



Indigenous Evaluation Committee

Meeting Communiqué for 18 February 2026

The Indigenous Evaluation Committee's first meeting of 2026 was held online on Wednesday 18 February 2026. Mr Jason Ardlor, Dr Fiona Cram, Professor Michelle Dickson, Mr Tony Kiessler, and ex-officio members Ms Eleanor Williams and Ms Deborah Fulton attended. Dr Simon Gordon and Ms Nattie Smith also attended for NIAA.

Key discussions

- The Committee provided comments on the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy for the Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES)**, which was recently finalised.
- The Committee received an update on the **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program**, including on its initial deliverables.
- In relation to the **Indigenous Rangers** program – another priority area for evaluation – the Committee discussed the experience with an initial **Evaluation Readiness Assessment (ERA)** that was recently completed.
- The Committee received a briefing on the **Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Schedule**.
- The Committee reviewed the status of the **Indigenous Advancement Strategy Evaluation Work Plan**.
- The Committee received a briefing from the **Australian Centre for Evaluation**, which included an update on any initiatives relating to commissioning and procurement practices.
- The Committee noted updates and upcoming opportunities for input on priority areas for evaluation not discussed elsewhere in the agenda, including on Food Security; Junior Rangers; Northern Territory Remote Housing; and on a Lessons Learned report on six Closing the Gap Community Data Projects and three Indigenous Data Network Community Data Projects.

Next meeting

The next Indigenous Evaluation Committee meeting is proposed to be held in June 2026.

Mr Jason Ardlor

