Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

INDIGENOUS ADVANCEMENT STRATEGY

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Evaluation capability plan
2019-20
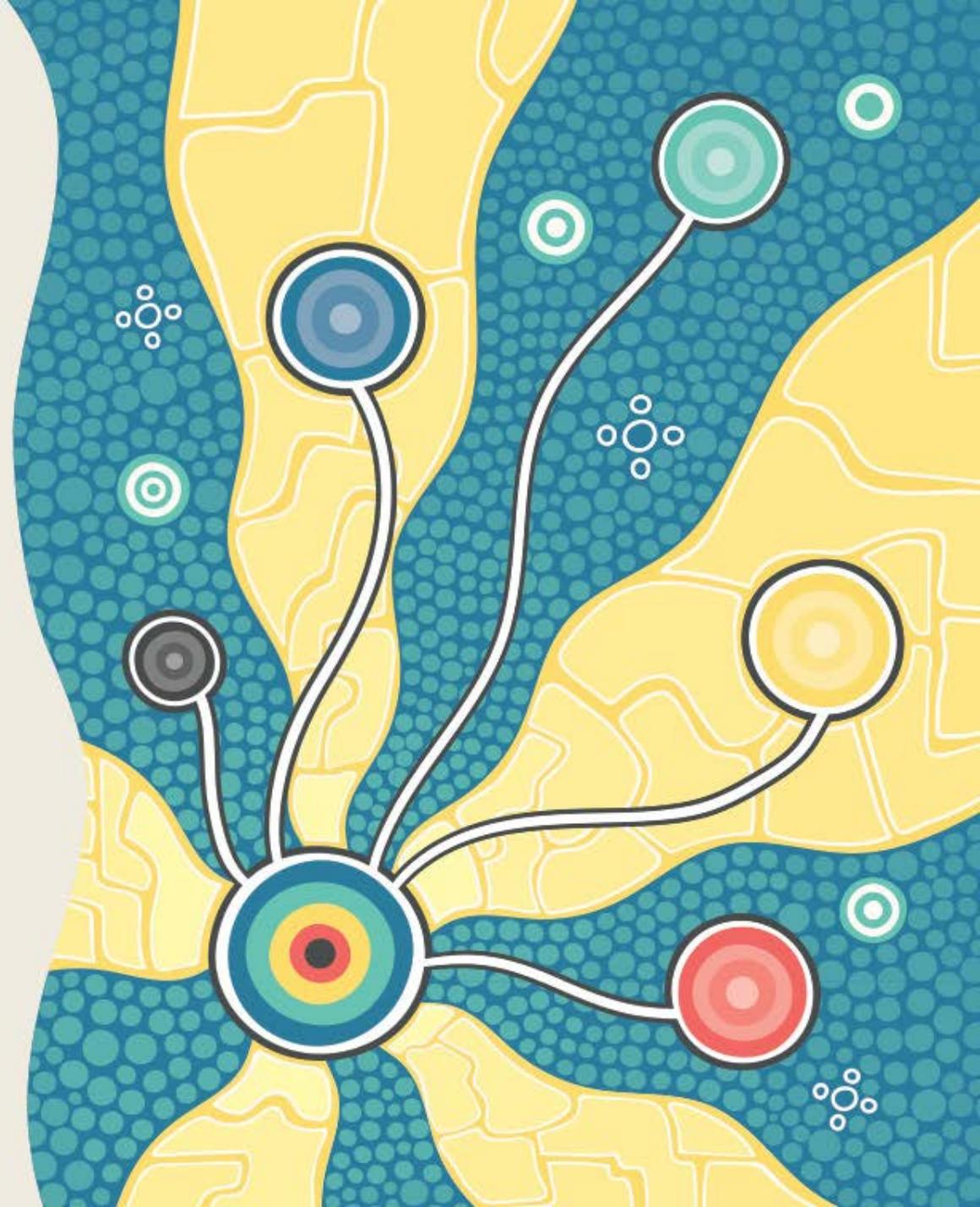
The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Evaluation Framework, released in February 2018, was developed to guide the conduct of robust, transparent and credible evaluations of the IAS policy and programs.

Directing efforts towards building evaluation capability is a critical step to deliver high quality evaluations under the Framework and, ultimately, to enhance the use of evaluations in policy development. In order to move towards best practice in evaluation, the Framework includes a stream of capability development activities.

In June 2019 the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) released the 'Evaluating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs' report. The ANAO noted in the report that the Framework had the potential to strengthen evaluations under the IAS. To implement the Framework, the ANAO recommended the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA):

- ensure its performance information for evaluations of IAS programs and policies is supported by a reliable methodology for measuring the longer-term outcomes of better evidence from the evaluation framework (recommendation 1)
- develop a comprehensive and easy to navigate set of procedures to support the implementation of the IAS Evaluation Framework (recommendation 2).
- formalise the evaluation prioritisation process by developing structured criteria for assessing significance, contribution and risk and conducting a strategic analysis of gaps in evaluation coverage (recommendation 3).

This Evaluation Capability Plan for 2019-20 provides a road map of actions to build evaluation capability and strengthen the evaluation culture in the NIAA, as well as address the ANAO recommendations. Over this next year, the Agency will be developing and rolling-out: measures of the long term outcomes of better evidence from the IAS Evaluation Framework; 'how to' material to build and embed internal evaluation capability; and formal criteria for prioritising evaluations.

The development of these capability actions will be supported by the Indigenous Evaluation Committee (IEC). The IEC provides independent strategic and technical advice to the NIAA to support rigorous evaluations.

Road map for building NIAA evaluation capability, 2019-20

Deliverables	November 2019	December 2019	January 2020	February-May 2020	June 2020	Continued actions

ANAO recommendation 1

Measures of evaluation capability, accountability, and increased transparency objectives	Develop a set of draft performance measures for long-term outcomes of the IAS Evaluation Framework			Consultation with the Indigenous Evaluation Committee (IEC) on the draft measures and further refine	Measures are finalised	Ongoing reporting against measures

ANAO recommendation 2

'How to' Evaluation Handbook	Develop Handbook in consultation with IEC		Handbook made available to NIAA staff	Seek staff feedback and update content as needed		
NIAA evaluation ethics policy to guide staff on how to commission ethical evaluations	Roll-out evaluation ethics policy to NIAA staff		Support and training materials updated as required, ethics coaching services offered to staff managing evaluations			
			Continuous quality improvement to support organisational learning about ethics requirements for evaluation			
Staff training materials	Develop capability learning outcomes and select most appropriate delivery methods in consultation with the IEC		Set training calendar	Staged roll out of learning events		
				Continuous quality improvement to support organisational learning about evaluation		

ANAO recommendation 3

Prioritisation criteria for assessing significance, contribution and policy risk of evaluations	Develop prioritisation criteria and seek feedback from the IEC		Develop process to implement prioritisation and begin road testing		Prioritisation criteria used in development of the 2020-21 Work Plan	Prioritisation criteria used in development of future Work Plans
Strategic analysis of gaps in evaluation coverage		Undertake 2019-20 strategic gap analysis	Seek feedback from IEC on 2019-20 strategic gap analysis			Strategic gap analysis used to inform the 2020-21, and future work Plans