National Research & Evaluation Unit



Filling in the Black Hole: Research and Evaluation into the Hidden Economy

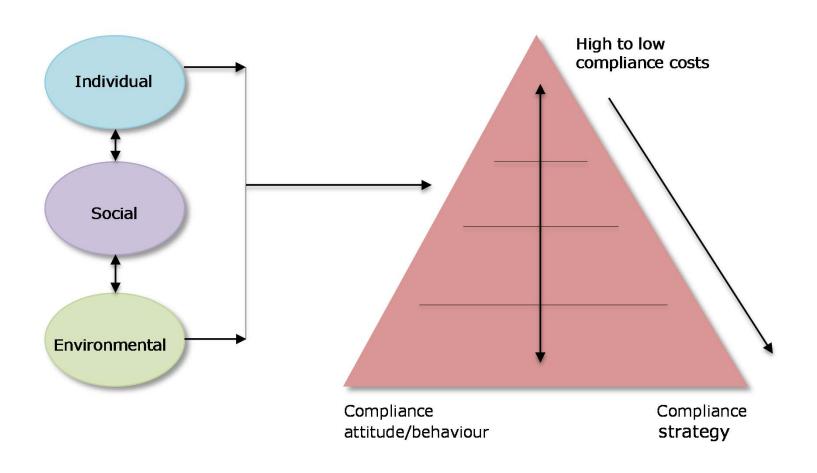
Dr Alice Cleland National Research & Evaluation Unit Inland Revenue New Zealand

IRS-TPC Research Conference, Washington, D. C. | June 20 2013

Conceptual basis of Hidden Economy research and evaluation

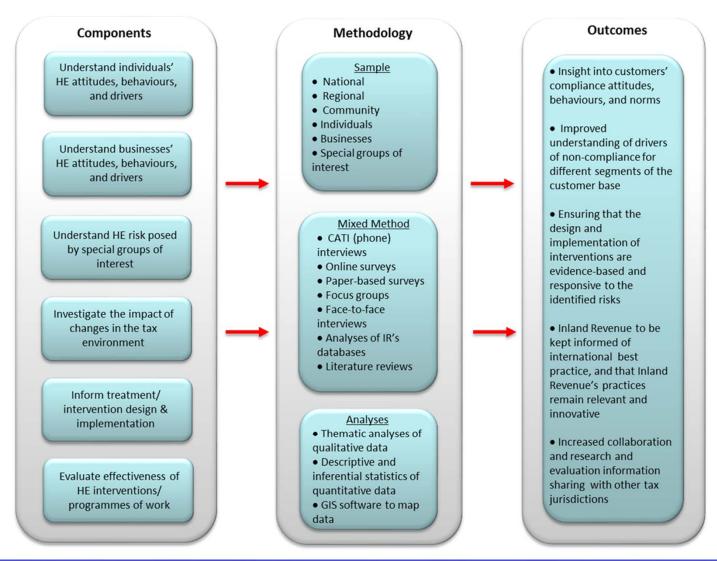


An ecological approach to understanding taxpayer attitudes and behaviours





Inland Revenue New Zealand's Hidden Economy Research & Evaluation Programme



Ecological, longitudinal, and evidence-based approach that positively contributes to influencing taxpayer compliance



Highlights from the Hidden Economy Research & Evaluation Programme



Measuring the size of the Hidden Economy

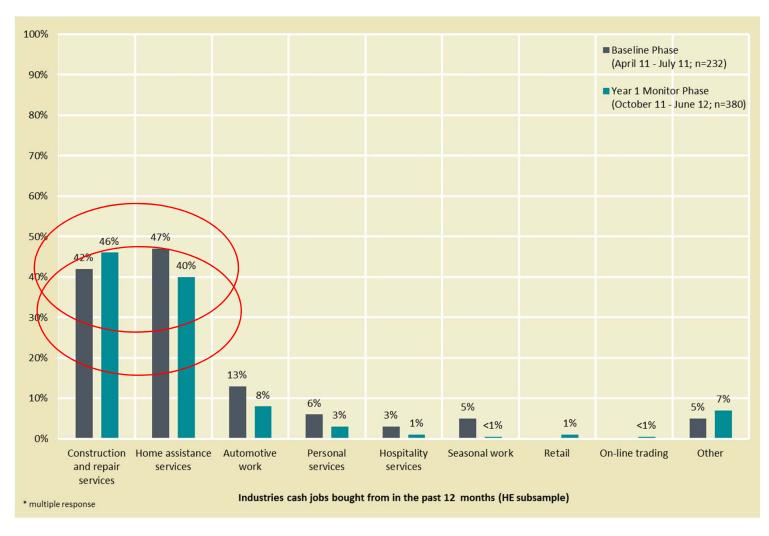
 Review of different methodological approaches to measuring the tax gap (Slyuzberg, 2012)

