Steering Committee for the  
Review of Government  
Service Provision

Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators Report

A consultation paper

2013

# Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage consultation paper June 2013

**This paper**

This paper has been prepared to assist individuals and organisations to participate in consultations on proposed changes to the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) report.

A separate, longer, paper describes the proposed changes in more detail. This paper is available from: <http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/indigenous/oid-review-2012>.

Participants should not feel restricted to commenting on matters raised in this paper. We welcome comment on any issues that you consider relevant to the report.

**Key date**

We are seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the OID report by **Friday 19 July 2013**.

**Responses to this paper can be made:**

By email: gsp.indigenous@pc.gov.au By fax: 03 9653 2199

By post: OID report consultations

Productivity Commission

Locked Bag 2

Collins Street East

Melbourne VIC 8003

**Contacts**

Administrative matters: Catherine Andersson Ph: 03 9653 2354

Other matters: Lawrence McDonald Ph: 03 9653 2178

Freecall number for regional areas: 1800 020 083

**More information**

The following information can be found on the Steering Committee’s website:

* the full consultant’s report on the review of the OID
* previous editions of the OID report
* previous consultation reports.

**Website www.pc.gov.au/gsp/indigenous**

## Why are we consulting on the OID report?

The OID report, commissioned by COAG, is published by a Steering Committee made up of senior representatives from all Australian governments, with the chairman and secretariat provided by the Productivity Commission. The Steering Committee is advised by a working group made up of representatives from all Australian governments, the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Five editions of the OID report have been published (the latest in 2011). In 2012, the Steering Committee agreed to an independent review of the report. The review found that most users considered the report to be a useful compendium of information on the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. However, areas for improvement were identified, in particular:

* a desire for more ‘strengths based’ reporting
* a desire for more visible Indigenous engagement
* desires for both more simple messages and greater complexity in reporting, including increased disaggregation and additional contextual material.

## What are we proposing to change?

The Steering Committee is considering the following key changes:

* an increased focus on ‘strengths-based’ reporting and Indigenous concepts of wellbeing, through:
* re-naming the ‘governance and leadership’ area in the OID framework to ‘Indigenous wellbeing and culture’, and grouping current ‘cultural’ indicators under this area
* developing additional indicators reflecting Indigenous concepts of wellbeing
* increasing Indigenous engagement in all phases of the reporting process, including seeking the advice of relevant Indigenous expert bodies
* ensuring report commentary notes positive outcomes for the majority of Indigenous people, and the gains made over time, before discussing gaps
* reporting on sub-groups within the Indigenous population, such as alternative concepts of remoteness, ‘welfare dependency’ and Indigenous people who were part of the ‘stolen generation’ (subject to data availability)
* improving the accessibility and useability of OID report material, with a particular focus on improving the web presence of the report.

These proposals are at a preliminary stage only. Our conclusions and views may change as a result of responses we receive as part of the consultation process.

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| Key consultation questions |
| 1. What do you think is the key ‘value add’ of the OID report? How can this value be improved? 2. What do you think about the proposal to re-name the governance and leadership strategic area to focus on Indigenous strengths and culture? 3. Current indicators are listed in the framework over the page. Can you suggest any additional indicators that would reflect Indigenous peoples’ wellbeing, culture and strengths? Can you suggest potential sources of data to inform indicators of Indigenous strengths and culture? 4. Are there particular sub-groups within the Indigenous population that should be considered for reporting? Can you suggest potential sources of data to inform reporting on such groups? 5. What sort of background information would assist you to interpret the indicators in the OID report? 6. Do you know of any good case studies or examples of successful programs, activities or policies that could be considered for inclusion in the next report? 7. How can the Steering Committee better engage with Indigenous people and organisations? Can you suggest any relevant expert bodies that could contribute to the next report? 8. How can the different parts of the OID report be made more user friendly and accessible — including the website and web presence, as well as the Fact Sheets, the Overview, main report, and data tables? |
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## The OID report strategic framework

In making your comments, you may wish to consider the OID report’s strategic framework (illustrated on the next page). The framework was developed through extensive consultation with Indigenous individuals and organisations, governments and researchers, and reflects the best available evidence about the underlying causes of disadvantage.

The framework logic is that strategic change indicators will measure outcomes in selected strategic areas for action. Over time, improvements in the strategic change indicators will lead to changes in the COAG targets and headline indicators, demonstrating progress toward the priority outcomes.

## Potential OID report framework (with proposed changes)

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| Priority outcomes [*no change*]  Safe, healthy and supportive family environments with strong communities and cultural identity  Positive child development and prevention of violence, crime and self-harm  Improved wealth creation and economic sustainability for individuals, families and communities  **COAG targets and headline indicators [*no change*]**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *COAG targets* | *Headline indicators* | | Life expectancy | Post-secondary education — participation and attainment | | Young child mortality | Disability and chronic disease | | Early childhood education | Household and individual income | | Reading, writing and numeracy | Substantiated child abuse and neglect | | Year 12 attainment | Family and community violence | | Employment | Imprisonment and juvenile detention |   Strategic areas for action [*changes shaded and bold italic*]   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | Early child development | |  | Education and training | |  | Healthy lives | |  | Economic participation | |  | Home environment | |  | Safe and supportive communities | |  | **Indigenous wellbeing and culture** | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | | Maternal health  Teenage birth rate  Birth weight  Early childhood hospitalisations  Injury and preventable disease  Basic skills for life and learning  Hearing impairment | |  | School enrolment and attendance  Teacher quality  Year 9 attainment  Year 10 attainment  Transition from school to work | |  | Access to primary health care  Potentially preventable hospitalisations  Avoidable mortality  Tobacco consumption and harm  Obesity and nutrition  Tooth decay  Mental health  Suicide and self-harm | |  | Employment by full time/part time status, sector and occupation  Indigenous owned or controlled land and business  Home ownership  Income support | |  | Overcrowding in housing  Rates of disease associated with poor environmental health  Access to clean water and functional sewerage and electricity services | |  | Alcohol consumption and harm  Drug and other substance use and harm  Juvenile diversions  Repeat offending | |  | Case studies in governance  Governance capacity and skills  Engagement with service delivery  ***Indigenous cultural studies***  ***Participation in organised sport, arts or community group activities***  ***Access to traditional lands*** | | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | |  |  | | | |