



IAHP Yarnes

Indigenous Australians' Health Programme
Yarning • Action • Reflection • National Evaluation • Systems

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

Update April 2020

Site engagement Paused in response to COVID-19

As a result of the increased pressure placed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care organisations to respond to COVID-19, a decision was made to pause engagement with sites at the end of March 2020 and restart once conditions permit. This decision was taken in consultation with the Health Sector Co-design Group (HSCG) and the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The IAHP Yarnes team was in the process of setting up and holding face-to-face planning workshops with potential evaluation site partners when it became clear that this was no longer possible.

Over the site engagement pause period, the evaluation team will stay in contact with evaluation site partners and seek their advice about when it would be appropriate to recommence planning workshops and in what format they should proceed.

The evaluation team will discuss a safe restart process with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the evaluation's HSCG co-chaired by Ms Kate Thomann and Dr Mark Wenitong.

Thank you

The team sincerely expresses its appreciation of the valuable time many people and organisations have already given in engaging with the IAHP Yarnes project to date, and the invaluable insights they have shared about IAHP and the health system. We will remain in contact with potential evaluation site partners during the Keep Warm period and look forward to working with everyone again when we resume the evaluation.

We are thinking of you all, the communities in which you work and live, along with your families at this time.

We are genuinely seeking people's input and will continue to meet with health sector workers and key participants across the country when it is possible to do so again. Those not able to meet with the evaluation team, and anyone else interested in the evaluation, can submit their views and ideas through an online platform which will be available on the project website iphceval.com.

Initial site visits with potential evaluation partners

The evaluation team held meetings with potential evaluation site partners in the 7 states/territories for which we had ethics approval. These visits occurred between October-December 2019. The focus was to introduce the evaluation and invite participation. Initial feedback from the site visits was positive, along with requests for further information and discussion. Ethics approval has now been received for the remaining state and the team will seek initial visits with these sites once the engagement has restarted.

A Year One Site Engagement report which provides an overview of the site engagement processes and outcomes for the IAHP Yarnes evaluation has been drafted and will shortly be discussed with the HSCG.

Quantitative data feasibility assessment

The IAHP Yarnes data team have completed a systematic assessment to determine which routinely collected data sets are suitable for use in the evaluation. The draft report is currently undergoing review and will shortly be discussed with the HSCG.

The selected data sets will be included in the ethics applications for the next round of engagement, and once ethics approval has been received, we can then access and analyse the data.

Evaluation methodology and ethics submissions

Over the next period, members of the IAHP Yarnes team will finalise the tools that will be used to collect qualitative data in sites, and with state/territory and national stakeholders, along with finalising and setting up the analytical frameworks.

This will enable the submission of a second round of ethics applications to implement the evaluation (Phase 2 – evaluation cycles). The first round sought ethics approval for engaging with potential evaluation partners and undertaking the data feasibility assessment (Phase 1 – initial engagement and participation establishment).

Discussions will be held with potential evaluation site partners to determine if they are happy to support the submission of the ethics applications during the pause in response to COVID-19. The team will continue to progress the backroom work of the evaluation to support a well-prepared restart of the evaluation once conditions allow.

For further information on the evaluation, please visit our website iphceval.com or email iphceval@allenandclarke.com.au to subscribe to these updates.

Evaluation partners:

