

29th August 2019

Mr Romlie Mokak
Commissioner
Productivity Commissioner

Dear Mr Mokak

Re: Productivity Commission consultation process for the Indigenous Evaluation Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Evaluation Strategy consultation process.

There is clearly an imperative to strengthen evaluation in a broad range of Indigenous program and policy contexts across Australia.

Over the past few years I had the privilege to undertake a research fellowship funded through the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education to examine ways to strengthen evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia. This work responds to numerous calls from high level Indigenous experts and advisory committees for key stakeholders to work collaboratively to invest in the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework that is specifically tailored to the needs of the Indigenous higher education sector.

I have attached the following documents and associated weblinks and presentations for consideration by the Productivity Commission during its deliberations about the development of an Indigenous Evaluation Strategy:

- Smith, J., Pollard, K., Robertson, K. & Trinidad, S. (2017). What do we know about evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia? *International Studies in Widening Participation*. 4 (2), 18-31.
<https://nvaojis.newcastle.edu.au/ceehe/index.php/iswp/article/view/86/104>
- Smith, J., Pollard, K., Robertson, K. & Shalley, F. (2018). *Strengthening evaluation in Indigenous higher education in Australia*. Final Equity Fellowship Report. Perth, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education.
https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/JamesSmith_FellowshipReport_FINAL_Small.pdf
<https://www.slideshare.net/SAEETCC/strengthening-evaluation-in-higher-education>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uclHRYWni-g&feature=youtu.be>
- National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (2018). *Building legacy and capacity workshop three: Indigenous perspectives on evaluation in Indigenous higher education – Summary of outcomes and good practice principles*. Perth, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education.

[https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/WS3 -
SummaryReccs_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/WS3_SummaryReccs_FINAL.pdf)

[https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/event/webinar-indigenous-perspectives-on-evaluation-
in-indigenous-higher-education/](https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/event/webinar-indigenous-perspectives-on-evaluation-in-indigenous-higher-education/)

This work has been completed in close consultation with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC), who I have encouraged to make an independent submission.

If you have any further queries about this research or respective recommendations, principles or models, please do not hesitate to touch base via the contact details below.

Kind Regards

Professor James Smith
Father Frank Flynn Fellow (Harm Minimisation), Menzies School of Health Research
Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education, Curtin University
Honorary Professorial Research Fellow, Office of Pro Vice Chancellor – Indigenous Leadership, Charles Darwin University
Adjunct Professorial Fellow, University of Saskatchewan