

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met on 30 September 2021.

Evaluation of OCHRE - Local Decision Making

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the ongoing difficulties of progressing this evaluation, during the pandemic, and appreciates the ongoing participation of Aboriginal communities, particularly in rural and remote NSW. The evaluation team continue to adapt their methods to ensure Aboriginal voices are heard throughout the research project, despite restrictions on travelling to Aboriginal communities.

The Committee was pleased to note that a Working paper on aligning regional First Nations representation with emerging national structures has been published by the Australian National University. This is an important document in terms of aligning the work of OCHRE with other state and national initiatives.

Head of Aboriginal Affairs

The Committee welcomed Lil Gordon, Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW, to the meeting. Lil acknowledged the progress being made by Local Decision-making and updated the Committee on emerging initiatives in Aboriginal Affairs - both within NSW and at the national level. Discussion followed with members as to how the Committee's responsibilities could extend to advising on the application of the principles established by OCHRE and pending findings from the current evaluation to inform community led decision making under these initiatives.

NSW Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Affairs)

The Committee was pleased to receive an update from Katherine Emerton on behalf of the Deputy Ombudsman (Aboriginal Programs) Danny Lester. The Committee noted that the Ombudsman's Special Report on Local Decision Making, Solution Brokerage and Opportunity Hubs is expected to be released soon.

NSW Treasury

The Committee's Treasury representative, Rick Macourt, provided an overview of how outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities are included in the NSW Outcomes Budgeting framework. The Committee was pleased to note that Treasury is focussing on Aboriginal Economic Wellbeing, and developing a way of measuring cultural value.

Wishing everyone all the best,



Associate Professor Lynette Riley
Chair, OCHRE Steering Committee.