



planning, monitoring and evaluation

Department:
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report on the Assessment of Government Evaluations

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation Synthesis- Violence Against Women and Children
Evaluation Number:	445
Evaluation Completion Date:	01 March 2014
Period of Evaluation:	2000 - 2012
Submitted:	13 March 2015 by Tim Mosdell
Approved:	20 March 2015 by Mike Leslie

Evaluation Details

Evaluation Title:	Evaluation Synthesis- Violence Against Women and Children
Evaluation Number:	445
Evaluation Completion Date:	01 March 2014
Created:	21 November 2014 by Mike Leslie
Submitted:	13 March 2015 by Tim Mosdell
Approved:	20 March 2015 by Mike Leslie
Period of Evaluation:	2000 - 2012
Known Cost:	R 145 000.00
Known Cost Type:	Estimate
Initiated By:	Gauteng Planning Commission
Initiated By Internal:	Yes
Undertaken By:	Lisa Vetten
Undertaken By Internal:	No

Assessors

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Assessment Documents

Document Name:	Document Type:	Added By:	Added On:
VAWAC_Final synthesis Eval Report_ 2014.docx	Evaluation report	Mike Leslie	21 November 2014
VAWC Terms of Reference.docx	Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation	Tim Mosdell	11 March 2015
Assessment Report at Moderation.pdf	Assessment Report at Moderation	Mike Leslie	13 March 2015

Quality Assessment Summary

This is an evaluation of good quality, scoring 3.46 using the assessment tool. In terms of the phases of the evaluation, the planning and design, and the evaluation report stands out (3.64 and 3.61 respectively). The report was generally well-structured and coherent, following a clear logic and argument. The report builds up to the key findings, accumulating compelling evidence that ultimately informs the conclusions and recommendations. The one flaw in the report is the absence of an executive summary which would have been useful to provide an initial roadmap of the report. The implementation phase was also solid scoring 3.50 using the tool. The objectives of the study translated well into research questions, which informed the review/synthesis approach. The report was explicit in terms of identifying shortcomings in terms of data collection and the consequent gaps in understanding certain key programmes. With the exception of this, the project was generally implemented as planned and was completed on budget, with a small time overrun of approximately two months.

In terms of follow-up, use and learning, it is somewhat early in the process to fully understand the long-term impacts of the evaluation and the tool yielded a score of 2.92. There is early evidence of some instrumental use, with the DCS considering the evaluation in developing the subsequent evaluation agenda in the province, and for the DCS itself, and the identification of further evaluations to be undertaken.

In considering overarching considerations, the evaluation was particularly strong in terms of coordination and alignment (4.13), and relatively strong in terms of partnership approach - scoring 3.79. At the other end of the spectrum, the project scored 2.17 for capacity development - there was no planned capacity development for partners or skills development of the service provider, although this is understandable given that this was an evaluation synthesis. The tool yielded a score of 3.64 in terms of evaluation ethics, although this was not a particularly sensitive project in terms of ethics, given the evaluation synthesis nature of the research.

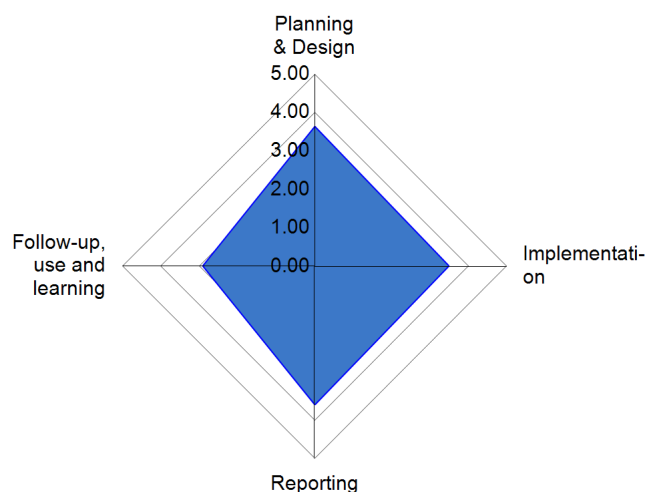
In general, this is an important study that provides a good overview of work already done in this space, as well as highlighting gaps and potential further evaluation work that is required. The recommendations are both compelling and practically implementable. The fact that the evaluation agenda in the province is currently being redeveloped, indicates that the evaluation came at an opportune time, and could well provide useful and practical inputs into this process.

Quality Assessment Scores

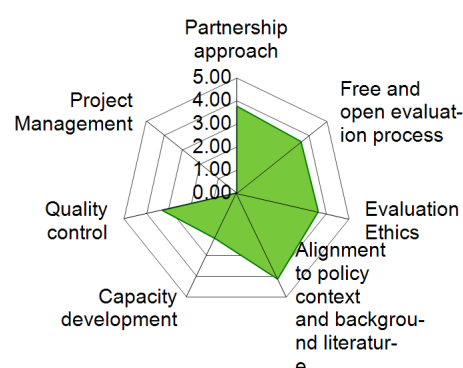
Phase of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	3.64
Implementation	3.50
Reporting	3.61
Follow-up, use and learning	2.92
Total	3.46

Overarching Consideration	Score
Partnership approach	3.79
Free and open evaluation process	3.57
Evaluation Ethics	3.64
Alignment to policy context and background literature	4.13
Capacity development	2.17
Quality control	3.32
Project Management	
Total	3.46

Scores: Phases of Evaluation



Scores: Overarching Considerations



Phase of Evaluation	Area of Evaluation	Score
Planning & Design	Quality of the TOR	3.92
Planning & Design	Adequacy of resourcing	3.30
Planning & Design	Alignment to policy context and background literature	4.00
Planning & Design	Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology	3.36
Planning & Design	Project management (Planning phase)	3.00
Implementation	Evaluation ethics and independence	3.00
Implementation	Participation and M&E skills development	3.20
Implementation	Methodological integrity	3.82
Implementation	Project management (Implementation phase)	3.00
Reporting	Completeness of the evaluation report	3.71
Reporting	Accessibility of content	3.36
Reporting	Robustness of findings	3.55
Reporting	Strength of conclusions	4.27
Reporting	Suitability of recommendations	3.77
Reporting	Acknowledgement of ethical considerations	3.40
Reporting	Project management (Reporting phase)	1.00
Follow-up, use and learning	Resource utilisation	2.40
Follow-up, use and learning	Evaluation use	3.05
Total	Total	3.46

Planning & Design

Quality of the TOR

Standard:	The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or a well-structured and complete internal evaluation proposal (e.g. Background, Purpose, Evaluation Questions, Design & Methodology, Deliverables & Timeframes, Resource requirements, Intended Audience & Utilisation, etc).
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was guided by a well structured, relatively comprehensive ToR.
Rating:	3: The evaluation was guided by a well-structured and complete TOR or internal evaluation proposal of an adequate standard
Standard:	The purpose of the evaluation stated in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) was clear and e
Comment and Analysis:	The purpose of the evaluation was clearly articulated in the ToR to identify the most effective public policy interventions with a view to the eradication of gender based violence (GBV) and violence against women and children (VAWAC) as well as to improve the effectiveness of existing VAWAC interventions.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	The approach and type of evaluation was suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal)
Comment and Analysis:	The approach (an evaluation synthesis) focusing on a survey of evaluations and research conducted in relation to VAWAC, was suited to the purpose and scope of the planned evaluation.
Rating:	4: The approach and type of the evaluation was well-suited to the purpose and scope of the evaluation TOR
Standard:	The TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) identified the intended users of the evaluation and their information needs
Comment and Analysis:	It is clear from the ToR that the primary users of the evaluation are intended to be the Gauteng Department of Community Safety (DCS) as the lead department, together with the Gauteng Department of Social Development. Other users identified include the Gauteng Department of Health, the Gauteng Department of Education, and the Gauteng Department of Economic Development. The evaluation synthesis is identified in the TOR as potentially laying the basis for further evaluations to be undertaken at a later stage, e.g. diagnostic evaluation, design evaluation, economic evaluation and impact evaluation, etc
Rating:	5: The TOR identified the intended users of the evaluation at length and specified each user's information needs in relation to possible uses of the evaluation in depth

Standard:	The evaluation questions in the TOR (or an internal evaluation proposal) were clearly stated and ap
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation questions were articulated in the ToR to include: What research studies have been done? Are these studies national or provincial in nature or from other countries? Are there countries which have achieved particular successes in reducing VAWAC? How have these successes been achieved? Which aspects of VAWAC and VAWAC interventions have the studies focused on? What are the key observations and findings that have emerged from these studies? What are the recommendations that have emerged from these studies? To what extent have these recommendations been implemented? What research gaps have been identified? These questions are appropriate for addressing the evaluation purpose.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	Key stakeholders were involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The lead department, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, was consulted prior to and during the development of the ToRs. Both political and administrative heads were consulted and agreed to the synthesis. The ToRs were jointly developed by the Steering Committee, which was co-chaired by the Office of the Premier and the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. A range of other stakeholders were invited to participate in the Steering Committee, including the South African Police Service, the Department of Social Development and the Ikhaya le Themba Centre for Victims of Abuse.
Rating:	4: A wider range of stakeholders (i.e. beyond government stakeholders) were meaningfully involved in the scoping of the TOR and choosing the purpose of the evaluation

Adequacy of resourcing

Standard:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time allocated, although the client observed that the consultation would have been deeper if more time was available.
Rating:	3: The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of time and budget allocated
Standard:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of original budget
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of budget allocated, although the client observed that the process could have been more thorough if more resources were available.
Rating:	3: 3
Standard:	The team conducting the evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was adequately resourced in terms of staffing and skill sets, with Lisa Vetten, a well known evaluator with a strong track record in research on gender violence and related interventions, being the key resource on the project.
Rating:	4: The evaluation was well resourced in terms of staffing and skills sets

Standard:	Where appropriate, the evaluation planned to incorporate an element of capacity building of partners
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation did not plan to incorporate an element of capacity building, although this is not appropriate in the context of an evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	: N/A

Alignment to policy context and background literature

Standard:	There was evidence that a review of the relevant policy and programme environments had been conducted
Comment and Analysis:	There was evidence that a review of relevant policy and the programme environment had been conducted in the planning of the evaluation. The background section of the TOR sets out a summary of this environment, providing good context to the planned study.
Rating:	4: 4

Standard:	There was evidence of a review of appropriate literature having been conducted and used in planning
Comment and Analysis:	There was evidence that a review of appropriate literature had been done in planning the evaluation. The background section of the TOR references other work done in terms of gender based violence and violence against women and children
Rating:	4: 4

Appropriateness of the evaluation design and methodology

Standard:	There was explicit reference to the intervention logic or the theory of change of the evaluand in the planning of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	There was no explicit reference to an intervention logic or theory of change in the planning of the evaluation, although this is not appropriate in the context of an evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	: N/A

Standard:	Key stakeholders were consulted on the design and methodology of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The lead department, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, was consulted prior to and during the development of the methodology. Both political and administrative heads were consulted and agreed to the broad approach. The Steering Committee, which was co-chaired by the Office of the Premier and the Gauteng Department of Community Safety was active in this process. A range of other stakeholders were invited to participate in the Steering Committee, including the South African Police Service, the Department of Social Development and the Ikhaya le Themba Centre for Victims of Abuse.
Rating:	4: 4

Standard:	The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked
Comment and Analysis:	The planned methodology, focusing on a survey of evaluation and research conducted locally and internationally, was appropriate to the evaluation questions being asked.
Rating:	3: The planned methodology was appropriate to the questions being asked

Standard:	The sampling planned was appropriate and adequate given the focus and purpose of evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	Sampling was not a key component of this evaluation, given the synthesis nature of the study.
Rating:	: N/A

Standard:	There was a planned process for using the findings of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation forms part of a broader evaluation plan of the province and is intended to assess the extent to which key provincial programmes are achieving their intended objectives and to make recommendations aimed at improving performance.
Rating:	3: 3

Project management (Planning phase)

Standard:	The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented
Comment and Analysis:	There was a post-award inception meeting which was used to finalised the evaluation implementation process.
Rating:	3: The inception phase was used to develop a common agreement on how the evaluation would be implemented

Implementation

Evaluation ethics and independence

Standard:	Where data was gathered in contexts where ethical sensitivity is high, informed consent, assurances of confidentiality and appropriate clearance were achieved; e.g. through an ethics review board, in evaluation involving minors, institutions where access usually requires ethical or bureaucratic clearance
Comment and Analysis:	Given that this was a synthesis evaluation drawing primarily on existing research, there was not a high degree of ethical sensitivity.
Rating:	: N/A

Standard:	Where external, the evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and given access to existing data and information sources
Comment and Analysis:	The external evaluator was able to work freely, without significant interference.
Rating:	3: The evaluation team was able to work without significant interference and was given access to existing data and information sources

Standard:	The evaluation team was impartial and there was no evidence of conflict of interest
Comment and Analysis:	There was no evidence of any conflict of interest on the part of the evaluator.
Rating:	3: 3

Participation and M&E skills development

Standard:	Key stakeholders were involved in the evaluation through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement
Comment and Analysis:	A Steering Committee was constituted and Heads of Departments requested to delegate the relevant officials. The Steering Committee was involved since the inception of the evaluation, including identifying possible service providers, preparing ToRs, reviewing the inception and draft and final reports etc. and commenting on the process from beginning to end. Approximately 5 Steering Committee meetings were convened. The Steering Committee provided significant guidance to the service provider and provided additional literature (reports on Gauteng programmes) as well.
Rating:	4: Key stakeholders were regularly, actively involved in the evaluation and contributed through a formalised mechanism or institutional arrangement (e.g. a steering committee or reference group)

Standard:	Where appropriate, an element of capacity building of partners responsible for the evaluand and evaluators was incorporated into the evaluation process
Comment and Analysis:	No capacity building elements were incorporated into the evaluation process, although this is to be expected given that this was an evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	: N/A

Methodological integrity

Standard:	The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned
Comment and Analysis:	The methods employed in the process of the evaluation focused on a review of existing research and were consistent with those planned.
Rating:	3: 3
Standard:	The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented adequately
Comment and Analysis:	The forms of data gathering, focused on a review of existing work, were appropriate given the scope of the evaluation.
Rating:	4: The methods employed in the process of the evaluation were consistent with those planned and implemented well (in terms of time, coverage, and content)
Standard:	A pilot of basic data collection instrumentation occurred prior to undertaking data collection and it was used to inform the research process
Comment and Analysis:	The data analysis approach and methods focusing on review and synthesis, were appropriate and efficient given the purpose of the evaluation.
Rating:	4: All components of the data collection instrumentation were piloted which led to some improvements in the data collection instrumentation or affirmation of the instruments
Standard:	Data collection was not compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions from origina
Comment and Analysis:	Apart from some issues in terms of securing documents, particularly in the case of the Thuthuzela Care Centres, data collection was not unduly compromised by fieldwork-level problems or unplanned diversions.
Rating:	3: 3
Standard:	Data was collected from key stakeholders (e.g. implementers, governance structures, indirectly affected stakeholders) as data sources
Comment and Analysis:	The report did not incorporate an executive summary, but did include an introduction chapter which set out a roadmap of the synthesis approach. This introduction summarised the approach, but did not provide insight into the emerging findings, conclusions and recommendations.
Rating:	2: Data was not collected from a key stakeholder either directly or indirectly
Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and information
Comment and Analysis:	The introductory chapter of the report outlines the context for the development intervention, providing a comprehensive overview of the policy and literature appropriate to the intervention. This is well structured and articulated in this section of the report.
Rating:	4: The methodology included meaningfully engaging beneficiaries as a primary source of data and information (or if based on secondary data, includes data from beneficiaries and beneficiaries consulted on emerging findings)

Standard:	Key stakeholders were significantly engaged as part of the methodology
Comment and Analysis:	Key stakeholders including the Office of the Premier, the Department of Community Safety, the South African Police Service, the Department of Social Development, and the Ikhaya le Themba Centre for Victims of Abuse were engaged as part of the methodology and provided inputs and literature to the process.
Rating:	5: 5

Standard:	The methodology included engaging beneficiaries appropriately as a key source of data and informatio
Comment and Analysis:	Given that this was a synthesis evaluation, the ultimate beneficiaries, namely victims of violence and child abuse themselves, were not directly engaged as a key source of data and information.
Rating:	: N/A

Project management (Implementation phase)

Standard:	The evaluation was conducted without significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timefram
Comment and Analysis:	There were no significant shifts to scheduled project milestones and timeframes, although the project was extended by approximately 2 months.
Rating:	3: 3

Standard:	The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together adequately to facilitate achievement of the objectives of the evaluation
Comment and Analysis:	The introduction chapter of the report provided a clear rationale for the study broadly and for the evaluation questions specifically.
Rating:	4: The steering committee, technical working group and service provider worked together in a flexible and constructive manner facilitating achievement of the objectives of the evaluation

Reporting

Completeness of the evaluation report

Standard:	The scope or focus of the evaluation is apparent in the report
Comment and Analysis:	The focus of the evaluation is clearly apparent in the report: To catalogue and critically assess existing research, To extract key learnings around effective programming, and To identify gaps for future research and interventions.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	A detailed methodology is outlined in the relevant section of the report to the point that a reader
Comment and Analysis:	A detailed methodology is presented in the Introduction Chapter of the main report. This is well structured and presented and allows for the reader to quickly gain insight into the methods deployed.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	Acknowledgement of limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly and succinct
Comment and Analysis:	The report does refer explicitly to limitations in terms of securing data from stakeholders, particularly the Thuthuzela Care Centres, and explains that the data used in this regard was limited and that consequently the report only comments minimally on their functioning.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	Key findings are presented in a clear way; they are made distinct from uncertain or speculative find
Comment and Analysis:	The report includes a dedicated chapter providing an overview of the evaluation's key findings. This is a comprehensive, if lengthy chapter which provides a detailed account of the findings of the evaluation. A summary of these findings in an executive summary would have strengthened the report from an accessibility perspective.
Rating:	3: 3
Standard:	Conclusions and recommendations are clear and succinctly articulated
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions and recommendations are presented in the final chapter of the evaluation report, and are well articulated. The recommendations are particularly well structured and presented in a clear tabular form which is user friendly and intuitive.
Rating:	4: 4

Accessibility of content

Standard:	The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and adequate for publication (e.g. adequate layout and consistent formatting; complete sentences and no widespread grammatical or typographical errors; consistency of style and writing conventions; levels of formality; references complete and consistent with cited references in reference list and vice versa; etc.)
Comment and Analysis:	The data analysis, which in this case constituted a review, was well executed. Limitations were clearly acknowledged where they existed.
Rating:	4: The final report is well written, accessible to the common reader and ready for publication with only minor spelling, grammar or formatting mistakes

Standard:	The final evaluation report is user-friendly, written in accessible language and its content follows
Comment and Analysis:	Generally speaking, the evaluation report is user friendly and accessible and follows a coherent logic. The report could benefit with the inclusion an executive summary, particularly in terms of summarising the findings of the evaluation.
Rating:	3: 3

Standard:	Figures, tables and appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical language; reporting of p-values where appropriate; not reporting statistically insignificant findings as significant; clarifying disaggregation categories in constructing percentages; not using quantitative language in reporting qualitative data, etc.) and are readily discernible to a reader familiar with data presentation conventions
Comment and Analysis:	The evidence gathered and the manner in which it was analysed, along with the coherent way in which the report and its findings were structured, supports the logical flow and argument of the main evaluation report.
Rating:	4: Figures, tables and conventions are well used for a variety of types of data presentations and supporting explanations make them accessible to readers

Standard:	Quality of writing and presentation is adequate for publication including: adequate layout and consi
Comment and Analysis:	The quality of writing, style and layout, levels of formality, and referencing all contribute to making this report suitable for publication.
Rating:	4: 4

Standard:	Appropriate conventions are used in presentation of data (e.g. use of appropriate statistical langua
Comment and Analysis:	This report does not involve the presentation of statistical data.
Rating:	: N/A

Standard:	The use of figures and tables is such that it supports communication and comprehension of results; a
Comment and Analysis:	Limited use is made of figures and tables in this report, but where they are used, notably in the recommendations section, they support communication and comprehension of the key evaluation elements.
Rating:	3: 3

Robustness of findings

Standard:	Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard
Comment and Analysis:	Apart from relatively isolated problems in securing data, the report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws.
Rating:	3: Data analysis appears to have been executed to an adequate standard for most datasets
Standard:	Findings are supported by available evidence
Comment and Analysis:	The findings were well supported by available evidence and translated well into the evaluation's recommendations.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	Findings are supported by evidence which is sufficiently and appropriately analysed to support the argument, integrating sources of data
Comment and Analysis:	Given that this is essentially a synthesis evaluation, the conclusions are strongly driven by relevant related research studies and evaluations.
Rating:	5: Evidence gathered is thoroughly analysed, integrated and very well-presented to produce a convincing and strong argument throughout the evaluation report
Standard:	There is appropriate recognition and exploration of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	The conclusions directly address the original evaluation purpose and questions, and provide a compelling context to the recommendations which are presented.
Rating:	4: There is clear recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations and these are concisely presented without detracting from other findings
Standard:	The report appears free of significant methodological and analytic flaws
Comment and Analysis:	There was no explicit reference to an intervention logic or theory of change in this report, although this is to be expected given that this was an evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	: N/A
Standard:	There is appropriate recognition of the possibility of alternative interpretations
Comment and Analysis:	The report acknowledges limitations in terms of the way some of the sub-elements were covered. Notably it acknowledges that the Thuthuzela Care Centres were not comprehensively covered due to problems securing data. Implicit in this, is a recognition that interpretations regarding this programme could vary.
Rating:	3: 3
Standard:	Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are clearly articulated (e.g. limitations of scope or evaluation design, recommendation for additional research, data collection challenges, etc)
Comment and Analysis:	At the draft report stage, the service provider presented the findings to the Steering Committee and these were workshopped. Apart from provincial officials, the Ikhaya le Themba Centre for Victims of Abuse were part of the Steering Committee.
Rating:	3: Limitations of all aspects of the methodology and findings are articulated

Strength of conclusions

Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	At the draft report stage, the service provider presented the findings to the Steering Committee and these were workshopped. A presentation was also made at the Provincial Gender Forum.
Rating:	4: Conclusions are derived from evidence and well supported by multiple sources of data that has been well analysed
Standard:	Conclusions are derived from evidence
Comment and Analysis:	There is a strong logical flow through the report, and the conclusions reflect this. They are built on evidence that accumulates throughout the report.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are aimed at appropriate provincial government departments. They are presented in a clear table which outlines the recommendations for each of these department. The recommendations are specific and are practically implementable.
Rating:	4: Conclusions address the original evaluation purpose and questions well
Standard:	Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change
Comment and Analysis:	The report acknowledges limitations in terms of the way some of the sub-elements were covered. Notably it acknowledges that the Thuthuzela Care Centres were not comprehensively covered due to problems securing data.
Rating:	3: Conclusions are drawn with explicit reference to the intervention logic or theory of change

Suitability of recommendations

Standard:	Recommendations are made in consultation with relevant government officials, stakeholders and sectoral experts
Comment and Analysis:	This was not required in this instance given that this was an evaluation synthesis.
Rating:	: N/A
Standard:	Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable
Comment and Analysis:	The final report was presented to the Steering Committee and to the Provincial Gender Forum and has been used by the Department of Community Safety.
Rating:	3: Recommendations are useful- they are relevant, specific, feasible, affordable and acceptable to an extent

Standard:	Recommendations are relevant to the current policy context
Comment and Analysis:	The recommendations are relevant to the current policy context and focus on which government programmes require evaluation or related intervention.
Rating:	4: 4

Acknowledgement of ethical considerations

Standard:	Peer review of the draft evaluation report occurred prior to finalisation of the evaluation report
Comment and Analysis:	The draft report was not subject to a peer review prior to finalisation, although the draft report was reviewed by the project steering committee.
Rating:	2: 2

Standard:	The full report documents procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary (in some cases this is not needed - e.g. evaluation synthesis - in which case N/A should be recorded)
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation was completed within the agreed budget.
Rating:	3: The full report documents some procedures intended to ensure confidentiality and to secure informed consent where necessary

Standard:	There are no risks to participants or institutions in disseminating the evaluation report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	The evaluation will be made public on the DPME website database and served to inform the 5 and 20-Year Review (2013) report, which was published. The Department of Community Safety and other stakeholders are in receipt of the final evaluation report.
Rating:	2: There are some risks to either participants or institutions in disseminating a summary version of the evaluation report on a public website

Standard:	There are no risks to participants in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There are no apparent risks to participate in disseminating the original report on a public website.
Rating:	4: 4

Standard:	There are no unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website
Comment and Analysis:	There are no apparent unfair risks to institutions in disseminating the original report on a public website.
Rating:	4: 4

Project management (Reporting phase)

Standard:	A project closure meeting that reflected on the challenges and strengths of the evaluation process o
Comment and Analysis:	There was no formal project closure meeting.
Rating:	1: 1

Follow-up, use and learning

Resource utilisation

Standard: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation was extended by approximately 2 months.

Rating: 2: 2

Standard: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget

Comment and Analysis: The evaluation has had conceptual value in that it has identified key gaps and limitations in terms of existing knowledge and policy and has identified areas for further evaluation and research work.

Rating: 4: The evaluation was completed within the planned timeframes and budget and allowed for additional value to be achieved

Evaluation use

Standard: Results of the evaluation have been presented to relevant stakeholders

Comment and Analysis: It is too early to determine whether the evaluation has had a positive influence on the evaluated, its stakeholders and beneficiaries. There is however, evidence that the evaluation has begun to shift the way the province conducts future evaluation with a view to strengthening impact of these projects.

Rating: : N/A

Standard: A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee (if no steering committee exists)

Comment and Analysis: The client has indicated that some reflection on the part of the steering committee has occurred and that it will deliberate further on subsequent evaluations on specific VAWAC programmes.

Rating: 3: 3

Standard: A reflective process has been undertaken by the steering committee with the service provider (if no steering committee exists then by the evaluation management team or the involved department officials) to reflect on what could be done to strengthen future evaluations

Comment and Analysis: No skills development elements for evaluators were incorporated in the evaluation process, although this is to be expected given that this was an evaluation synthesis.

Rating: : N/A

Standard: The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value to the policy or programme (e.g. raised its profile)

Comment and Analysis: No peer review, apart from steering committee inputs, of the evaluation design and methodology occurred prior to data collection.

Rating: 2: The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as being of limited symbolic value to the policy or programme

Standard:	The evaluation study is seen by interviewed stakeholders as having added significant symbolic value
Comment and Analysis:	The client indicates that the process helped elevate the importance of evaluations within the Department of Community Safety and improved the understanding of evaluations among the participants. The DCS strategic plan consequently now included evaluations.
Rating:	4: 4
Standard:	The evaluation study is of conceptual value in understanding what has happened and possibly in shaping future policy and practice
Comment and Analysis:	The data collection process was not piloted prior to data collection, although it should be noted that a review of this sort would not normally be piloted in any event.
Rating:	: N/A
Standard:	Development of a draft improvement plan has been started, but not completed, based on the findings a
Comment and Analysis:	There is no evidence that a draft improvement plan has been started, although the client has indicated that the process has helped elevate the importance of evaluations within the Department of Community Safety and has improved the understanding of evaluations among the participants.
Rating:	2: 2
Standard:	There is clear evidence of instrumental use - that the recommendations of the evaluation were implem
Comment and Analysis:	The primary intended use was to identify the current status with regard to evaluations on VAWAC and to inform further evaluation. The evaluation synthesis was taken into account in developing the subsequent evaluation agenda in the province, and for DCS itself, and the identification of further evaluations to be undertaken. Responses were also made in the context of the Steering Committee engagements.
Rating:	4: 4

References

Gauteng Provincial Government, Terms of Reference: Synthesis Evaluation - Gender Based Violence, 2013.

Lisa Vetten, Evaluation Synthesis - Violence: Final Report, Report Commissioned by the Gauteng Planning Commission: Office of the Premier - Gauteng Provincial Government, March 2014.

List of Interviewees

Lisa Vetten, Independent Evaluator, 4 December 2014, telephonic interview.

Annette Griessel, Deputy Director General - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation and Gender, Youth and People with Disabilities - Gauteng Planning Commission - Office of the Premier - Gauteng Provincial Government, 19 January 2015, written response to questions.