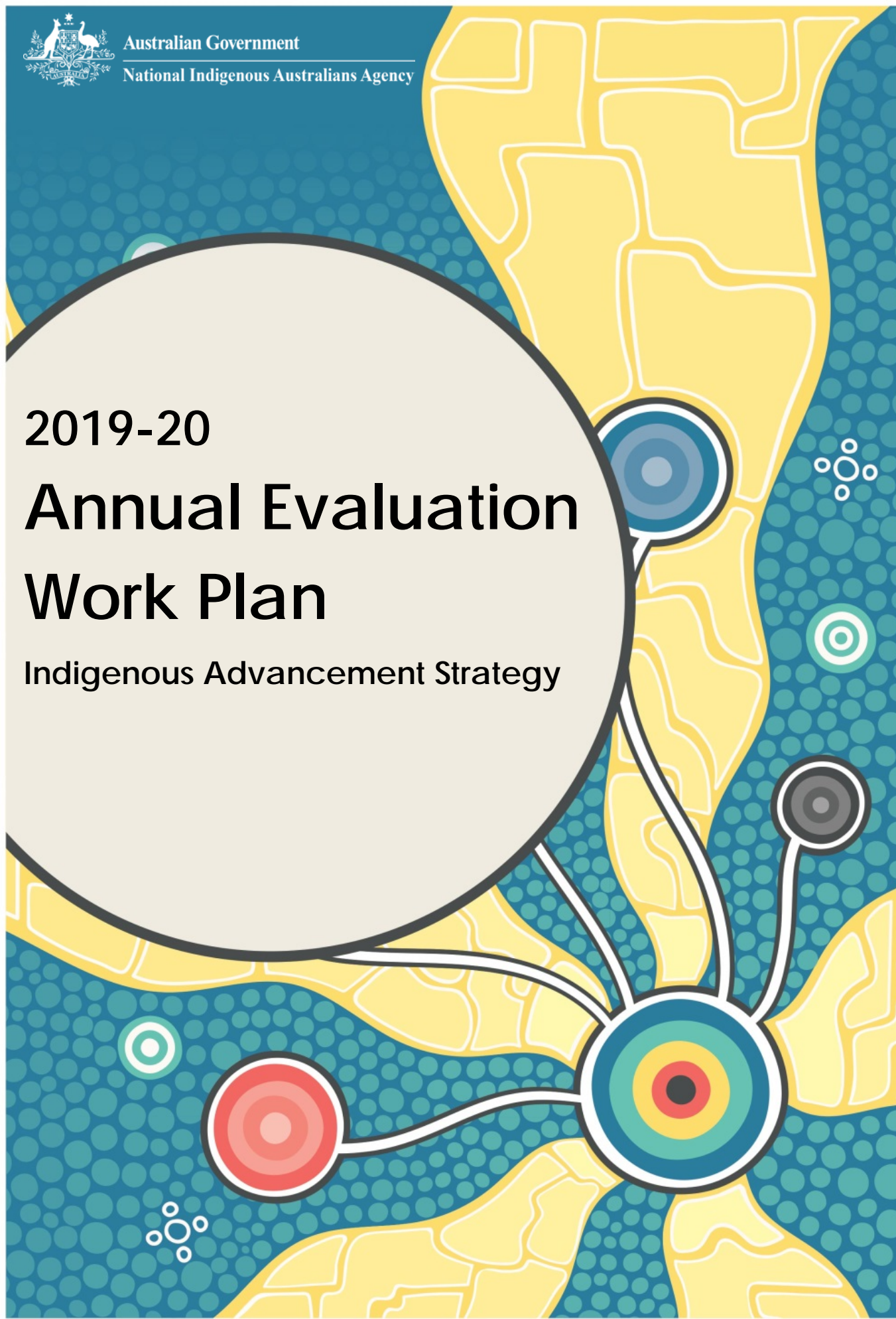Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

2019-20
Annual Evaluation
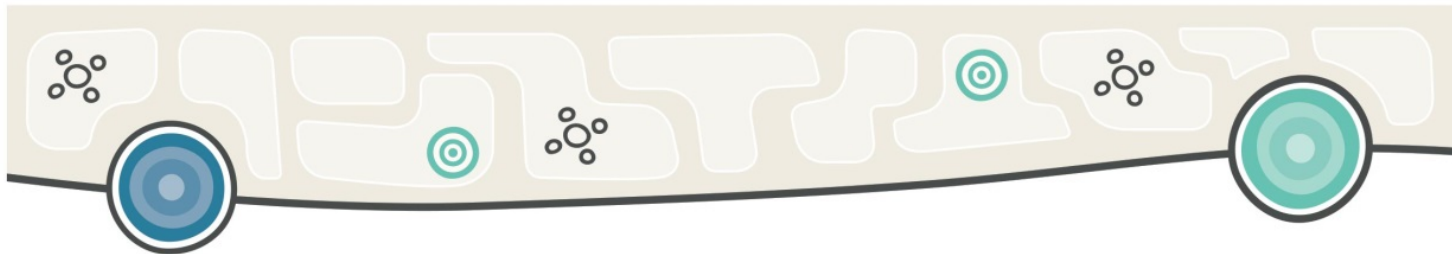# Work Plan

Indigenous Advancement Strategy

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the 2019-20 Annual Evaluation Work Plan, a key output of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Evaluation Framework.

