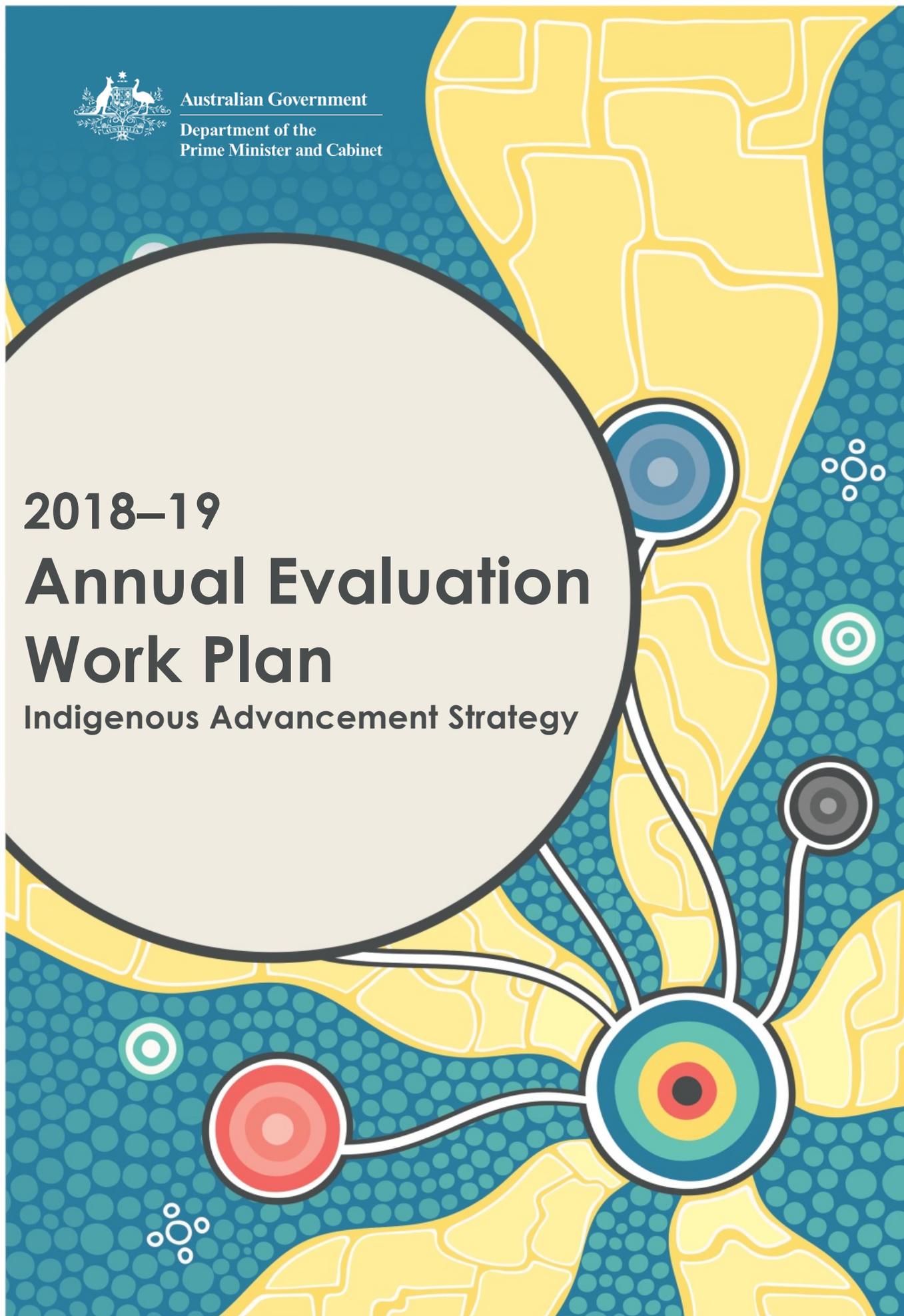




Australian Government
Department of the
Prime Minister and Cabinet

2018–19 Annual Evaluation Work Plan

Indigenous Advancement Strategy





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INTRODUCTION

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Evaluation Framework guides evaluations conducted by the Indigenous Affairs Group (IAG) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C).

The IAS Evaluation Framework defines evaluation activity as a 'systematic assessment that supports Indigenous Australians, communities and government to understand what is working, or what is not working and why'.

