

## Steering Committee

The Steering Committee held its tenth meeting on 26 June 2019.

### **OCHRE evaluation progress**

The Committee is pleased that all reports from the first three years of the evaluation report have been delivered to Aboriginal Affairs NSW (AANSW).

The Committee notes that one of the most significant Machinery of Government (MOG) changes in recent public service history has taken place in NSW and that this will have implications for *OCHRE* and for its evaluation. In particular, this Committee will now focus its advice on the Local Decision Making activities under *OCHRE*. In this regard it noted process to engage a contractor to undertake the evaluation of Local Decision Making and the NSW State wide Accord is underway. It also noted that the MOG changes may affect representation of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and NSW Treasury on the Committee. The Committee's view is that the representation of these agencies is critical to the successful delivery of the *OCHRE* evaluation.

### **OCHRE Stronger – progressing the OCHRE evaluation recommendations**

The Committee commends AANSW and the NSW Department of Education Cluster on adopting the [weaving approach](#) in further developing the recommendations arising from the evaluation of Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests, Opportunity Hubs, and Local Decision Making. The approach will weave Aboriginal ways of being, knowing and doing together with Western knowledge threads. This will ensure that policy, program, and service changes arising from the recommendations are co-owned and co-produced and possess both cultural integrity and public confidence.

The Committee looks forward to the release of the NSW Government response to the recommendations in the coming months.

### **NSW Deputy Ombudsman's (Aboriginal Programs) special report to Parliament on OCHRE**

The Committee notes that the NSW Deputy Ombudsman's special report on *OCHRE* has been further delayed. Members again expressed their interest in receiving the findings and recommendations to inform the Committee's ongoing work.

The Committee notes that the special report will inform the Government response to the *OCHRE* evaluation recommendations and *OCHRE Stronger*.

The Committee notes the NSW Deputy Ombudsman's observations of the positive impacts of *OCHRE* and its evaluation.

### **Steering Committee Terms of Reference**

The Committee considered its Terms of Reference in the light of *OCHRE* evaluation focus on Local Decision Making over the next three years. The Committee remains interested in the evaluation of all *OCHRE* initiatives and will continue to offer support and advice accordingly.



Dr Wendy Jarvie, Independent Chair