DISRUPTING DISADVANTAGE 3: FINDING WHAT WORKS

POVERTY POLICIES FAILING

The level of poverty in Australia is unacceptably high and we are not making any progress in reducing poverty and disadvantage. This is in part due to governments' failure to evaluate community services for their effectiveness and value.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING INCREASING

Over the past decade, federal and state government spending on community services has increased by roughly five per cent each year. We cannot continue to increase spending on these programs without properly assessing why they are failing to make tangible progress on reducing poverty and disadvantage.

INSUFFICIENT PROGRAM EVALUATION

Without consistent program evaluation and implementing improvements based on data, evidence and analysis, ineffective programs are allowed to continue even as effective programs are stopped.

CEDA has examined a sample of 20 Federal Government programs with a total expenditure of more than $200 billion. Ninety-five per cent of these programs were found not to have been properly evaluated.

95%
OF THE SAMPLE PROGRAMS WERE NOT PROPERLY EVALUATED

$61bn
OF COMMUNITY SERVICES SPENDING A YEAR IS UNLIKELY TO BE PROPERLY EVALUATED

>ceda
committee for economic development of australia

OFFICE OF THE EVALUATOR-GENERAL

CEDA recommends that an OEG would primarily champion and steward evaluation and develop capability and capacity throughout the public service.

LEGISLATE REVIEWS

A good starting point is to legislate a regular review of all programs.

BUILT-IN EVALUATION

Evaluation must be part of any policy or program design process from the very beginning, with clearly stated outcomes and objectives.

INVEST IN DATA

Government must invest in developing data assets and data availability, and upskilling public servants to improve capacity and capability.

IMPROVE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Evaluations are key to improving government accountability and transparency. The community should be able to hold the government to account for the success of its programs and policies. Currently, we do not have the information to do so.