

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its ninth meeting on 15 February 2019.

### Planning for the second stage of the OCHRE evaluation

Planning for the next three years of the evaluation is continuing, and the Committee is pleased that the NSW specific approach to co-design developed with the NSW Chairs of Aboriginal Regional Alliances will be adopted. This interweaving approach will bring Aboriginal ways of being, knowing and doing together with Western knowledge threads to make sure that the evaluation is co-owned and co-produced with communities.

The Committee awaits delivery of the next draft of the evaluation blueprint from the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW that will form the basis of the detailed evaluation plans to be developed for each OCHRE site. It is concerned that any delay will impact on the time the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances, the NSW Government and the Steering Committee have to fully consider the blueprint.

The Committee is pleased that the remaining evaluation report from the first three years of the OCHRE is expected to be delivered in March 2019.

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

The Committee acknowledges the ongoing efforts by government in responding to the recommendations arising from the evaluation of the implementation of OCHRE and any early outcomes. The NSW Government has provided its interim response to findings and recommendations with final advice due later in 2019, noting the March 2019 election. The Committee is pleased that key members of the Aboriginal communities participating in developing the recommendations will be directly involved.

Members look forward to the release of the NSW Deputy Ombudsman's special report on OCHRE, noting that this will inform the Government response and the refresh of the OCHRE.

### Administrative monitoring data

The Committee acknowledges the advances made in the capture and quality of data about Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests and Local Decision Making.

The Committee has previously noted that Aboriginal communities are seeking these data and that weaknesses in the data directly impacts the quality and usefulness of the evaluation. The Committee supports the NSW Government in their efforts to return the data collected to Aboriginal communities.

### Investing in Aboriginal community leadership

The Committee considered a proposal to invest in young Aboriginal community members so they can contribute the views of the local Aboriginal community and directly influence the conduct of the evaluation. It fully supports the model proposed and believes that the model will both enhance the capacity of communities in developing and leading the evaluation of their community initiatives, and grow community research knowledge and capability, particularly among young people. The Committee looks forward to the ongoing exchange of information between the Committee and members of the six groups that will be established.



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair