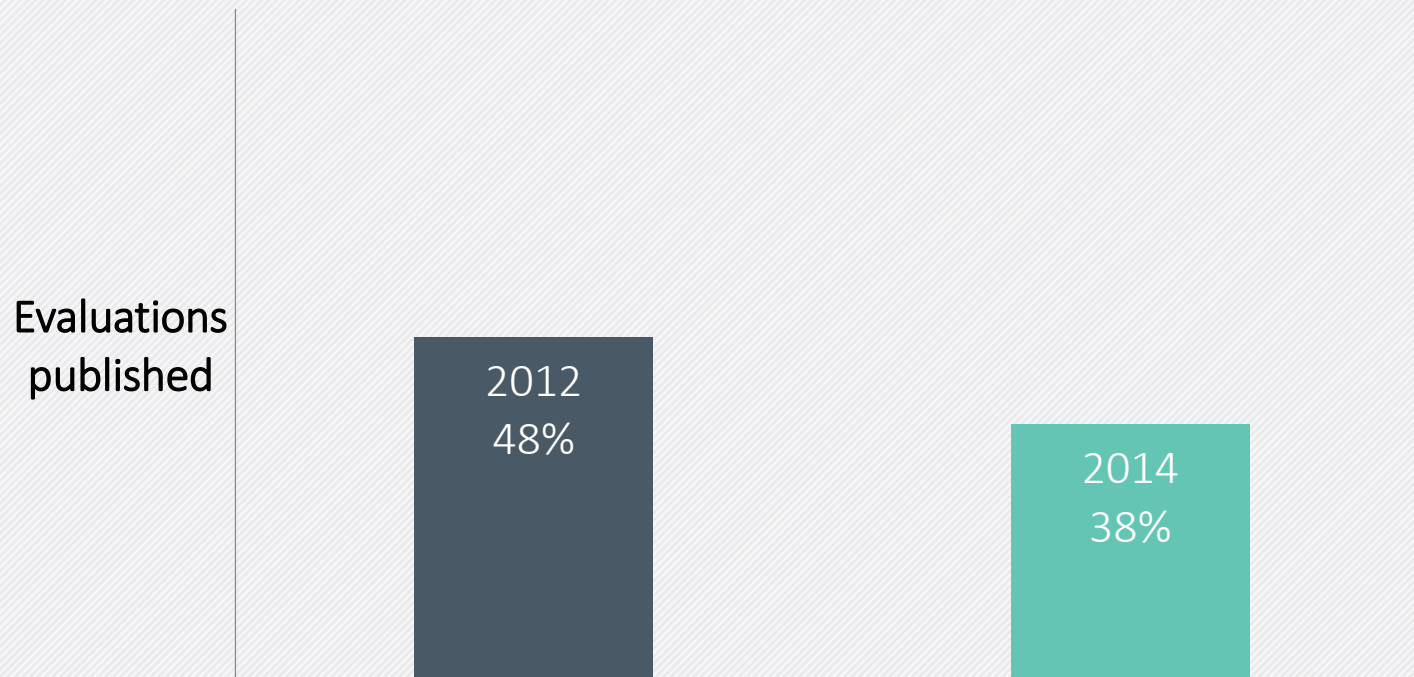
REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014

Policy: All investments valued at \$10m or more to be evaluated at least once in their lifetime

2014 evaluations generally good quality, but.....

QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW WELL OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS WERE USED

- Located 16 out of a possible 35 management responses
- Low publication rate



REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN 2014

Recommendations

DFAT's Executive has the opportunity to consider planned, completed and published evaluations

DFAT senior managers (SES) have direct involvement in deciding what is evaluated in their program, to ensure relevant and useful evaluations are conducted.

DEVELOPING THE AID EVALUATION POLICY

- Evidence from the Review of Operational Evaluations
- Other donor systems
- Consultations with:
 - Staff
 - Independent Evaluation Committee
 - Development Policy Centre
- Approved by the Departmental Executive
- Available on ODE website

DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY

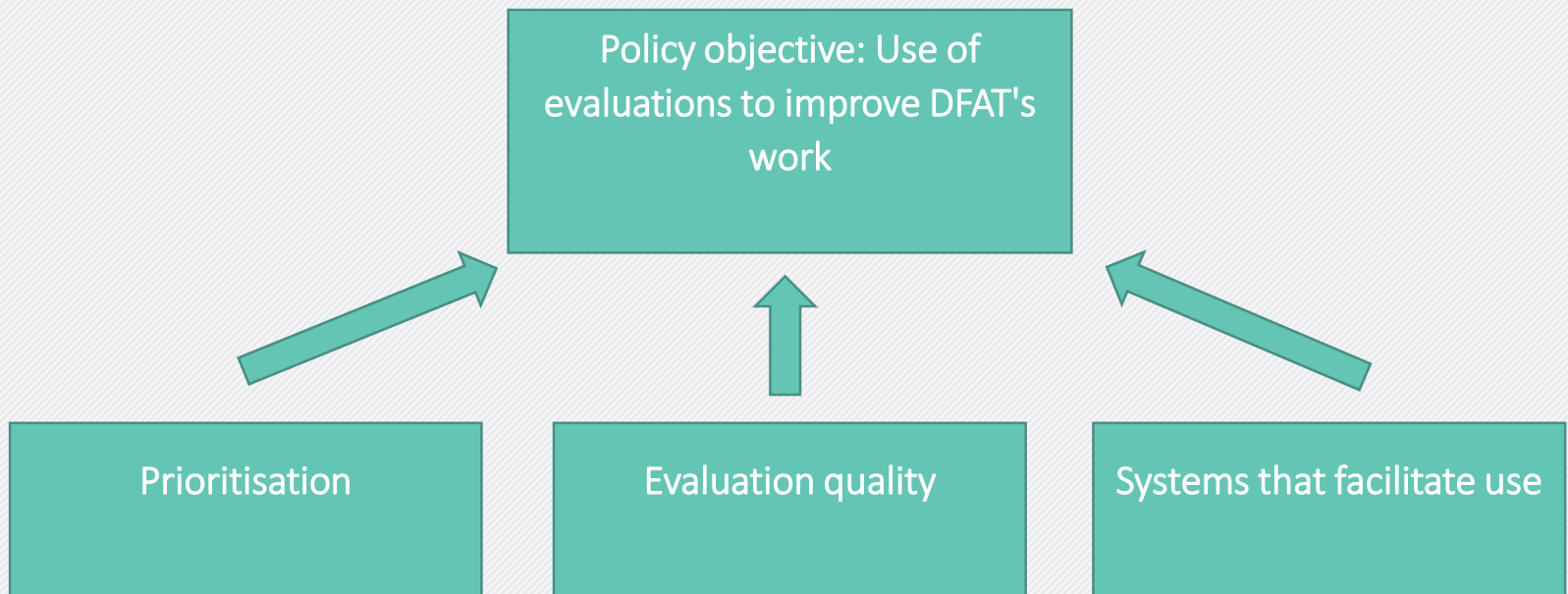
Two levels of evaluation:

- Strategic (ODE)
- Program

Evaluation use

“Use is the driving force behind our evaluations. All our evaluations should be commissioned and conducted to maximise the use of evaluation findings and recommendations to improve our work”.

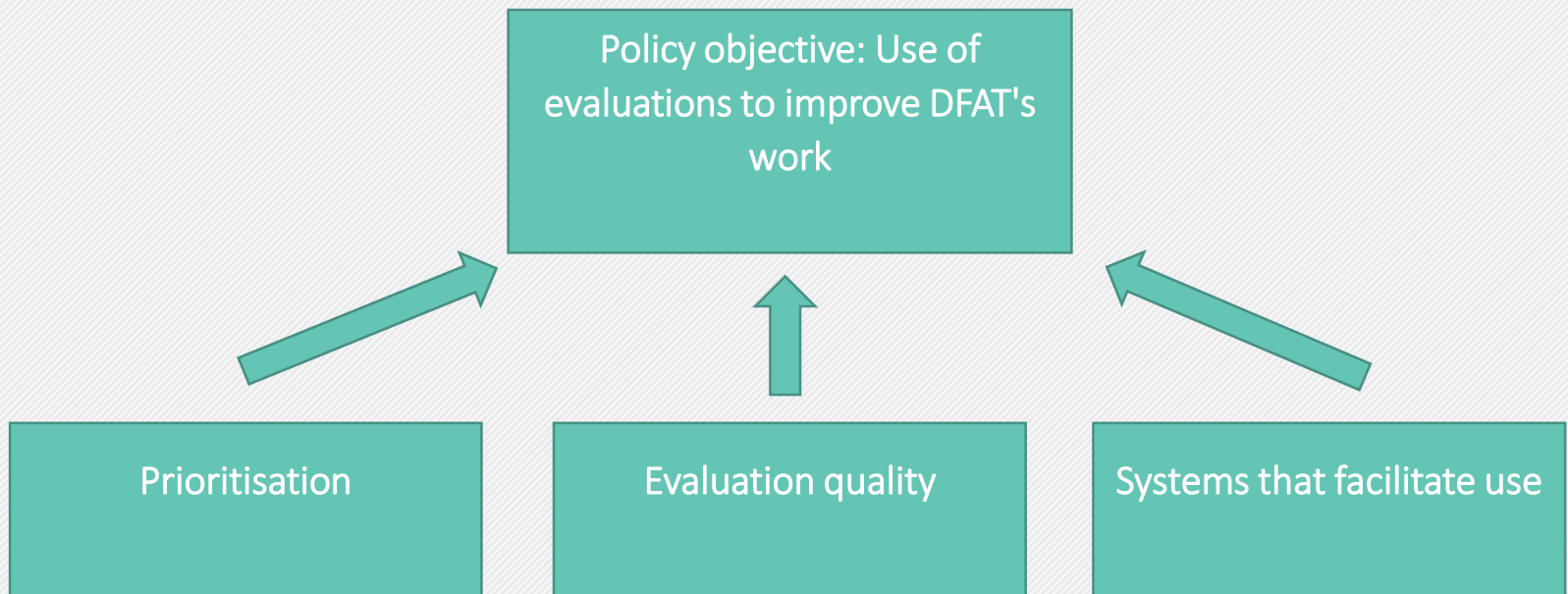
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



PRIORITISATION

- Evaluations focus on the highest priority issues
- Minimum number of evaluations per program

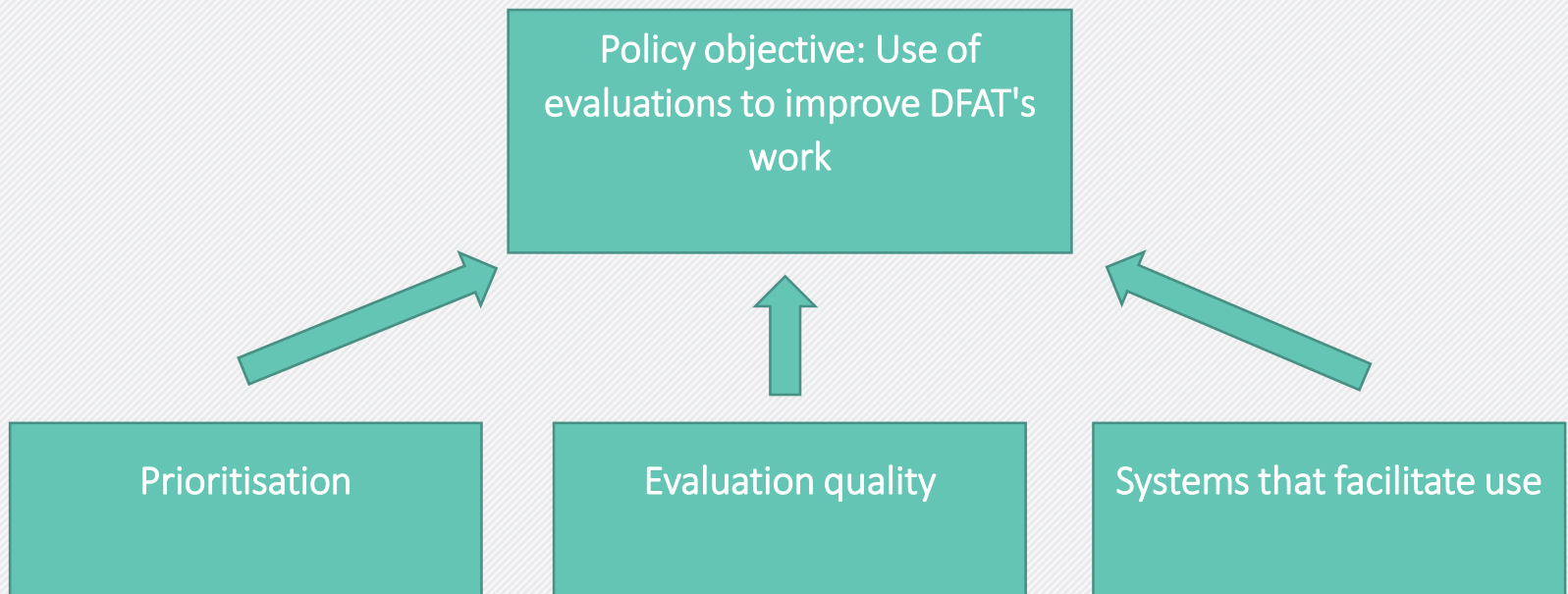
DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



