

# Evaluation Dart boards

## What is it? When is it used?

An Evaluation Dartboard is an intuitive tool that provides a quick and easy visual evaluation by participants of events such as workshops, training days, public meetings, etc.

## How is it used?

A "dartboard" is constructed by drawing 2-4 concentric circles on a whiteboard or a large sheet of paper. The inner circle or bulls-eye represents the most favourable evaluation and the outside of the largest circle the least favourable evaluation. The concentric circles may be divided into sectors by lines passing through the centre of the bulls-eye. Each sector represents an evaluation question. Typically, two lines are drawn perpendicular to each other creating four sectors or quadrants. The dartboard can be divided into more than four sectors, if there are more evaluation questions. However, care needs to be taken not to make it too cluttered.

After the event, participants are asked to place a mark or a sticky dot somewhere on each sector of the Evaluation Dartboard as their response to the sector evaluation question. If conducted transparently in a group, a participant's responses will be observed by others – they may feel uncomfortable about the lack of anonymity and/or its normative pressure may affect their responses. To help counter this participants may prefer to mark the dartboard in groups of 2 or 3 with the dartboard located so that the larger group cannot observe individuals' responses.

Once complete the Dartboard provides an immediate visual representation of the participants' evaluation of the questions asked. It may be used as is and included in an evaluation report, or it may be used to generate discussion with participants to obtain qualitative data about the reasons for the response sets. Results can also be quantitatively analysed by assigning a numeric rating level to each of the concentric circles (i.e., treating them as numerical response scales). In this way frequencies and means can be calculated for each question, if desired.

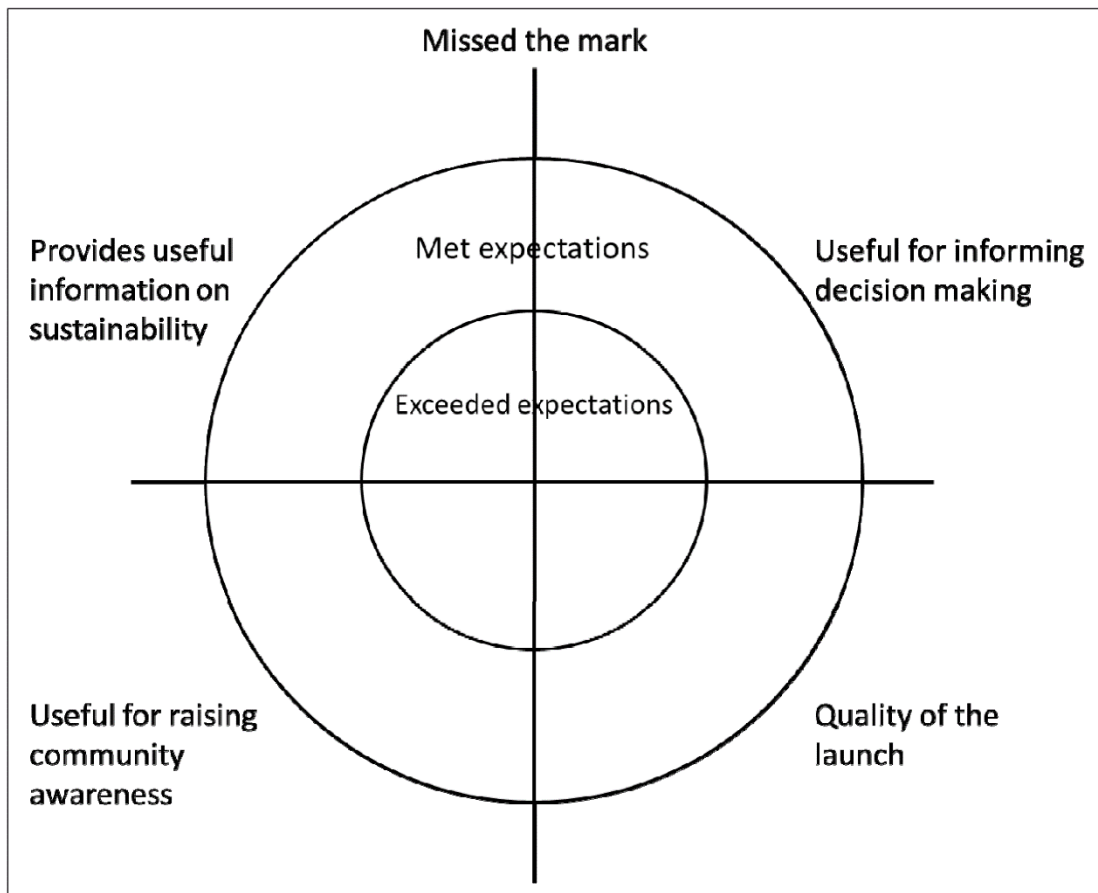
Depending on the type of event different evaluation questions can be asked. Because the tool is most suitable for a limited number of questions only those questions considered most important to the evaluation should be included. These are usually questions about outcomes such as **changes** in knowledge, skills, attitudes, beliefs, and behavioural intentions. However, the Dartboard is also suitable for assessing levels of satisfaction with aspects such as venue, facilitator, content, objective achievement, activities and workshop process.

### Evaluation Dashboard Example 1

The Dashboard example below is for the evaluation of a community sustainability workshop launching a Community Report Card for Sustainability (Greymore, 2014).

In this example the evaluation response set was: Missed the mark, Met expectations, and Exceeded expectations. The evaluation questions were:

- Provides useful information on sustainability
- Useful for informing decision making
- Useful for raising community awareness
- Quality of launch



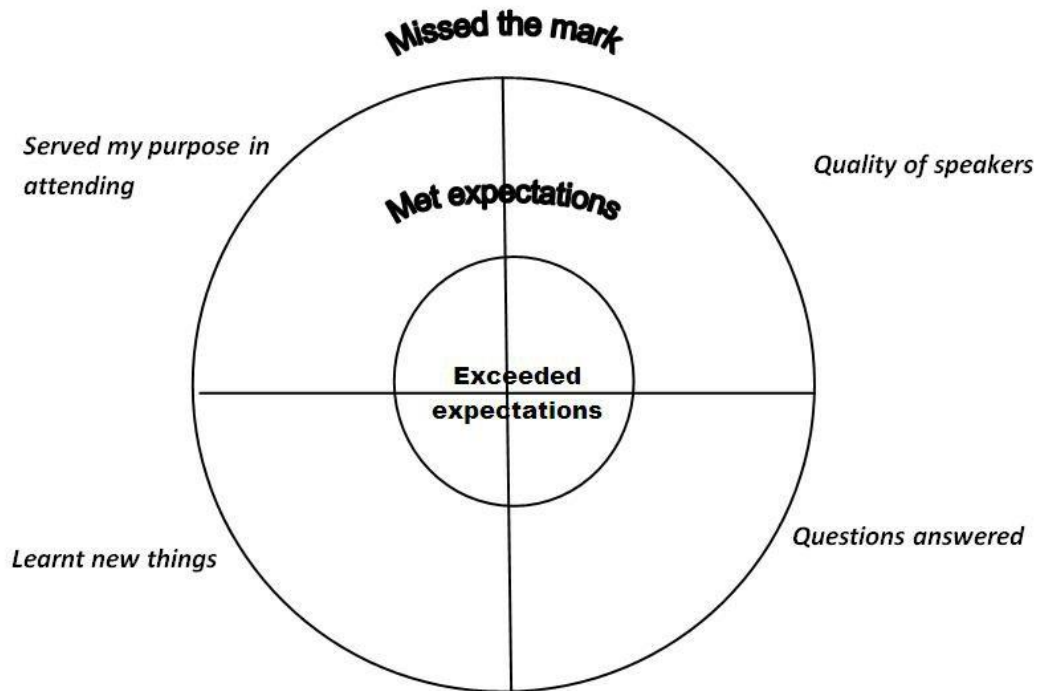
Source: Graymore, M. L. M. (2014). Sustainability reporting: An approach to get the right mix of theory and practicality for local actors. *Sustainability*, 6, 3145-3170, Doi: 10.3390/su6063145 (p.3155)

## Evaluation Dashboard Example 2

The second example of an Evaluation Dashboard comes from the Community Sustainability Engagement Evaluation Toolbox

([http://evaluationtoolbox.net.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=38&Itemid=145](http://evaluationtoolbox.net.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38&Itemid=145))

. This generic example is for evaluating a workshop designed to impart information to participants about an unspecified topic.

