

OBPR

Factor in evaluation and implementation to meet objectives
Video Transcript

# Mark Booth

# CEO, Food standards Australia new Zealnd

# John Skerritt

# Deputy Secretary, department of health

# Neil Savery

# CEO, Australian Building Codes Board

**Mark Booth:** Evaluations are absolutely crucial because if you don't evaluate the success or failure of the work that you are doing, then to paraphrase something, you are doomed to keep repeating your mistakes.

You actually need to look at what you've done. Sometimes they will go well, Sometimes it will go badly.

You have to get those lessons learnt so that the next time you do it, when you look at a similar issue again or a related issue, you can go back and you can see the lessons and you can do it better. So you have this this continuous improvement role within there.

**John Skerritt:** When you're implementing a new policy or a new regulatory framework, you're not doing so in isolation.

It's almost certain that similar if not the same challenges have been seen by Government or by your Department or agency in the past and sometimes in the recent past.

It's important therefore to evaluate and to plan to evaluate the impacts of a policy change.

For example, one of our largest regulatory changes as a regulator of medicines was to take medicines containing codeine from over-the-counter to prescription only in 2018. Now, the Regulation Impact Statement of that time said it would be quite a significant impact on increased doctor visits and increased specialist appointments.

It turned out to be that there wasn't a significant or detectable increase in doctor appointments. People either utilised other over-the-counter medicines or if they had an issue and needed a prescription for codeine medicines, they incorporated into their GP visits when they went for other reasons to their GP.

And so that's informed us for future change of this type that the system will adapt to perhaps more than we had expected.

**Neil Savery:** In order to undertake that evaluation effectively, you need an evaluation plan.

That the evaluation plan might set out your timeframe for review, who might be involved in that review, and set again some parameters around how broadly you might be able to reconsider any of the subject matter in the event that you discover that you're not quite hitting the mark.