



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Systems Evaluation Health Sector Co-Design Group (HSCG) Communiqué for 25-26 June 2019

The Department of Health commissioned an evaluation of the Australian Government's Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme. This evaluation is occurring over four years from 2019-2022 and includes the evaluation team working closely with a Health Sector Co-Design Group (HSCG).

Up to 20 place based, system focused sites are to be established across Australia (as a central aspect of the design and analysis) to listen to local voices, assess the impact of the investment on the ground, support improvements and contribute to a national picture of what is being achieved.

The HSCG works collaboratively with the evaluation team to help facilitate a robust, high-quality and influential evaluation. This role began during the evaluation design and will continue throughout the implementation phase.

The evaluation is framed by four key evaluation questions:

1. How well is the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP) enabling the PHC system to work for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
2. What difference is the IAHP making to the PHC system?
3. What difference is the IAHP making to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
4. How can faster progress be made towards improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

The HSCG's fourth meeting on 25 and 26 June 2019 was the second meeting in the implementation phase of the evaluation.

Discussion of the Terms of Reference focused on the role of the HSCG to provide clarity on the functions and commitments of the group and how they would be engaged in the evaluation as **co-designers, navigators, advisors** and **communicators**. This included discussion on how the HSCG members can take ownership of the evaluation promoting it within their spheres of influence. It was also discussed that there is an opportunity for the approach for this evaluation to be used as a model for future co-designed evaluations of programmes targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The evaluation team shared with the HSCG the work that it has completed since the last meeting in February 2019. This included the:

- Submission of ethics applications to 14 Human Research Ethics Committees – full approval for Stage 1 site engagement has been achieved in six jurisdictions.
- Agreement from the jurisdictional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership Forums on 15 of the proposed 20 sites for engagement.

- Development and agreement of a Data Feasibility Assessment Plan; and
- Development of a draft Implementation Plan for a data feasibility assessment to inform a possible future Economic Evaluation of the IAHP.

Over the two days:

- The evaluation team led a discussion around the approach to developing the evaluation framework including mapping questions against the IAHP logic model, and the relationships between the qualitative data and quantitative indicators that will help to answer the evaluation questions.
- In a breakout co-design session, the HSCG members reviewed the evaluation sub-questions and identified what they considered important in answering each question. They also discussed the relevance and priority of individual questions.
- The HSCG reviewed and provided feedback on the draft resources (Participation Agreement, two-page information sheet and Site Handbook) which will be used to communicate the purpose and requirements of the evaluation with the selected sites. The discussion focused on the need for these resources to be simply represented, catered to different audiences and provide clear understanding of what services make up the IAHP-funded PHC system and how different parts of the system interact.

The presentations and breakout session led to robust discussions, with all members of the HSCG having a high level of engagement. The HSCG meetings are a key opportunity for the health sector and evaluation experts to come together to develop fresh solutions consistent with the co-design of the evaluation.

## Next steps

The HSCG reaffirmed its role in co-design, particularly in the development of the evaluation framework. Its next meeting will be held in October 2019.

HSCG members noted that the evaluation team will approach sites to assess their willingness to participate in the evaluation and consider the benefits and engagement under the Evaluation Participation Agreement.

## Key resources

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No.1 Communiqué](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No.2 Communiqué](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No.3 Communiqué](#)

The evaluation website: [www.IPHCeval.com](http://www.IPHCeval.com)