EVALUATION QUALITY

- Led by an independent person
- Include DFAT staff on evaluation teams
- Early engagement with partners
- DFAT's Monitoring and Evaluation Standards

DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



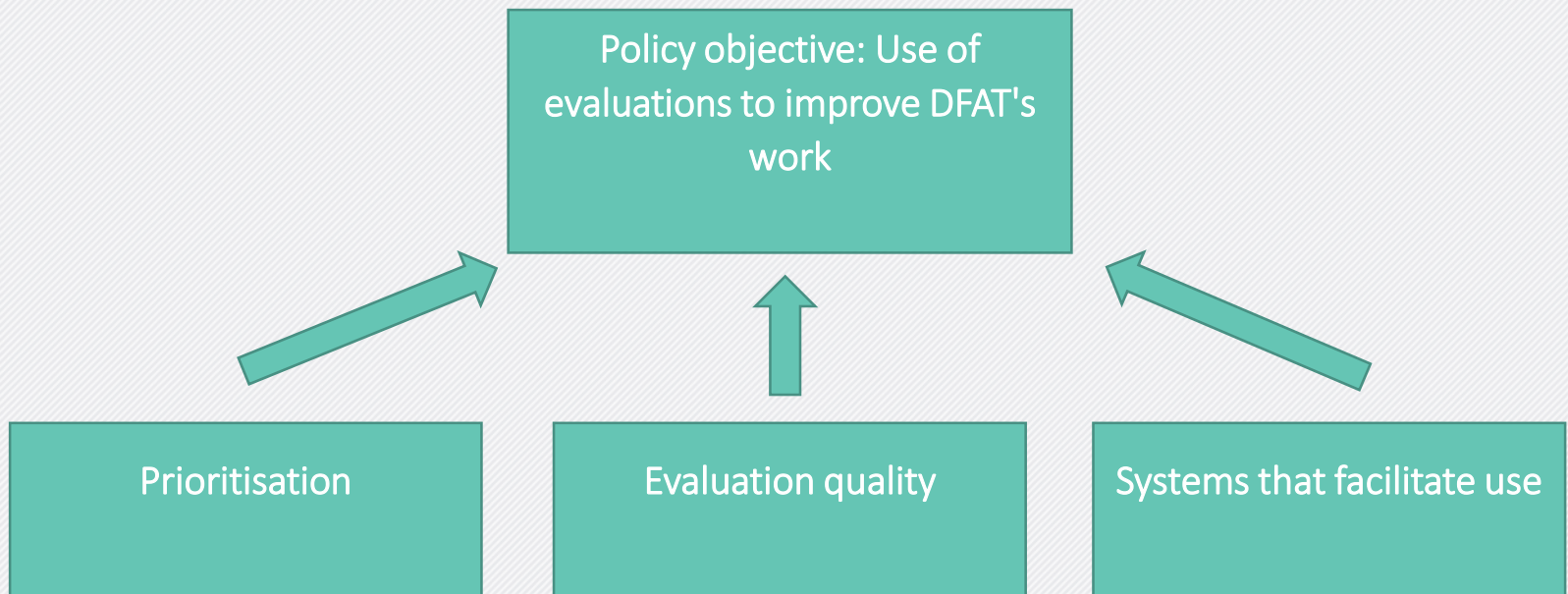
SYSTEMS THAT FACILITATE USE

- Management responses required
- Publication within three months of report completion
- Senior management oversight: Annual Aid Evaluation Plan

2017 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

- DFAT evaluations to be completed and published in 2017
- Five ODE and 41 program evaluations
- Evaluations agreed to by First Assistant Secretary
- Plan approved by DFAT Secretary
- Available on ODE website

DFAT AID EVALUATION POLICY



Assumption: DFAT senior managers (SES) know how to use evaluations to drive program improvement, and are committed to doing so

MEASURING POLICY SUCCESS

- Management response and publication rates
- Monitoring of prioritisation process
- Review of Program Evaluations: evaluation quality and practice



The Office of Development Effectiveness

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Annual Aid Evaluation Plan
ODE has released an Annual Aid Evaluation Plan [Read more](#)

Annual Aid Evaluation Plan

 Investing in roads

 Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Assistance

 The Office of Development Effectiveness: 10 years on

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