In February 2018, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet released the IAS Evaluation Framework to guide the evaluation of programs and activities conducted by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The IAS Evaluation Framework is intended to generate better evidence of how activities funded under the IAS translate to improved outcomes for Indigenous Australians. It defines an evaluation activity as a systematic assessment that supports Indigenous Australians, communities and government to understand what is or isn't working, and why.

The release of an annual Evaluation Work Plan supports the commitment to transparency made in the IAS Evaluation Framework. The Work Plan provides details on evaluation projects, reviews and enabling activities which are planned to be conducted by the NIAA over the current financial year. The Work Plan also provides transparency around progress made since the previous financial year.

Since release of the 2018-19 Work Plan, six new evaluations have commenced and the findings of 17 evaluations have been published on our website.

We are also working on a number of enabling activities. Since the 2018-19 Work Plan, we have completed 11 evaluation strategies and commenced two new evaluation strategies and one data improvement project.

The Productivity Commission is overseeing the development of a whole-of-government evaluation strategy for policies and programs affecting Indigenous Australians. This may identify additional evaluation priorities for the Australian Government. We are following the work of the Productivity Commission closely and may update this Work Plan in the future to reflect these priorities.

The 2019-20 Work Plan has been endorsed by the Indigenous Evaluation Committee and approved by the NIAA Executive Board.

Ian Anderson
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
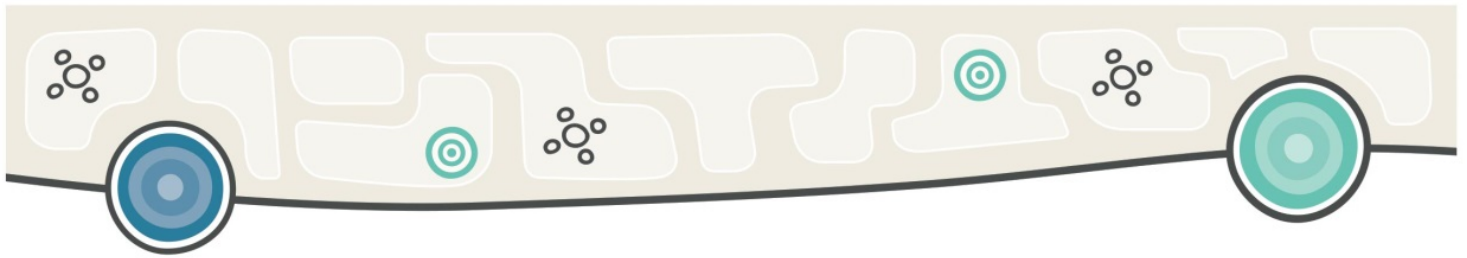
EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS – NEW

The evaluations and reviews in this section either commenced following publication of the 2018-19 Work Plan or are expected to commence in 2019-20.

Jobs, Land and Economy

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
Northern Australia White Paper: Land Tenure Reform Pilots This review will examine the implementation of the Land Tenure Reform measure.	Review	2018-19	2019-20
Northern Australia White Paper: Prescribed Bodies Corporate Capacity Building This review will examine the implementation of the Prescribed Bodies Corporate Capacity Building measure.	Review	2018-19	2019-20
Northern Australia White Paper: Township Leasing and Land Administration This review will examine the implementation of the Township Leasing and Land Administration measure.	Review	2018-19	2019-20
Evaluation of Indigenous Employment Programs (IEPs) This evaluation will examine three IEPs – the Employment Parity Initiative, the Vocational Training and Education program and Tailored Assistance Employment Grants. It will compare the design and implementation of each program, and identify critical elements that contribute to positive outcomes for Indigenous job seekers.	Evaluation	2019-20	2020-21
TAEG-School Based Traineeship (SBT) This evaluation will explore whether Government investment in SBTs is an effective mechanism for helping to transition school students to employment.	Evaluation	2019-20	2019-20
Time to Work Employment Service (TWES) This evaluation will examine the design and implementation of TWES, and compare outcomes from remote and non-remote prisons, to inform future program design and investment.	Evaluation	2019-20	2020-21
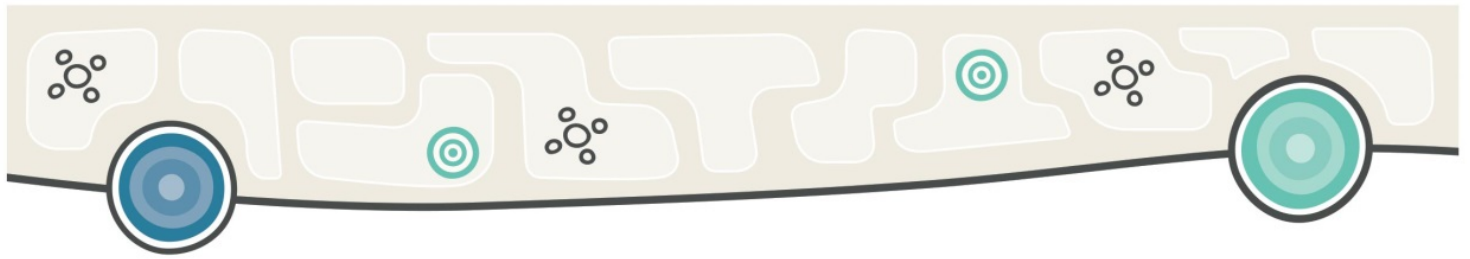
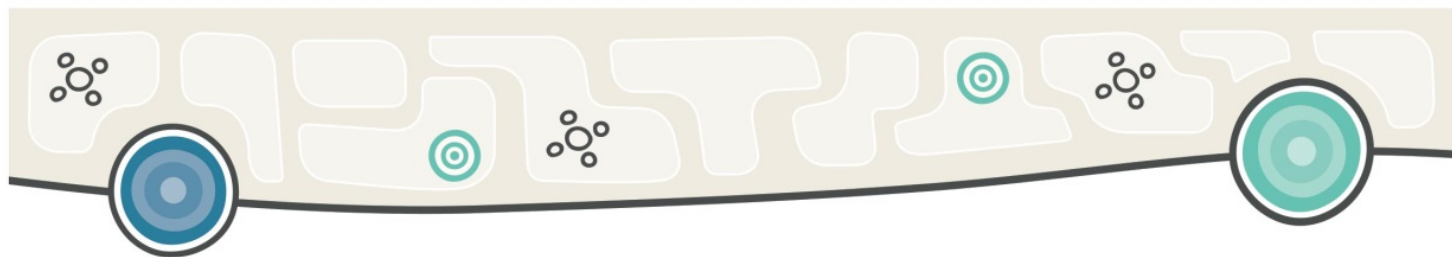# EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS – CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN

The evaluations and reviews in this section of the Work Plan are carried over from the 2018-19 Work Plan.

Jobs, Land and Economy

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
Indigenous Cadetship Support This impact evaluation will examine the effectiveness of the Indigenous Cadetship Support program in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to complete their degree and move to ongoing employment.	Evaluation	2017-18	2019-20
Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Training Program This review will inform whether to move to a second phase. It will identify opportunities to improve the design and delivery of the PBC training.	Review	2017-18	2019-20

Children and Schooling

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
Girls Academies This impact evaluation of the Girls Academies will assess what's working, what isn't, any unintended consequences, and what could be improved.	Evaluation	2016-17	2019-20

Safety and Wellbeing

| Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services This impact evaluation is working with treatment services in NSW to embed evaluation capacity into services, quantify the impact of a model of follow-up care on the health and social outcomes of clients, and quantify the costs and benefits of services.	Evaluation	2017-18	2020-21
Link Up Services Program This impact evaluation will consider the need and the impact of healing, wellbeing and resilience-building programs and connections to family, community and culture.	Evaluation	2018-19	2020-21
National Indigenous Critical Response Service This evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the National Indigenous Critical Response Service in providing culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by suicide-related or other trauma.	Evaluation	2017-18	2019-20
Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Investment This impact evaluation of four SEWB projects will examine their contribution to social and economic prosperity outcomes, and will consider the impact and efficacy of SEWB investment more broadly.	Evaluation	2018-19	2019-20
Testing Community Safety and Justice Outcomes using Randomised Controlled Trials The impact evaluation utilising five randomised control trials will test the impact of activities on reducing offending, violence and improving community safety outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Evaluation	2017-18	2020-21
Third Action Plan to Reduce Family Violence – Indigenous Specific Measures This evaluation includes a program review and assessment using in-depth interviews and existing service provider data.	Evaluation	2016-17	2019-20

Cross-cutting

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
Murdi Paaki Lessons Learned This will explore lessons learnt in the Murdi Paaki region over a long history of regional governance.	Capability development	2018-19	2019-20
Strengthening the System Effectiveness of Early Childhood Investments This impact evaluation will use an evidence informed analysis of early childhood evaluations to identify priorities, including examining significant impacts and cross-cutting, multi-sectoral elements to support systems' improvement.	Evaluation	2016-17	2020-21

EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS – NOT CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN

One evaluation that was listed in the 2018-19 Work Plan was not carried over into this Work Plan. The reason the evaluation has not been carried over is provided below.

Description	Reason
Sugar Reduction Strategy for Remote Community Stores This impact evaluation will examine the impact of the Sugar Reduction Strategy overall, and test targeted interventions being trialled in remote community stores which aim to reduce sales of sugared products.	This item is covered by an evaluation of sugar reduction in remote community stores, being undertaken by Outback Stores. The findings will be made available to the NIAA.
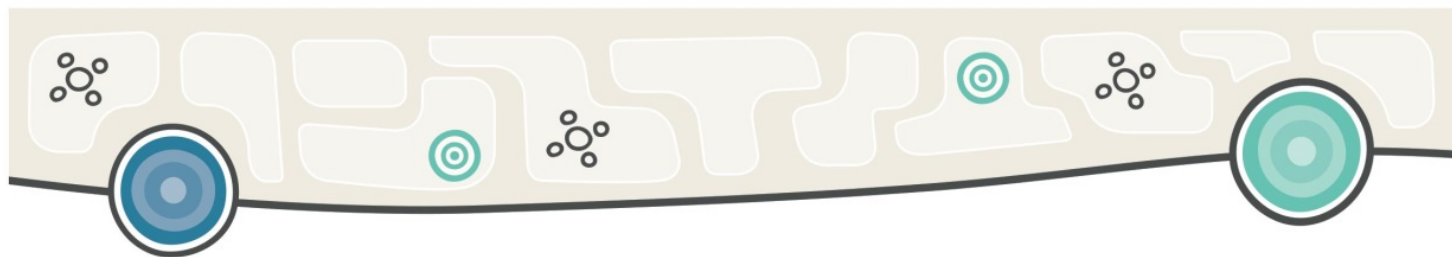
EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS – PUBLISHED

The evaluations/reviews listed below were published in 2018-19.

Children and Schooling

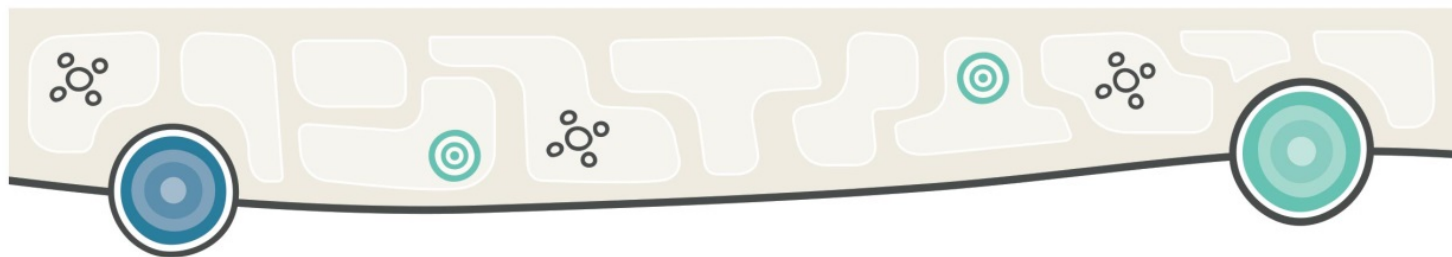| Description	Type
Aboriginal Families as First Educators Program This impact evaluation examined in what circumstances the Aboriginal Families as First Educators Program contributes to stronger early childhood development outcomes, how and why. Report: Emerging outcomes and explanations: A formative, realist evaluation of the Catholic Education WA Aboriginal Families as First Educators Program	Evaluation
Models of Studying Away from Home This impact evaluation assessed the costs, benefits and impacts of different models for students studying away from home with a view to understanding what works for different students and whether there are more effective models. Report: Analysis of the investment in support for Indigenous secondary boarding students	Evaluation

Jobs, Land and Economy

Description	Type
Aboriginal Employment and Training Activity This impact evaluation examined employment outcomes for those participating in a tailored Aboriginal employment strategy and how these compare to outcomes for similar job seekers under other employment programs. Report: An evaluation of an Aboriginal Employment and Training Activity	Evaluation
Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas Fee for Service This impact evaluation involved an assessment of the Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas programs as a catalyst for economic and employment outcomes through fee-for-service commercial activities. The project identified lessons and success factors, and identified opportunities for government to support the growing interest in developing fee-for-service opportunities. Report: Fee for Service in Indigenous Land and Sea Management: Impact Assessment and Analysis	Evaluation

Description	Type
Indigenous Rangers Cost Analysis This review produced a cost analysis of expenditure required to deliver Indigenous ranger projects. The review has been used to streamline reporting requirements and inform funding recommendation processes. Report: Indigenous Ranger Cost Efficiency Review	Review
Review of Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund – Business Advisors This review assessed the effectiveness of the business advisor model and considered options beyond the initial 12-month pilot period. Report: Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund Services Review	Review
Review of Regional Employment Targets under the Community Development Program This review focused on the Regional Employment Target methodology and developed a tool for setting future employment targets. Report: Review of methodology to determine Regional Employment Targets (RETs)	Review

Safety and Wellbeing

Description	Type
Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services - Stage One This report details the processes and outcomes of working with six Aboriginal residential rehabilitation services in NSW to develop a standardised assessment tool, define their core treatment and organisational components, and develop an evaluation framework that could be used to evaluate individual treatment components, such as follow-up care, and estimate the total net benefits and costs of their services. Report: Understanding clients, treatment models and evaluation options for the NSW Aboriginal Residential Healing Drug and Alcohol Network (NARHDAN): a community based participatory research approach	Evaluation
National Disability Insurance Scheme – East Arnhem Land Co-Design Project This implementation evaluation studied the first 12 months of implementation of the East Arnhem Land co-design project using a participatory action research method. Report: NDIS East Arnhem Co Design Project Evaluation Final Report	Evaluation

Description	Type
School Nutrition Program This examined whether the School Nutrition Program meets the dietary requirements of students in remote Indigenous schools, as well as the delivery and sustainability of the program. Report: [An Evaluation of the School Nutrition Projects in the Northern Territory - Final Report](#)	Evaluation
Petrol Sniffing This review included a longitudinal study to examine the prevalence of petrol sniffing and other substance misuse in selected remote communities. Report: [Longitudinal research into petrol sniffing and other substance abuse trends in Indigenous communities: final report](#)	Review

Culture and Capability

Description	Type
Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program This review examined effectiveness, sustainability and governance. It also looked at ways to leverage broader benefits to achieve better training, employment and economic development outcomes in communities where the program is implemented. Report: [Realising the Potential - a review of the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme](#)	Review
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders Program Pilot This review of the pilot program covered implementation, delivery and assessment of outcomes for building leadership aspirations. Report: [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders Program - Pilot Project Summary](#)	Review

Cross-cutting

| Description	Type
Community Development Programme This multi-year impact evaluation used mixed methods to examine outcomes in the first two years, and explored whether and how the program works in various contexts. Reports: • [The Community Development Programme: Evaluation of Participation and Employment Outcomes](#) • [The many pathways of the Community Development Programme](#) • [An evaluation of the first two years of the Community Development Programme – Summary](#)	Evaluation
Closing the Gap This review covered a qualitative analysis of attitudes and reflections on 10 years of the Closing the Gap initiative. Report: [Closing the Gap: Retrospective Review](#)	Review
Mental Health First Aid Training This evaluation included a participatory outcome study of Mental Health First Aid training delivered on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island, and an assessment of how well the training was implemented with a focus on community engagement. Report: [Summary of Evaluation of Mental Health First Aid Training on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island](#)	Evaluation
School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) This impact evaluation through a randomised controlled trial examined the impact of SEAM on school attendance rates. Report: [School Enrolment and Attendance Measure Randomised Controlled Trial: Full Report](#)	Evaluation

EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS – AWAITING PUBLICATION

The evaluations/reviews listed below are completed but awaiting publication.

Jobs, Land and Economy

Description	Type
Indigenous Procurement Policy This impact evaluation examined three years of the Indigenous Procurement Policy.	Evaluation
Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (merged with Role of Land Councils and Native Title Representative Bodies) This review of Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers covered performance and relative efficiency.	Review

Safety and Wellbeing

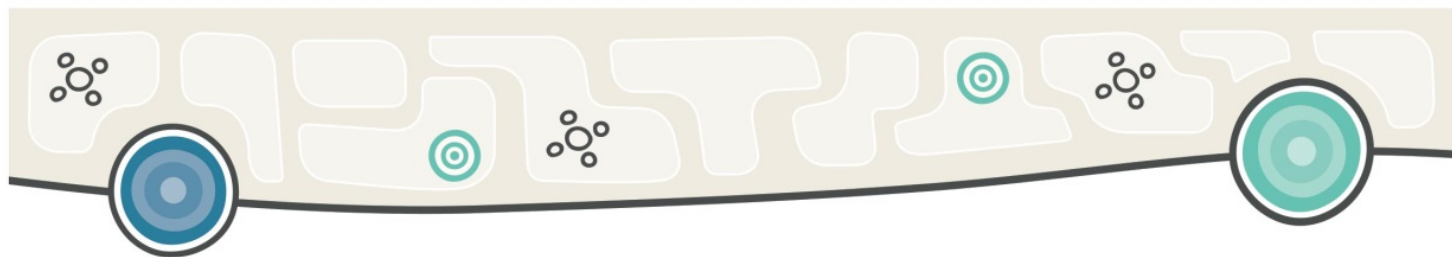| Description	Type
Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) This impact evaluation assessed if the FVPLS activity is improving access to justice, increasing safety outcomes and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors to manage the impact of family violence in their lives.	Evaluation
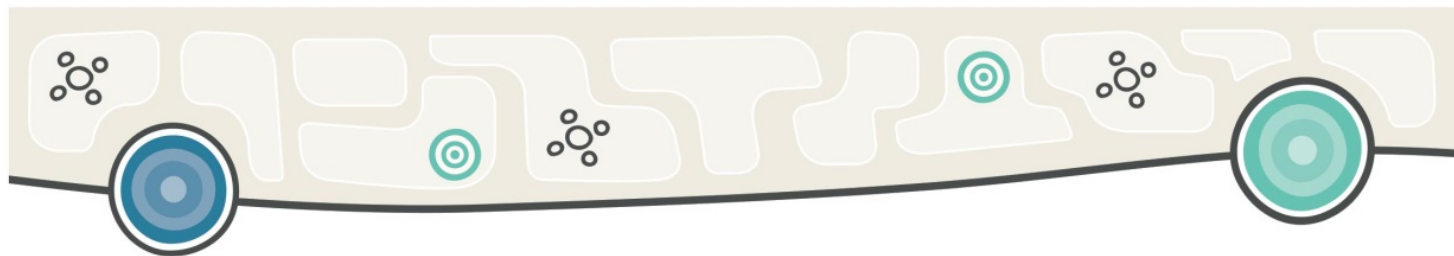
ENABLING ACTIVITIES – NEW

Enabling activities support future evaluations. This includes evaluation strategies, capability development projects, and data improvement projects. The enabling activities in this section either commenced following publication of the 2018-19 Work Plan or are expected to commence in 2019-20.

Safety and Wellbeing

Description	Type
Cultural Activities for Young Indigenous Leaders This evaluation strategy will consider the impact of the measure, announced as part of the Suicide Prevention Budget Package, on young people's connection to culture and community, and to the extent this is a protective factor for mental health for the individuals involved in the activities.	Evaluation Strategy

Cross-cutting

Description	Type
Empowered Communities (EC) This evaluation strategy covers the EC initiative following the first three years of implementation.	Evaluation Strategy
Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Health Survey Broad consultation with Indigenous Australians around co-design of the Indigenous component of the future National Health Survey.	Data improvement
Support for Emerging Indigenous Australian Evaluators to Attend Australian Evaluation Society International Conferences in 2019 and 2020 This capability development project will strengthen the evaluation capabilities of emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander evaluators, and support increased capacity in culturally safe evaluation practice and use.	Capability Development

ENABLING ACTIVITIES – CONTINUING FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN

The enabling activities in this section are carried over from the 2018-19 Work Plan.

Jobs, Land and Economy

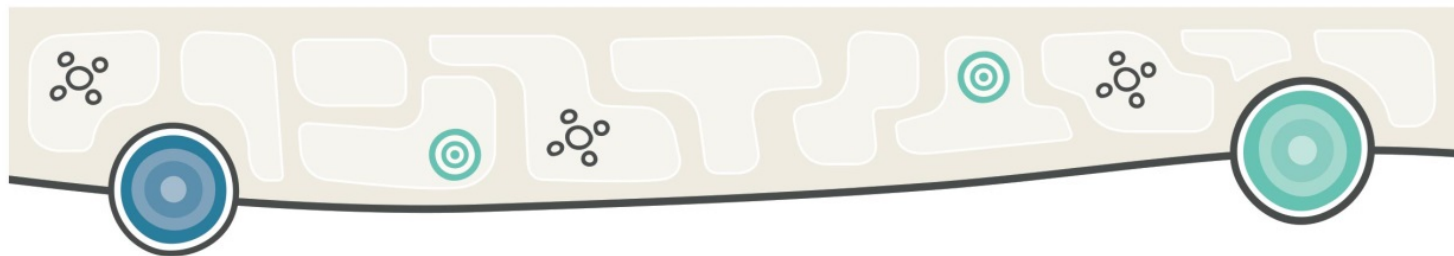| Description	Type
Indigenous Business Australia – Business Solutions Program[1] This evaluation strategy will cover methods to examine if the program is meeting its objectives.	Evaluation Strategy
Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas This evaluation strategy will cover the development of a shared outcomes framework for the Indigenous Rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas programs, and be developed in collaboration with stakeholders.	Evaluation Strategy

Children and Schooling

Description	Type
Indigenous Girls STEM Academy This evaluation strategy will cover the program's design and implementation.	Evaluation Strategy
Indigenous Scholarships This evaluation strategy will focus on IAS Secondary School Scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It will include the development of a monitoring strategy and early design thinking on how to conduct an impact evaluation of IAS secondary scholarship activities.	Evaluation Strategy

Safety and Wellbeing

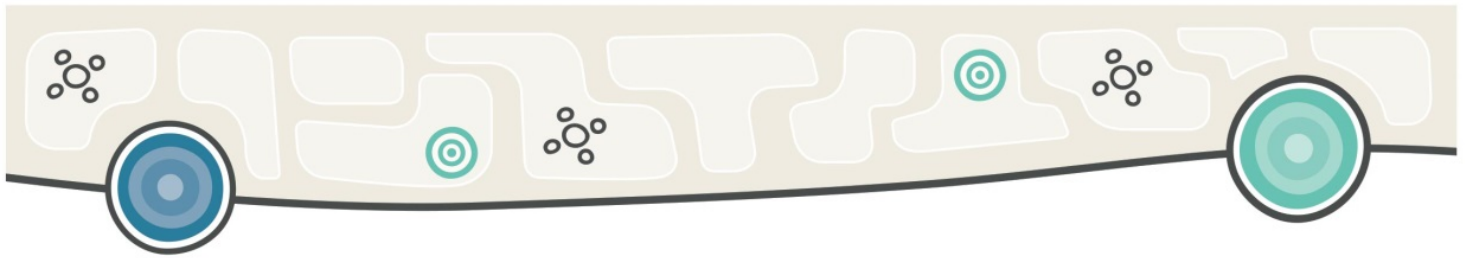| Description	Type
Testing the Impact of the Prisoner Through-care Service Model for Improving Community Safety and Justice Outcomes An evaluation strategy covering the impact of a program model to enhance existing prisoner through-care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners.	Evaluation Strategy

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[1] In the 2018-19 Work Plan it was known as "Business Development and Assistance Program evaluation strategy".

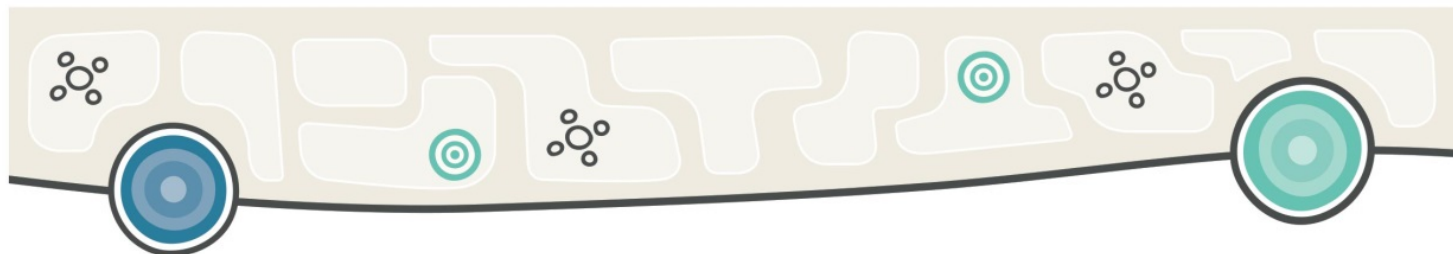| Description	Type
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Regional Profiles This data improvement project will involve analysis of data to produce statistics describing geographic variation in the health and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the regional level.	Data improvement

Cross-cutting

Description	Type
Community Development Program (CDP) This evaluation strategy will identify methods for evaluating the effect of the CDP reforms in improving outcomes for participants and communities.	Evaluation Strategy
Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training – Community Empowerment through Local Instructors This evaluation strategy will cover the approach required to assess whether the training of local MHFA instructors and the delivery of MHFA workshops to a sample of high risk communities has had an impact on addressing suicide and mental health issues.	Evaluation Strategy
National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and Remote Housing Strategy This evaluation strategy will develop and implement an approach to a cross-cutting impact evaluation. It will focus on examining any effects that overcrowding and non-shelter outcomes have on the employment, health and education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Evaluation Strategy
System Effectiveness An evaluation strategy about the system effectiveness of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy • Part 1 – strategic review of Children and Schooling, and Safety and Wellbeing Programmes will focus on identifying policy priorities and ensuring activities are evidence-based. • Part 2 – strategic review of whole IAS policy and investment framework, including a proof-of-concept monitoring and evaluation performance framework.	Evaluation Strategy
AIATSIS Ethics Project This capability development project will embed AIATSIS ethics clearance processes in IAS evaluation activities.	Capability Development
IAS Evaluation Guidance Materials This capability development project will focus on developing guidance material for evaluators to ensure evaluation activities are undertaken in alignment with the IAS Evaluation Framework.	Capability Development

ENABLING ACTIVITIES – COMPLETED

Jobs, Land and Economy

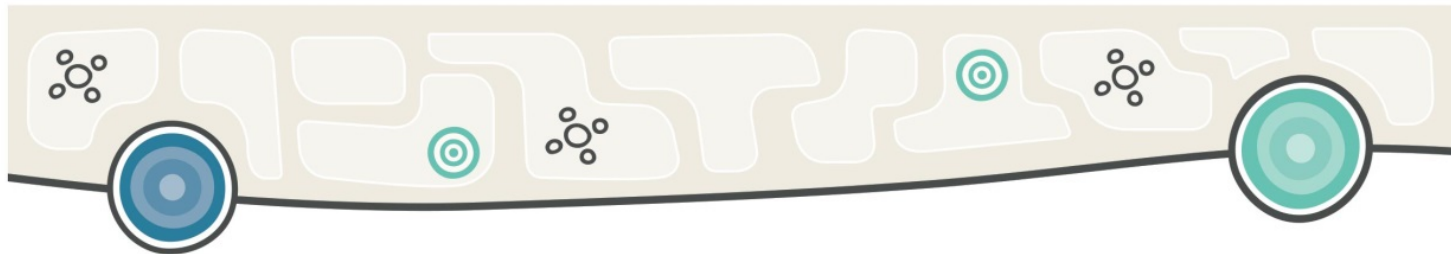| Description	Type
Our North, Our Future: White Paper of Developing Northern Australia Three evaluation strategies were developed for the following three measures identified in the White Paper: Township leasing in the Northern Territory, Prescribed Bodies Corporate capacity building, and Pilot land reform projects in the North. This work will guide measurement, data collection and periodic evaluation over the long term, for up to 20 years.	Evaluation Strategy
Indigenous Grants Policy This evaluation strategy focused on the effectiveness of the Indigenous Grants Policy, including its impact on Indigenous organisations, individuals and communities through increasing Indigenous participation in the design and delivery of funded activities, and the impacts and benefits of extending the application of the policy.	Evaluation Strategy
Employment Parity Initiative (EPI) This evaluation strategy covers the effectiveness of the EPI in increasing the number of large Australian companies with a workforce reflective of the size of the Indigenous population.	Evaluation Strategy
Tailored Assistance Employment Grants (TAEG) An evaluation strategy about assessing the effectiveness of TAEG in: • supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to find and remain in sustainable work, and • increasing the proportion of school/tertiary students connecting to real employment through pathway activities such as school-based traineeships and cadetships.	Evaluation Strategy
Time to Work Employment Service (TWES) This evaluation strategy covers the effectiveness of the TWESkath in assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison to access the support they need to better prepare themselves to find employment and reintegrate into the community upon their release from prison.	Evaluation Strategy
Vocational Training and Employment Centres (VTEC) This evaluation strategy covers the long-term effectiveness of the VTEC program.	Evaluation Strategy

Children and Schooling

Description	Type
Cross-Portfolio Review of Away from Base Activities This evaluation strategy, about current Away from Base activities, will assess the need and impact of distance learning support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students.	Evaluation Strategy
Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) Reforms The evaluation strategy will cover the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the existing RSAS minor/medium reforms that have been implemented to the current 'franchise' model and the reforms to be implemented in 2019.	Evaluation Strategy

Safety and Wellbeing

Description	Type
Testing the Impact of Youth Through-care Program Models for Improving Community Safety and Justice Outcomes The development of an evaluation strategy covering the impact of a program model that trials youth through-care program services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people exiting detention.	Evaluation Strategy

Cross-cutting

Description	Type
Empowered Communities (EC) This framework development is the preliminary step to the evaluation of the EC initiative following the first three years of implementation. In 2018-19, the project focused on the development of a national 'EC monitoring and evaluation framework', in partnership with EC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders. The framework will support EC regions to continue to embed adaptive learning and to help inform the subsequent evaluation to be co-designed with EC Indigenous leaders.	Framework
Strengthening Organisational Governance Policy This evaluation strategy focused on the effectiveness of the Strengthening Organisational Governance Policy, including the benefits to organisations, communities and beneficiaries of grant funded services and for the management of Commonwealth funding; and the implications of any application beyond the Indigenous Affairs portfolio.	Evaluation Strategy

ENABLING ACTIVITIES – NOT CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN

Two enabling activities listed in the 2018-19 Work Plan were not carried over to this Work Plan. The reasons are provided below.

Culture and Capability

Description	Reason
Allied Health in Remote Schools Trial This evaluation strategy under the Australian Government's Plan to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability will identify whether the intended objectives and outcomes of the trial have been, or are on the way to being, achieved.	The Allied Health in Remote Schools Project has been delayed while contract administration and negotiations are completed and is now expected to commence in 2019-20.
Indigenous Justice and Community Safety This evaluation strategy will cover the impact of the Commonwealth contribution to Indigenous justice and community safety.	This item has been merged into the System Effectiveness project (page 14).

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
2018-19 Annual Evaluation Work Plan	See [2018-19 Annual Evaluation Work Plan](#)
Capability development	A project that encompasses one or more of the following: • encourages the development of understanding and capability in evaluation skills, • fosters a culture of evidence based thinking that supports the integration of evidence into better policy and program design, and • strengthens continuous learning.
Cross-cutting evaluations	Strategic evaluation projects that have a high significance, contribution and 'policy risk' level and can involve multiple departments, governments and delivery partners. Many of these evaluations are undertaken by the Policy Analysis and Evaluation Branch in partnership with the relevant policy areas.
Data improvement	Data improvement projects that aim to build the availability of data that can inform evaluations and research.
Evaluation strategy	An evaluation strategy sets out the proposed details and approach of an evaluation - what will be evaluated, how, and when. An evaluation strategy informs future evaluation projects as well as monitoring and data collection activities.
Impact evaluation	An evaluation that assesses if an intervention makes a difference, its impact. The key feature of this type of evaluation is that it identifies the unique effects (intended or unintended) that can be attributed to the intervention. See [BetterEvaluation](#) for examples of impact evaluation methodologies.
Implementation evaluation	An evaluation that measures the *outputs of implementing* the policy, and seeks to understand if the implementation accurately reflects the policy intent, and how the implementation delivered the intent.
Indigenous Advancement Strategy Evaluation Framework	The guide for the evaluation of programs and activities under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, delivered by the National Indigenous Australians Agency. See [Indigenous Advancement Strategy Evaluation Framework](#)
Review	These projects provide descriptive accounts of performance, emphasising operations and outputs.