



# SSC & ANZSOG present:

# LEARNING FROM SUCCESS

## FACILITATOR

**Colin James**  
Political Journalist

## PANELLISTS

**Prof. Michael Mintrom**  
Professor of Public Policy  
Monash University

**Dr Verna Smith**  
Senior Lecturer in Public Policy  
School of Government  
VUW

## PANELLISTS

**Dr Amohia Boulton**  
Research Director  
Whakaue Research for  
Maori Health & Development

**Fiona Ross**  
Director  
Family Violence & Sexual Violence  
Joint Venture  
Ministry of Justice

DO YOU HAVE A  
QUESTION ABOUT  
TODAY'S TOPIC?

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ALL QUESTIONS WILL BE  
ANSWERED AT THE END  
OF THE PRESENTATION

*SLIDES FROM TODAY'S  
PRESENTATION WILL BE  
AVAILABLE ON THE  
ANZSOG WEBSITE*



# Questions?

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# *Successful Public Policy*

Professor Michael Mintrom

*Monash University*

# The Puzzle

What factors contribute to the success of public policies?

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# Who Cares?

- Academics studying public policy (curiosity-driven)
- People who want to make a better world (norms-driven)
- Policy designers in and around government (practice-driven)

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# Initial Definition

*A policy is a success to the extent that it:*

- Achieves valued social outcomes and a broad base of support *and*
- Manages to sustain this performance for a lengthy period, even in the face of changing circumstances.

# An Ideal Model for Hypothesis Testing

$$\text{Degree of Policy Success} = f \left\{ \text{Explanatory Variables} + \text{Control Variables} \right\} + e$$

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# The Starting Point

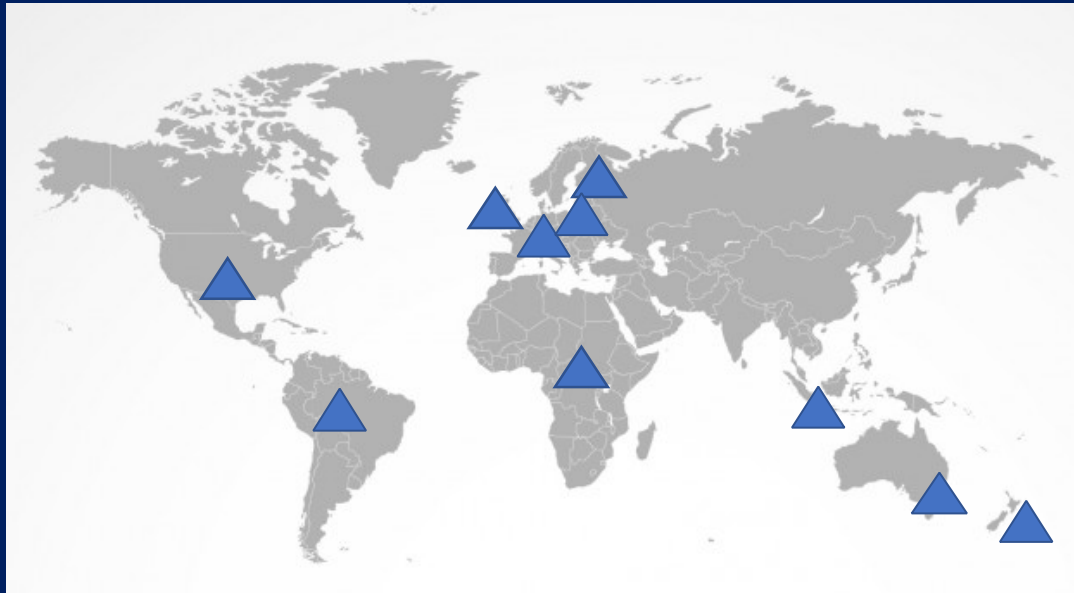
Mallory Compton and Paul 't Hart's  
Collaborative study of 'Great Policy Successes'  
(Utrecht University)

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# Indicative Cases



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# Indicative Cases

1. Schooling in Finland
2. The US's GI Bill
3. Singapore's Health Care System
4. Melbourne as a Liveable City
5. Dutch flood protection
6. New Zealand's Economic Turnaround

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# A Focus on Australia and New Zealand



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Yes, but...



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# Case Selection

1. Define what is a policy success
2. Ask experts to nominate cases
3. Collate responses
4. Go back to experts with the collated list
5. Refine the list

*It is a concern that it takes some thought to put a list together*

*This is not as easy as you might think*

*Well, 12 hours later I have only come up with two possibilities!! I will keep thinking.*

*I was of course asleep for much of the 12 hours!*

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# Cases

Australia	New Zealand
HECS student loan scheme	Reserve Bank Act
Medicare	Treaty of Waitangi Settlements
GST	GST
Gun Control	Whanau Ora
Skilled Migrant Program	Accident Compensation Corporation
Anti-Tobacco Policies	Nuclear Free Policy
Weathering the GFC	Early Childhood Education
National Competition Policy	Fiscal Responsibility Act
Child Support	National Superannuation
Responses to HIV/AIDS	Economic Reforms in 1980s
Murray-Darling Water Market	Environmental Protection

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# A Common Research Framework

1. What's the claim to success?
2. What was the initial social, political, institutional context?
3. What was the policy seeking to achieve?
4. Who were the main drivers?
5. How did the policy design process unfold?
6. How did the political process of adoption unfold?

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# A Common Research Framework

7. How did the implementation process unfold?
8. How did policy legitimacy build?
9. How did policy features and legitimacy change over time?
10. What lessons might be drawn? What limits to this?

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# Emerging Evidence

1. A well-developed initial design can be crucial to success
2. Strong political advocacy – well beyond the corridors of power is important
3. Implementation needs to be well-funded and managed
4. Cross-party support is essential
5. Continuous efforts are needed to maintain support.

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# Elaborations

1. Measuring Success / Investment Approach
2. The Practice of Policy Development
3. Implications for Public Policy Training

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# 3/ Policy Training

Francis Fukuyama 'What's Wrong with Public Policy Education' *The American Interest* August 1, 2018.

'Most Public Policy programs train students to become capable policy analysts, but with no understanding of how to implement those policies in the real world. Public policy education that seeks to produce change-makers would continue to teach policy analysis, but that would be a small component embedded in a broader set of skills'.

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# Upcoming Thought Leadership Seminars

<p>eGovernance  <b>Speaker: Professor Wolfgang Drechsler,          Harvard/TalTech</b></p>	<p>TBC          Wellington</p>	<p>October 2019</p>
<p>Smart Cities  <b>Speaker: Professor Wolfgang Drechsler</b></p>	<p>TBC          Auckland</p>	<p>October 2019</p>
<p>Digital transformation of policy making  <b>Speaker: A/Professor Jonathan Craft,          University of Toronto</b></p>	<p>TBC          Wellington</p>	<p>November 2019</p>



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# THANK YOU

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