



Designing an evaluation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care: *Information sheet*

What is the focus of the evaluation?

The evaluation will focus on the Australian Government's main investment in primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which occurs primarily through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP). The IAHP:

- Funds organisations to deliver primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Funds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific initiatives to address issues such as maternal and child health, smoking, mental health, and drug use.
- Seeks to strengthen the health system so that it works better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Why this evaluation?

The Department of Health wants to know whether the IAHP is delivering the desired results. More broadly, it wants to:

- Learn how well the primary health care system is working for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Demonstrate the difference that the IAHP makes.
- Inform efforts to accelerate improvement in health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Inform revisions to the Implementation Plan for the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*.
- Support adaptive management and continuous improvement in primary health care service delivery.
- Gain a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community needs and aspirations.

Why this evaluation?

The evaluation is being designed by an independent team of evaluators and researchers. As well as reviewing documents and literature and mapping existing data to evaluation questions, the design process includes:

- Co-design consultations with a group of health sector and evaluation specialists and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Seeking input from a wider group of people working in primary health care across Australia.

When is the design process happening?

Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18
Co-design process						
				Stakeholder engagement		
					Finalise evaluation design	

Once the evaluation design has been approved, the evaluation will be implemented over four years. Those involved in the co-design processes will continue to be part of the evaluation.

Are there opportunities to provide input into the evaluation design?

During the design phase, the evaluation team will be meeting with people in states and territories to seek views and ideas to inform the evaluation design. Those not able to meet with the evaluation team, and anyone else with an interest in the evaluation design, can submit their views and ideas through an online platform which includes a number of questions.

The online platform can be found [here](#).

There will be many more opportunities for people to participate during the four-year evaluation.

Who is undertaking the evaluation design?

The independent team of evaluators and researchers is a collaboration between:

- Evaluation consultants Allen + Clarke (Ned Hardie-Boys, Robyn Bailey and Matt Allen).
- Robert Monaghan, from the Bundjalung Nation and Monaghan Consulting.
- Associate Professor Roxanne Bainbridge, a Gungarri Aboriginal woman from Central Queensland University.
- Emma Walke, a Bundjalung Aboriginal woman, and Professor Ross Bailie and Jodie Bailie, all from the University Centre for Rural Health (University of Sydney).
- Dr Julia Carr, a public health physician and GP from Brisbane.

How can I contact the evaluation team?

Ned Hardie-Boys, Telephone: 02 6188 4487, Email: IPHCeval@allenandclarke.com

How can I contact the Department of Health?

The Department of Health can be contacted via the Strategic Investment, Data and Evaluation Section (Indigenous Health Division) inbox: SIDES@health.gov.au

Where can I find further information about the evaluation?

The evaluation project webpage: www.IPHCeval.com

[Evaluation of Indigenous Australians' Health Programme media release](#)