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# A Roundtable program

## 2012 Productivity Commission Roundtable Better Indigenous policies: the role of evaluation

Monday 22 October

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**Session 1**     *Introduction*

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2.30 – 2.40     **Welcome to country – Aunty Agnes Shea**

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2.40 – 3.00     **Gary Banks**, Chairman, Productivity Commission  
*Introduction: 'Why this roundtable?'*

3.00 – 3.20     **Robert Fitzgerald**, Commissioner, Productivity Commission  
*Outcomes for Indigenous Australians — the current situation*

3.20 – 3.40     **Fred Chaney**, Board Member, Reconciliation Australia  
*The Indigenous policy experience 1960 to 2012*

3.40 – 4.10     *Roundtable discussion*

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**4.10 – 4.30**     **Afternoon tea**

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**Session 2**     ***The challenges in evaluating social and Indigenous policy***  
*Chair: Mike Woods, Deputy Chairman, Productivity Commission*

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4.30 – 4.50     **Les Malezer**, Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples  
*The challenges in evaluating social policy in general, and Indigenous policy in particular*

4.50 – 5.10     **Deborah Cobb-Clark**, Director of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research  
*The case for making public policy evaluations public*

5.10 – 6.00     *Roundtable discussion*

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**6.00 – 7.00**     **Pre-dinner drinks**

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**7.00 – 10.00**     **Dinner**

Dinner speech by **Jody Broun**, Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples.

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## Tuesday 23 October

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### **Session 3**     **Key themes in evaluation of Indigenous policy and programs** *Chair: Lisa Gropp, First Assistant Commissioner, Productivity Commission*

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9.00 – 9.20     **Matthew James**, Branch Manager, Performance and Evaluation Branch, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs  
*Designing evaluation strategies*

9.20 – 9.40     **John Taylor**, Director, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University  
*Data for better Indigenous policy: achievements, constraints and opportunities*

9.40 – 10.00     **David Kalisch**, Director, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
*Communicating evaluation outcomes: Maximising transparency and impact*

10.00 – 10.45     *Roundtable discussion*

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### **10.45 – 11.00**     **Morning tea**

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### **Session 4**     **International experience** *Chair: Jenny Gordon, Principal Adviser Research (Canberra), Productivity Commission*

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11.00 – 11.30     **Helen Moewaka Barnes**, Director of the Whariki Research Group, Massey University, Auckland  
*Better Indigenous policies: an Aotearoa New Zealand perspective on the role of evaluation*

11.30 – 12.00     **Frances Abele**, Professor of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University, Ottawa  
*Is evaluation a tool for social justice? Reconciliation? Control? Reflections on the Canadian experience in Indigenous affairs*

12.00 – 12.30     *Roundtable discussion*

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### **12.30 – 1.30**     **Lunch**

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### **Session 5**     **Evaluation and policy** *Robert Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Productivity Commission*

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1.30 – 1.40     **Michael Dillon**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (presented by **Matthew James**)  
*The use of evaluation in Indigenous policy and program development: the case of Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory*

1.40 – 1.50     **Brian Gleeson**, Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services  
*Learning from experience? Getting governments to listen to what evaluations are telling them*

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1.50 – 2.30	<p><i>Panel</i></p> <p><b>Jody Broun</b>, Co-chair, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples</p> <p><b>Fred Chaney</b>, Board Member, Reconciliation Australia</p> <p><b>Helen Moewaka Barnes</b>, Director of the Whariki Research Group, Massey University</p>
2.30 – 3.00	<i>Roundtable discussion</i>
3.00 – 3.15	<b><i>Afternoon tea</i></b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<p><b><i>Conclusions: How to do better?</i></b></p> <p><i>Chair: Alison McClelland, Commissioner, Productivity Commission</i></p>
3.15 – 4.30	This session will draw on the Roundtable discussions to propose ways of improving and extending the conduct of evaluations.
4.30 – 4.45	<b><i>Final remarks and close</i></b>

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