



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Evaluation of Indigenous Australians' Health Program

Independent consultants have been engaged to conduct evaluations of the Australian Government's Indigenous Australians' Health Program (IAHP).

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt AM, said the two projects were part of a wide ranging approach to monitor and examine the IAHP.

"Our focus is on closing the gap and, while we are making gains, we need to accelerate progress and in some cases, just doing more of the same is not going to achieve that," Minister Wyatt said.

"We need to know what is working well so we can best target our investment in, and support of, health programs."

A longer term evaluation of comprehensive primary health care will be co-designed with stakeholders over 9 months, by consultants Allen and Clarke.

"The consultants will work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and key consumer, primary health care and government organisations," Minister Wyatt said.

"The subsequent implementation of the agreed evaluation design will be a separate, four-year project."

In addition, a health economics analysis will be undertaken by Deakin University.

This project will consider the IAHP's return on investment and the relative costs of providing comprehensive primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through Indigenous specific and non-Indigenous health care services.

"Improved health results, social returns and broader economic benefits will be assessed," said Minister Wyatt.

"This economic evaluation will inform future IAHP investments, to improve efficiency and drive better health outcomes.

“Both studies will be supported by an Evaluation Advisory Group comprised of key stakeholders and health experts, to ensure a wide range of perspectives are taken into account.

“This work aligns with the Turnbull Government’s commitment to a more strategic, long-term approach to Indigenous health and Indigenous affairs as a whole.”

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