Administrative Initiative Canvas

Problem

Ideas and insight occur all over the organisation, but it can be difficult to translate them into action.

Senior Executives are keen to support innovation, but it is difficult to evaluate a volume of ideas if they are excessively detailed or if important aspects have not been considered.

The compact business modelling tools used by venture capitalists (e.g. Business Model Canvas, Lean Canvas) are designed around a commercial context. They are only a partial fit for public sector initiatives.

Solution

Develop a tool that can represent all the important aspects of an administrative initiative on a single page.

This will be similar to the existing business "canvas" tools, except modified for an Australian Government context.

Metrics

A direct dialogue with SES about how well the tool meets their needs. This could commence promptly and incorporate structured survey data.

If successful, significant APS adoption should be evident by Christmas 2016. This could be measured by opt-in survey.

Value Proposition

It's like Business Model Canvas for Government.

It's a tool for bridging the gap between having an idea and having executive support.

National Significance

We made this to scratch our own itch. If others find it useful then great, let's work together to improve it.

Innovation is not a centralised function with a natural home. We are all in this together.

Delivery Channels

Collaborative development via GitHub, and potentially community sites such as http://thetoolkitproject.com/

"Community of practice" type collaboration via professional networks.

Participate in efforts to promote or facilitate innovation within the Department.

Stakeholders

APS staff with ideas they would like to be supported.

SES staff who need to select the "best next investment".

Cost Structure

The initial development was an operational expedience, while grooming a backlog of initiatives over the course of three business planning meetings with Parks Australia. Some additional hours of in-house refinement brought it to the point where it could be socialised more widely. No capital funds were expended or will be required.

Affordability

Innovation requires time and effort, with or without tools such as this canvas. The product itself does not require any operational budget to be shared and used widely.

Time spent socialising, supporting, refining and using the tool is ongoing work that is resourced through the ITB Digital Innovation Section.

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