



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

### Health Sector Co-Design Group (HSCG) Meeting 7 Communiqué 27 July 2022 (including virtual meetings on 5 August 2022 and 20 September 2022)

In 2018, after Ministerial approval of concept and co-design, the Department of Health (now Department of Health and Aged Care) commissioned a four-year evaluation of the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP). The evaluation is known as IAHP Yarnes, which stands for yarning, action, reflection, national evaluation, and systems.

Due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this evaluation has been extended to five years. The evaluation is expected to be completed in June 2023.

Over the past 12 months, the HSCG has continued to support the IAHP Yarnes evaluation by:

- informing the selection of collaborative topics
- informing the selection of topic for the Yarnes final workstream
- providing feedback and guidance on the Cycle 1 and 2 Evaluation Reports
- informing the implementation of Cycle 2 fieldwork
- informing the design of the final evaluation report.

At its July meeting, the HSCG also welcomed Dr Fui Choong as a new Department of Health and Aged Care representative. Dr Choong is the acting Director of the Research, Data, and Performance Section.

The HSCG members were provided with an overview of what has happened to date in the evaluation and what needs to be completed by June 2023. Cycle 1 of the evaluation is complete. Cycle 2 of the evaluation is near completion with the HSCG providing feedback on the Cycle 2 report. Planning for Cycle 3 of the evaluation is underway with the final round of site visits beginning in September 2022. During Cycle 3 of the evaluation, two further Collective Action for Change workshops are planned as well as a final workshop with site partners in February 2023.

The HSCG members were provided with key emerging findings from Cycle 2 of the evaluation. The Yarnes team discussed the use of contribution analysis to determine the IAHP's contribution to health services' capacity to deliver coordinated and comprehensive primary health care (PHC). The Yarnes team provided an overview of the enablers and barriers to strengthening the PHC system. HSCG members reflected that the COVID-19 response tells a positive story and agreed that there are important learnings from the COVID-19 Collaborative on how business can be done differently.

The August 2022 meeting was an opportunity for the Yarnes team to present the scope and focus of the Yarnes final workstream and two Collaboratives. HSCG members approved Integrated Care as the topic for the Yarnes final workstream. The Integrated Care workstream will answer two questions:

1. What is needed for comprehensive PHC organisations and health professionals to establish coherent integrated models at funding, administrative/governance, organisational, service delivery and clinical levels with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as partners in care?
2. How do we collectively articulate the learned principles, processes and elements of value based integrated care into policy and practice?

Two topics were approved as the final two Collaboratives:

1. Understanding Health Needs from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Perspective
  - a. This Collaborative will provide an understanding of what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities identify as their health needs, identification of methods and indicators needed to assess these health needs, and implications for future development of IAHP and broader PHC developments.
2. Recommendations to improve the PHC data environment
  - a. This Collaborative will identify and document potential improvements within the current data environment and assess the potential improvements at different levels of the system.

The HSCG members recognised the challenge in implementing the evaluation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The HSCG members and the evaluation team noted their appreciation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled PHC sector for their engagement.

### Next steps

The next steps for the evaluation are to implement Cycle 3 in line with the Monitoring and Evaluation Design Report, the final report for this complex, long-term evaluation.

The next HSCG meeting will be held in December 2022.

### 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](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No. 5 Communiqué](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group [Meeting No. 6 Communiqué](#)

Health Sector Co-design Group Meeting No. 7 Communiqué

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