Concluded :

- No standard approaches for assessing and interpreting the tax gap
- Different definitions used by tax authorities
- Calculations subject to assumptions which cannot always be observed
- Statistical robustness and accuracy of measurements queried
- Caution in using tax gap measurements as a proxy measure of HE

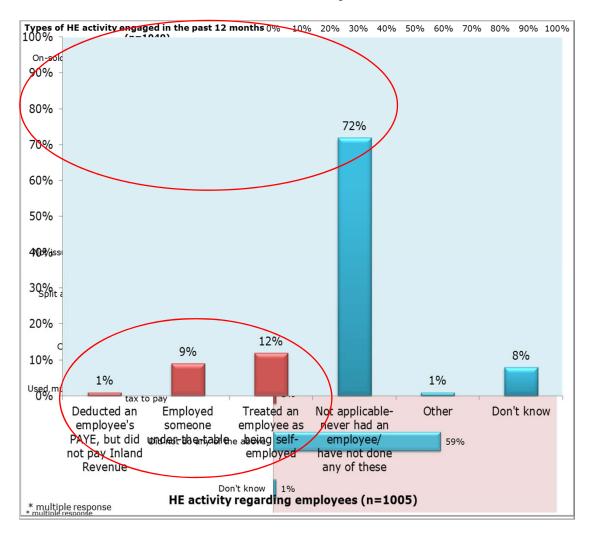


Hidden Economy behaviour





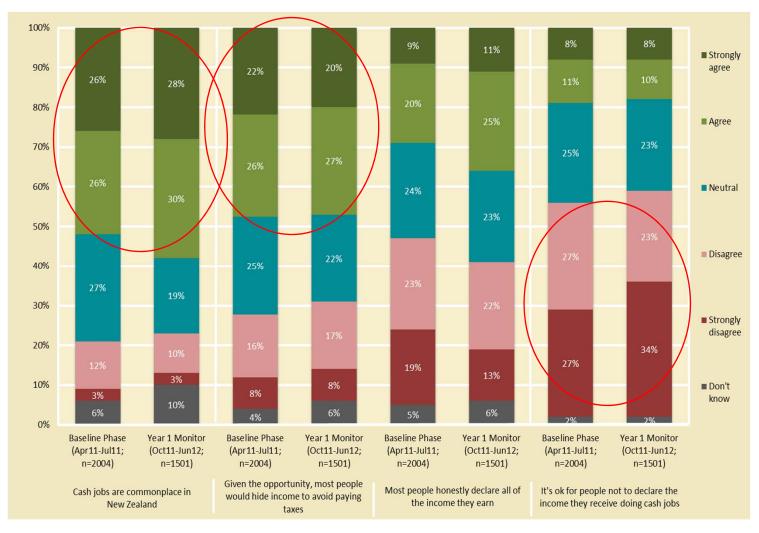
Hidden Economy behaviour



Cleland, Bhaskaran, & Copeland (2012)

