

Feedback on the Draft Indigenous Evaluation Strategy

Introduction

Given the broader objective of the strategy, “Improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples”, its more comprehensive whole of system approach to including mainstream organisations has multiple flow on benefits including:

- The ability to highlight and address any disparity/inconsistency in interpretation and/or implementation of policy/programs between primary health care (including the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector) and the other tiers of the health system including hospitals.
- Having a strengthened, clear, consistent evaluation protocol would ensure data access and privacy requirements are adhered to by all evaluators whether government or non-government and ensure data is used for the appropriate purpose only.
- The strategy recognizes the ongoing challenge of racism to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through its explicit reference to racism and, in particular, institutional racism as a cross system priority. Whilst there are various protocols, procedures and guidelines across the health system and at various levels, including it in a high level government document such as this one may help to strengthen our system wide ability to address racism.

Guiding Principles

The overarching principle of the Strategy in “centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, perspectives, priorities and knowledge” is integral to the strength of the strategy and its successful implementation and is endorsed by Wuchopperen.

Roles and Responsibilities

The draft evaluation strategy is unclear as to whether the Office of Indigenous Policy Evaluation will be an identified position. Clarity around this appointment would be appreciated.

Consideration should also be given to a whole of Council (rather than just majority) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership to further support self empowerment and self determination.

An additional opportunity to strengthen the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and individuals at the local community level may be through the use of local community engagement coordinators (community based organisations and/or community based individuals).

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