# Indigenous evaluation committee

## **Meeting communiqué, 12 March 2024**

The Indigenous Evaluation Committee’s first meeting for the year was held in Canberra on Tuesday 12 March 2024. All independent members attended in person, including ex-offico member from Treasury. An apology was received from the Deputy CEO – Policy and Programs (NIAA).

**Key discussions**

* The Committee trialed Indigenous ways of working through holding a yarning circle/ dadirri deep listening discussion on community-led research and evaluation practice. The Committee discussed good practice often involved:
  + Using mechanisms and methods that supported community involvement, built trust and provided safe spaces;
  + allowing long term two way communication to bring people into the process and identify what community value and what success looks like for the community;
  + acknowledging the context of past government decisions in communities;
  + developing a few broad indicators beyond those used for individual programs to reflect changes in place and enable experiences to be shared;
  + employing and mentoring community researchers and community navigators; and
  + sharing power with communities.
* The Committee agreed to continue the deep dive/yarning sessions and considered a forward program of deep dive discussions on key topics of value to NIAA.
* The Committee discussed the Productivity Commission’s three yearly review and associated recommendations. A response from the Joint Council is due later in 2024. NIAA will provide an update on the response to the Review at a future meeting and discuss its relevance to NIAA’s research and evaluation work.
* The Committee received a briefing on the recently announced Remote Jobs and Economic Development Package, and agreed to offer assistance to the First Nations Reference Group with evaluation aspects of the package.
* The Committee discussed the development of the NIAA Priority Setting Framework sector strategies and discussed early challenges in the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) approach. NIAA will update the Committee as the Framework develops and the PME approach evolves.
* The Committee reviewed the IAS evaluation workplan updates since the December 2023 meeting, and noted work underway to improve evaluations within the NIAA.

**Next meeting**

The IEC’s next meeting will be held in Canberra on 19 June 2024.

Mr Jason Ardler

IEC Chair