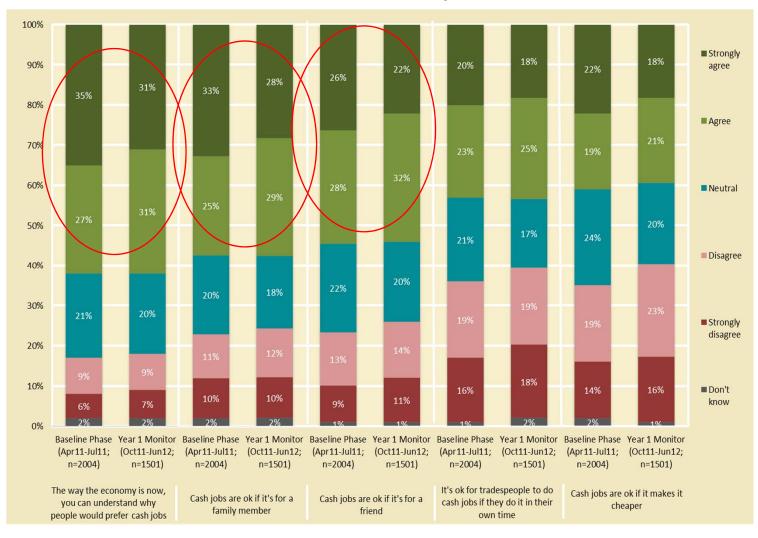


Hidden Economy attitudes



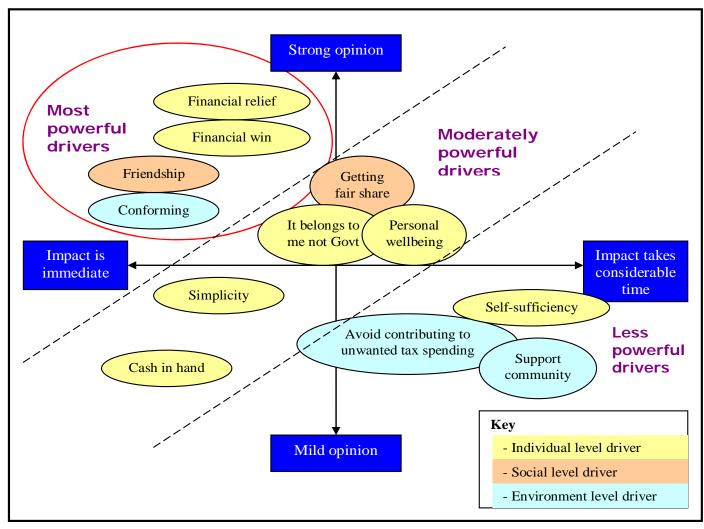


Hidden Economy drivers





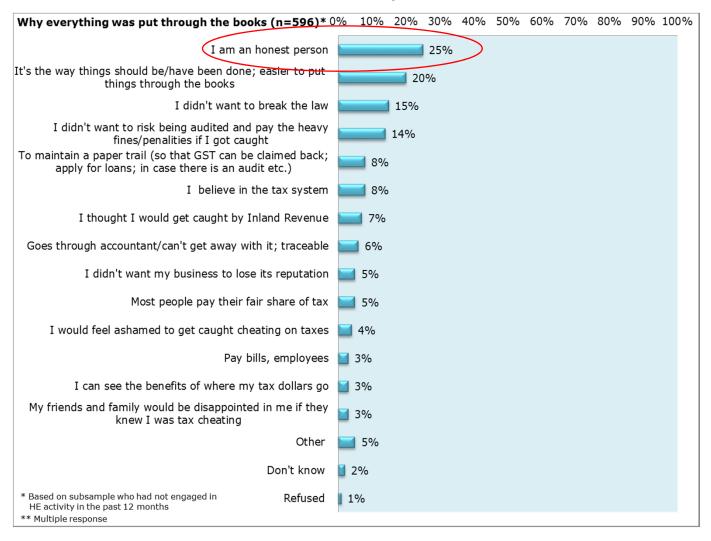
Hidden Economy drivers



Bickers & Cleland (2011)



Hidden Economy barriers



Cleland, Bhaskaran, & Copeland (2012)



Future likelihood of Hidden Economy activity



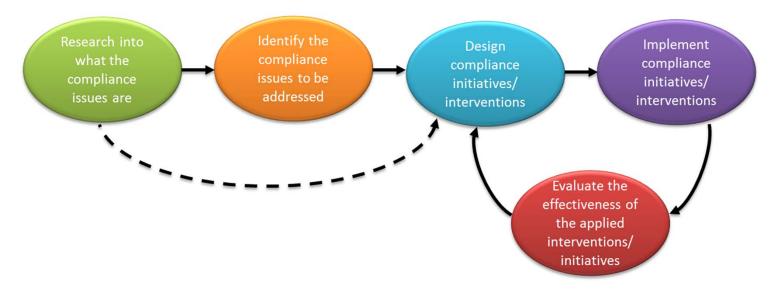


Lessons & Implications



Lessons & implications

End-to-end campaigns/programmes of work



- Multi-modal and multi-faceted intervention design
- Long-term commitment

Conclusions

