Evidence and Research for Policy Making
Addressing the Needs of Legislators

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Structure of Presentation

- Understanding the Challenges Faced by Legislators
- Addressing their Needs Effectively
Roles of Legislators

- Legislative
- Oversight
- Financial
- Representative
Types of Activities

• Law Making
• Policy Oversight
• Committee Work
• Budget Approval
• Financial Oversight
• Representing Constituent Interests
Challenges faced by Legislators

- Time Management
- Technical Issues
- Conflicting Interests
- Lack of Clear Evidence
Structure of Presentation

• Understanding the Challenges Faced by Legislators

• Addressing their Needs Effectively
Understanding the Needs

- They have limited time
- They need quick response
- They are generalists looking at specialised areas
- They are inundated with information from interest groups
Essentials

• Credibility
  – Quality of Research
  – Perception as non-partisan

• Readability
  – Length
  – Simplicity of Language
  – No Jargon

• Response time
  – Anticipating issues
Credibility

• Well Researched
• Reflect diverse perspectives
• Use external expertise
• Provide evidence and analysis
• Cite all data sources
• No Judgement calls
• Review Process
Communication

• Written notes
  – Short (Max 6 pages)
  – Well structured and formatted
  – Graphs, charts

• Oral Briefings
  – Individual, groups, parties
  – Using external resources (risks!)
Communication

• Committees
  – Notes and oral evidence

• Response to Inquiries
  – Notes, email, phone call, face-to-face
  – Bespoke research tailored to needs

• Alert New Developments
  – Email, Website, Social Media
Timely Inputs

- Political awareness
- Anticipating issues
- Seasonality of work
Challenges

• Relevance
  – Usage statistics and feedback

• Perception as non-partisan
  – Party affiliation of users