



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-officio 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