The Annual Evaluation Work Plan (the Work Plan) is a key output of the Evaluation Framework and covers evaluation projects, reviews, and evaluation capability development, which are planned to be conducted by the IAG over the current year.

The 2018–19 Work Plan supports a culture of evidence-based thinking and practice, so that evaluation is not seen as a compliance exercise, but one of continuous learning, and an integral and consistent part of program and policy development.

The 2018–19 Work Plan has been endorsed by the Indigenous Evaluation Committee and was approved by the PM&C Executive Board.



Principles and process for identifying evaluation priorities

To support strategic planning of evaluation activity across the IAG, a list of programs under the IAS are identified as a priority for evaluation each year. This list is based on the best available information at this point in time, taking into consideration ongoing evaluations, known risks and current events. Therefore this plan may be updated as new priorities or events come to light.

The principles for identifying evaluation proposal priorities are outlined in the IAS Evaluation Framework and cover issues of significance, contribution and 'policy risk' level.

The process of strategic prioritisation also takes into account:

- the status of evaluation projects currently underway in the IAG;
- new evaluation proposals;
- the types of evaluation projects, e.g., impact evaluations, implementation evaluations, other evaluation types, and reviews; and
- the need for evaluation capability and data improvement projects and how these contribute to fit for purpose evaluations.

In line with the IAS Evaluation Framework, impact evaluations are the focus of this year's Work Plan. This is to generate findings that contribute to the policy outcomes evidence base, support stakeholders to understand what works in Indigenous policy, and examine how programs impact the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Evaluations/reviews are categorised into the following:

Cross-cutting evaluations

These projects often 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 IAG's Policy Analysis and Evaluation Branch in partnership with the relevant policy areas.

Program evaluations

These projects are typically commissioned and led by IAS program areas.

Enabling activities

Enabling activities include the development of evaluation strategies, which will help to inform the feasibility of future evaluations. It also includes initiatives that seek to build the capability of Indigenous organisations to undertake high-quality evaluations for policies and programs that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These projects are not evaluations, rather a necessary enabling factor for good quality evaluation practice to take place.



CURRENT EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS

The evaluations and reviews in this section of the Work Plan are either **underway** or **expected** to commence in 2018-19.

Cross-cutting evaluations/capability

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
<p>NEW Murdi Paaki Lessons Learned</p> <p>This review will explore lessons learnt in the Murdi Paaki region over a long history of regional governance.</p>	Capability	2018–19	2019–20
<p>Strengthening the System Effectiveness of Early Childhood Investments</p> <p>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.</p>	Evaluation	2016–17	2020–21



Program evaluations/reviews

Jobs, Land and Economy

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
<p>Indigenous Cadetship Support</p> <p>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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2019–20
<p>Indigenous Procurement Policy</p> <p>This impact evaluation will examine three years of the Indigenous Procurement Policy.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2018–19
<p>Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (merged with Role of Land Councils and Native Title Representative Bodies)</p> <p>This review of Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers covers performance and relative efficiency.</p>	Review	2017–18	2018–19
<p>Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Training Program</p> <p>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.</p>	Review	2017–18	2018–19



Children and Schooling

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
<p>Aboriginal Families as First Educators Program</p> <p>This impact evaluation will examine in what circumstances the Aboriginal Families as First Educators Program contributes to stronger early childhood development outcomes, how and why.</p>	Evaluation	2016–17	2018–19
<p>Girls Academies</p> <p>This impact evaluation of the Girls Academies will assess what's working, what isn't, any unintended consequences, and what could be improved.</p>	Evaluation	2016–17	2018–19
<p>Models of Studying Away from Home</p> <p>This impact evaluation will assess 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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2018–19

