



# 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 October 2020

### Site engagement to Restart

The IAHP Yarnes Team enacted a decision to pause engagement with potential evaluation partners on 31 March 2020 because of COVID-19, and agreed to restart once pandemic conditions permitted safe engagement. Over the last six months, the team remained in contact with potential partners, and requested advice about when and how it would be appropriate to recommence planning workshops.

Over this period, the IAHP Yarnes team facilitated a series of three evaluation-specific webinars with potential partners. The webinars provided an opportunity for two-way knowledge exchange. They enabled potential partners to engage more in-depth with the evaluation values, scope, proposed approaches and methods, and for the team to better understand the concerns and needs of partners and test different approaches for future engagement. The team is confident that planning workshops, to discuss and reach agreement on partner participation and the implementation of the evaluation in individual sites, can be successfully delivered virtually.

The IAHP Yarnes team related the eagerness of many potential partners to continue the evaluation and discussed safe restart processes with the Commonwealth Department of Health and the evaluation's Health Sector Co-design Group (co-chaired by Ms Kate Thomann and Dr Mark Wenitong). In the interest of safety, it was agreed that a continuation of the virtual approach to engagement is necessary at this stage.

### Thank you

We appreciate that 2020 has brought a number of challenges for many communities across Australia and the world, and that the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over. The team sincerely expresses its appreciation of the valuable time many people and organisations continue to give in engaging with the IAHP Yarnes project, and the invaluable insights shared about IAHP and the primary health care system.

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 [iahpyarnes.com](http://iahpyarnes.com).

For further information on the evaluation, please visit our website [iahpyarnes.com](http://iahpyarnes.com) or email [iphceval@allenandclarke.com.au](mailto:iphceval@allenandclarke.com.au) to subscribe to these updates.

Evaluation partners:

