

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its ninth meeting on 19 July 2018.

### Completion the first stage of the *OCHRE* evaluation – implementation and early outcomes

The Committee commends Aboriginal communities, the Social Policy Research Centre UNSW who led the independent evaluation, and the NSW Government who have supported Aboriginal peoples to be at the centre of decision making, on the successful completion of the first stage of the *OCHRE* evaluation. This stage examined the implementation of the programs and early outcomes. The Committee is pleased to note the strong Aboriginal community voices embedded throughout the reports.

#### Findings and recommendations

The Committee notes the findings that there is broad support for *OCHRE* programs within Aboriginal communities, and that *OCHRE* is addressing important outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

The Committee notes the overall recommendations of the evaluation. The Committee will support the NSW government in its activities to achieve those recommendations that fall within its terms of reference including:

- Collect better data, and ensure local Aboriginal communities have the data to enable them to act.
- Ensure capacity building is embedded in all programs, including the evaluation.
- Honour commitment to *continuing conversations* and include community in future developments.

The Committee has previously noted the importance of data including program monitoring data to the quality of the evaluation and notes that finding that Aboriginal communities also seek these data. While progress is welcomed the Committee is concerned that program monitoring data remains unavailable for Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests and Local Decision Making. The Committee will continue to review the data collection and advise the senior officers group responsible for the delivery of the *OCHRE* initiatives on the quality and appropriateness of departmental program monitoring and reporting activities.

#### Delivery of reports to the NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Committee commends the NSW Government on its commitment to work differently with Aboriginal peoples in NSW on the *OCHRE* evaluation, including the government's support for Aboriginal peoples setting the criteria to assess success and determining whether or not the evaluation reports were made public.

The Committee notes the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' commitment to strengthening *OCHRE* based on the findings and recommendations of the reports. The Minister's Statement of 9 July 2018 is [here](#).

The Committee is pleased that the evaluation assists the NSW Government in its policy and practice reform, and through this transforms the relationship between community and government.

The Committee looks forward to the ceremony on 15 August 2018 at Parliament House where Aboriginal communities will formally hand the reports from the *OCHRE* evaluation to The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

## **Planning the second stage of the *OCHRE* evaluation – short, medium and long term outcomes**

The Committee is pleased to note the evaluation finding that the evaluation process itself strengthened the knowledge of *OCHRE* and individual programs and through this made a positive contribution to the implementation of *OCHRE*.

The Committee is committed to supporting and advancing participatory evaluation approaches that draw the best elements of Aboriginal and Western knowledge and practice and will continue its work to support and strengthen the evaluation. A particular focus during the second stage will be on advising on the evaluation plans, cultural matters that arise over the course of the evaluation and models for supporting Aboriginal community members to be involved in all aspects of the evaluation.



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair