

Steering Committee

Steering Committee held its seventh meeting on 27 February 2018.

Evaluation progress

Professor Ilan Katz, Chief Investigator, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), briefed the Committee on the progress of the evaluation.

The Committee noted that fieldwork has been completed for four of the seven initiatives (Tamworth Opportunity Hub, Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making initiative, Gumbaynggirr and North West Wiradjuri Language & Culture Nests). Fieldwork has commenced for one other initiative (Campbelltown Opportunity Hub) and co-design is planned for another (Illawarra Wingecarribee Alliance Aboriginal Corporation Local Decision Making initiative).

The Committee noted that while the community researcher model was a key factor in the success of the fieldwork, it required considerable time and resource investment.

It also noted that, in a community led evaluation, significant time and effort is required of community members (such as through participation in co-design workshops and fieldwork), and care needs to be taken to ensure that there are not unnecessary burdens placed on them.

This appears to be a particular issue when individuals are already stretched with other commitments in addition to other full time roles. The contribution of communities to the *OCHRE* evaluation is greatly appreciated by both the research team and the Steering Committee.

Program monitoring data

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to discuss the monitoring data collection for the Language and Culture Nest program with Michele Hall, Executive Director, Aboriginal Education and Community Engagement. The Committee is pleased that planned action will lead to the specification of a minimum data set with data collection for the two evaluation sites to be given priority over the next months.

The Committee remain concerned about the extent of program monitoring data available for Stage 1 of the evaluation and will continue to closely review progress.

Reporting the findings of stage 1 of the evaluation – implementation and early outcomes

The reports of the findings of Stage 1 of the evaluation will be finalised by the end of June. The Committee notes that a report will be written for each of the six initiatives included in the evaluation together with an overarching report synthesising the findings from the separate reports. The Committee supports reports written in language that is accessible to a range of audiences including local Aboriginal communities, and the importance of the communities being able to discuss the findings and deciding on whether the findings will be shared beyond the community.

The Committee commends the NSW Government on their continued support for community led evaluation including the government's recognition that it will be each community's decision on whether their evaluation report will be made public.



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair