

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its tenth meeting on 8 November 2018.

Steering Committee membership

The Committee welcomed Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews to the Committee membership. Gawaian is of the D'harawal nation and researcher and lecturer at the Centre of Indigenous Knowledges, University of Technology, Sydney.

NSW Government's response to the findings and recommendation of the first stage of the OCHRE evaluation

The Committee commends the NSW Government on its continuing commitment to co-design in all aspects of its work so that *OCHRE* initiatives continue to develop with local Aboriginal communities' priorities and views incorporated. As the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances noted in their [report](#) and recommendations to the Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs following the release of evaluation reports, successfully weaving Aboriginal and Western knowledges will be critical to the ongoing success.

The Committee notes that the NSW Government will be providing an interim response to findings and recommendations later this year as part of its annual reporting on key achievements, learnings and future priorities.

NSW Ombudsman's special report to Parliament on OCHRE

The Committee notes that the NSW Ombudsman's special report to Parliament on *OCHRE* is delayed. The Committee looks forward to receiving this report to inform its ongoing work

Planning for the second stage of the OCHRE evaluation

The Committee is pleased to have received a draft of the blueprint from the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW. The Committee notes that the blueprint will form the basis of the detailed evaluation plans to be developed for each *OCHRE* site, and the overall evaluation.

The Committee restated its' commitment to supporting and advancing participatory evaluation approaches that draw the best elements of Aboriginal and Western knowledge and practice. The Committee is pleased to see this commitment in action in the approach taken to commenting on the draft blueprint – an approach that will see the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances, the Steering Committee and NSW Government officials working together. The Committee's view is that this will ensure that the evaluation is culturally and locally authentic to support Aboriginal people's participation, is capable of contributing to policy reform and changes in practice, and is methodologically rigorous.

The Committee encourages the NSW Government to allow sufficient time to develop the blueprint. The time investment in planning will pay dividends in the longer term.

Administrative monitoring data

The Committee is pleased that data collection templates and processes have been developed to support the collection of administrative data on the activities of the Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests and Local Decision Making. The Committee notes that both collections are operational and looks forward to receiving regular data reports from these collections.

OCHRE - a continuing conversation

OPPORTUNITY HUBS | LANGUAGE AND CULTURE NESTS | LOCAL DECISION MAKING

The Committee asks that Aboriginal Affairs NSW make publically available the process used in developing these data collections with Aboriginal communities. The Committee's view is that this would fill a critical practice knowledge gap and be a welcome addition to the papers provided by Aboriginal Affairs NSW as part of its research and evaluation [practice learning series](#).



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair