

## Steering Committee

Steering Committee held its eight meeting on 24 May 2018.

### **Evaluation progress**

The Chief Investigator, Professor Ilan Katz, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), briefed the Committee on the progress of the evaluation as the first stage of the evaluation draws to a close.

The Committee noted that the process of validating the findings of the evaluation with the Aboriginal communities involved has been completed for Tamworth Opportunity Hub, and Gumbaynggirr and Wiradjuri Nests; in progress for Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) and Campbelltown Opportunity Hub; and is yet to commence for the Illawarra Wingecarribee Aboriginal Alliance Corporation (IWAAC). Further, that all communities where validation discussions are complete, wish to publish the final report.

The Committee looks forward to receiving the reports from the evaluation and noted that the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA) wish to take a central role in the next stage of the evaluation, which will focus on outcomes achieved.

### **Program monitoring data**

The Committee welcomed the progress made in establishing a systematic program monitoring data collection for Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests and Local Decision Making, including retrospective data collection and training. The Committee has raised the absence of monitoring data, both quantitative and qualitative, as an issue for several months and is disappointed that limited program monitoring data has been available to the evaluation team at the SPRC for analysis.

The Committee believes that the absence of program monitoring data will considerably impact on the evaluation of the outcomes achieved, the focus of the next stage of the evaluation. Noting that quality data collection is a challenge more broadly across most government agencies at both the national and state levels, the Committee will continue to closely monitor and report on data monitoring developments and offer support and guidance to those leading the projects.

### **Disseminating the findings of stage 1 of the evaluation – implementation and early outcomes**

The Committee commends the NSW Government on their continued support for a 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, and congratulates all those involved on this achievement.

The Committee noted plans to hold a ceremonial event on 15 August 2018 at Parliament House providing the opportunity for Aboriginal communities to hand over evaluation reports to the Minister should they wish to do so. The Committee looks forward to further details on how findings will be disseminated.

### **Activities of the NSW Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs)**

The Committee noted the activities of the NSW Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs) and the planned delivery of the NSW Ombudsman's special report later in 2018. The Committee shared the NSW Deputy Ombudsman's significant concerns about the absence of program data and noted his intention to focus on this in the special report.



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair