

Evaluation of the Australian Government's Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

Health Sector Co-Design Group Meeting 5 Communiqué 8 9 October 2019

The Department of Health has commissioned a systems evaluation of the Australian Government's investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC) through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP). The evaluation is occurring across four years from 2019-2022 using a co-designed patient centred place-based approach. The evaluation includes the Health Sector Co-Design Group (HSCG) working collaboratively with the evaluation team to facilitate a robust, high-quality and influential evaluation.

The evaluation is framed by five key evaluation questions:

1. How well is the 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?
5. How well do the evaluation co-design and methodological approaches achieve the aims of the evaluation?

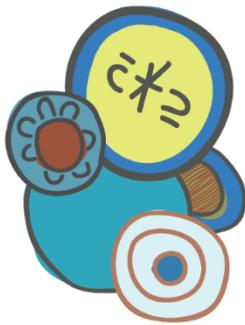
The HSCG met for the fifth time on 8-9 October 2019. This meeting was the third during the implementation phase of the evaluation.

The HSCG provided reflections and advice to the Productivity Commission to inform its work to develop a whole-of-government Indigenous Evaluation Strategy. The discussion recognised the unique nature of the IAHP evaluation, including its focus on co-design, systems-orientation and Indigenous leadership. The opportunity to learn from the co-design approach to the IAHP evaluation led to including the fifth key evaluation question being included, as above.

The HSCG members were encouraged to hear that the evaluation has progressed to inviting potential partners in 20 geographic areas (sites) to participate in the evaluation. This reflects a positive move forward with the engagement and implementation processes in the evaluation. HSCG members committed to doing what they could do support the initial engagement with sites across Australia.

The HSCG commended the adoption of a flexible place-based approach for the 20 system-focused site studies, with three participatory cycles with all sites across Australia. The HSCG noted that the team needs to identify what works best for site partners and the context in which they are working.

The IAHP Yarnes logo was introduced as branding for evaluation. The logo was developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to reflect what they understood the evaluation was about and what it would mean for their communities. The use of IAHP Yarnes (Yarning | Action | Reflection | National Evaluation | Systems) reflects the importance of yarning with the sites, and that this must inform local and national action based on their experiences with and reflections on the IAHP funded PHC systems through a national evaluation.



IAHP Yarnes

Evaluation of the Australian Government's Investment
in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

Next Steps

The HSCG membership express their continued commitment to the evaluation and recognise the importance of engagement of the evaluation team with key partners at the evaluation sites to build relationships to support the ongoing work of the evaluation. The next face-to-face Co-design Meeting for the evaluation will be held in April 2020.

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](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No. 4 Communiqué](#)

The evaluation website: www.IPHCeval.com