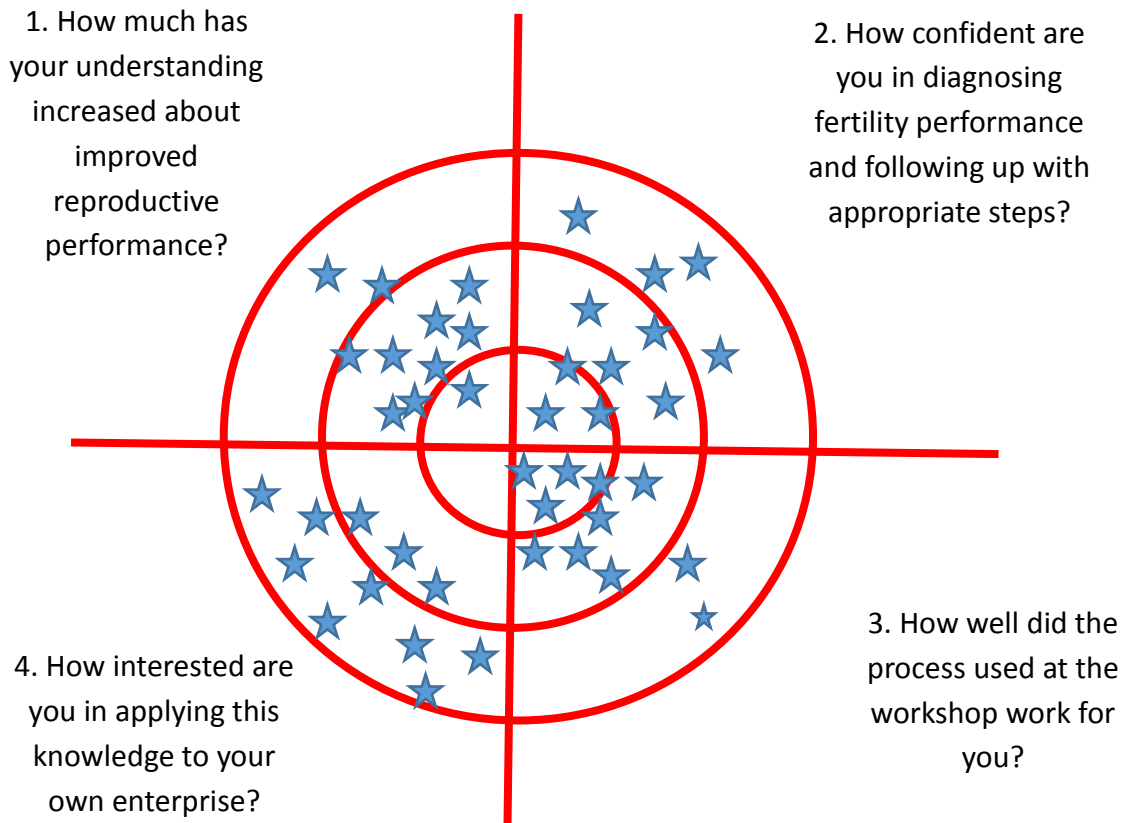


In this example the response set is the same as in example 1: Missed the mark, Met expectations, Exceeded expectations. The evaluation questions in example 2 were:

- Quality of speakers
- Questions answered
- Learnt new things
- Served my purpose in attending.

### Evaluation Dartboard Example 3

The third example of an Evaluation Dartboard comes from 'Workshop Notes on Methods' (Coutts, J&R, 2014). This example evaluates the outcomes of a farmer workshop on stock reproductive performance.



In this examples participants were instructed that the bulls-eye represented the highest (positive) or most favourable response while the outer circle represented the lowest (negative) or least favourable response. The stars represent the individual responses of the participants to each of the four questions. From observation it can be seen that question 3 received the most positive response while question 4 received the lowest or most negative response. In example 3 the evaluation questions have been tailored to the specific content and objectives of the workshop;

- Q1. Is a change in knowledge question
- Q2. Is a self-efficacy question about confidence in using skills learned
- Q3. Is a reactive question i.e., to the process of the workshop
- Q4. Is an aspiration or behavioural intention question about interest/intention to apply the workshop learnings.