Australian Government
National Indigenous Australians Agency

NIAA

Indigenous Evaluation Committee

Meeting Communiqué 12 October 2026

The Indigenous Evaluation Committee's third meeting of 2026 was held in Canberra on 12 October 2026. Attendees included Chair Mr Jason Ardler, Committee members Dr Fiona Cram, Professor Michelle Dickson and Mr Tony Kiessler, ex-officio members Mr Josh Smith and Ms Eleanor Williams, and NIAA representatives including Ms Nattlie Smith.

Key discussions

- The Committee reflected on a presentation on the design of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach for the **National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities**.
- The Committee discussed the progress of evaluation activities for the **remote employment programs** and opportunities to understand their complementary outcomes.
- The Productivity Commissioner leading the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stream of work** updated the Committee on work underway including the second **Productivity Commission** Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- The Committee discussed the work of the **Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE)**, including further information on the State of Evaluation survey and work to strengthen Commonwealth evaluation practice.
- The Committee advised NIAA on how to embed **dignity** in the agency's evaluations.
- The Committee reviewed the latest **Indigenous Advancement Strategy Evaluation Work Plan**.

Next meeting

The next Indigenous Evaluation Committee meeting is proposed to be held in **March 2027**.

Mr Jason Ardler