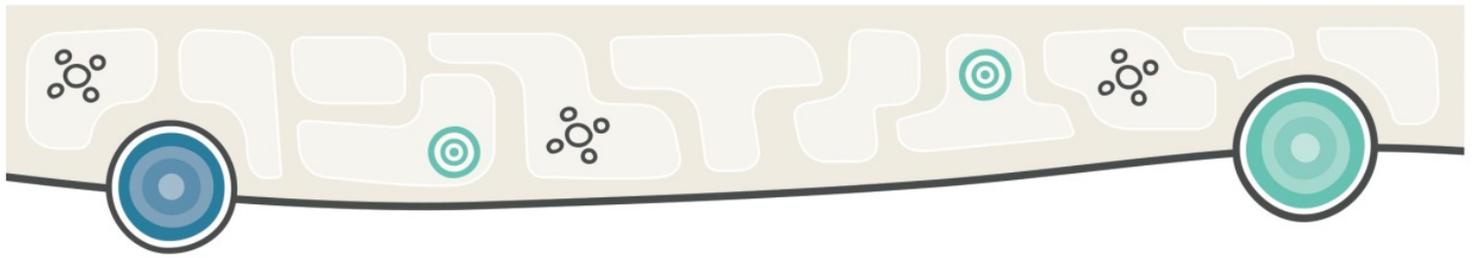


Safety and Wellbeing

Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
<p>Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services</p> <p>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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2020–21
<p>Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS)</p> <p>This impact evaluation will assess 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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2018–19
<p>Link Up Services Program</p> <p>This impact evaluation will consider the need and the impact of healing, wellbeing and resilience-building programs and connections to family, community and culture.</p>	Evaluation	2018–19	2020–21
<p>National Indigenous Critical Response Service</p> <p>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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2018–19
<p>Petrol Sniffing</p> <p>This review involves a longitudinal study to examine the prevalence of petrol sniffing and other substance misuse in selected remote communities.</p>	Review	2017–18	2018–19
<p>NEW Social and Emotional Wellbeing Investment</p> <p>This impact evaluation of four social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) projects will examine their contribution to social and economic prosperity outcomes, and will consider the impact and efficacy of SEWB investment more broadly.</p>	Evaluation	2018–19	2019–20



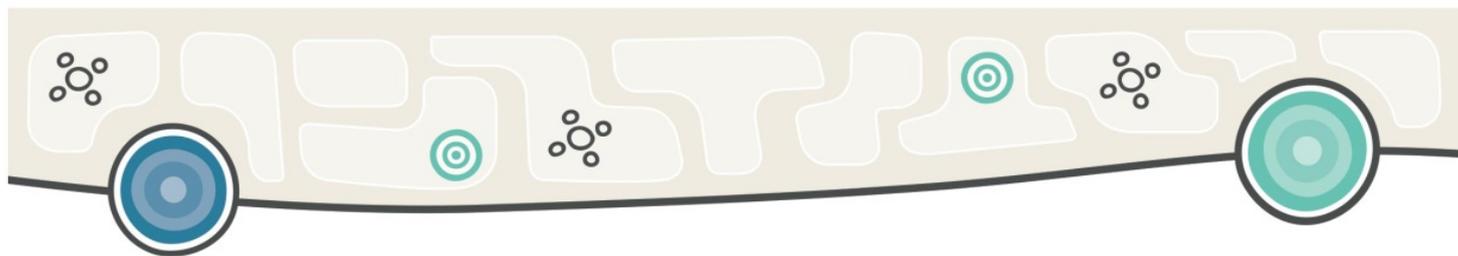
Description	Type	Start Date	Expected Completion
<p>Sugar Reduction Strategy for Remote Community Stores</p> <p>This impact evaluation will examine the impact of the Sugar Reduction Strategy overall, and test targeted interventions being trialled in remote community stores which aim to reduce sales of sugared products.</p>	Evaluation	2018–19	2018–19
<p>Testing Community Safety and Justice Outcomes using Randomised Controlled Trials</p> <p>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.</p>	Evaluation	2017–18	2020–21
<p>Third Action Plan to Reduce Family Violence – Indigenous Specific Measures</p> <p>This evaluation includes a program review and assessment using in-depth interviews and existing service provider data.</p>	Evaluation	2016–17	2018–19



EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS NOT CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN

Some evaluations/reviews that were listed in the 2017–18 Work Plan have not been carried over into the 2018-19 Work Plan. The reason each activity has not been carried over is provided below.

Description	Reason
<p>Community Night Patrols</p>	<p>This evaluation was aiming to understand the impact of community night patrols on community safety outcomes in three communities in the APY Lands. During the design stage it became clear that, due to the small numbers involved, there were difficulties obtaining the required outcome data at the community level. Consequently, this evaluation was not able to proceed.</p> <p>PM&C is working with the service provider to identify alternative data types to assess the impact of the Community Night Patrols in the communities.</p> <p>This will be further explored in the new evaluation strategy proposal on Indigenous Justice and Community Safety (see Appendix).</p>
<p>Role of Land Councils and Native Title Representative Bodies</p>	<p>This review has been subsumed into the Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers review (that is included under the Current Evaluations/ Reviews section).</p>



EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS PUBLISHED

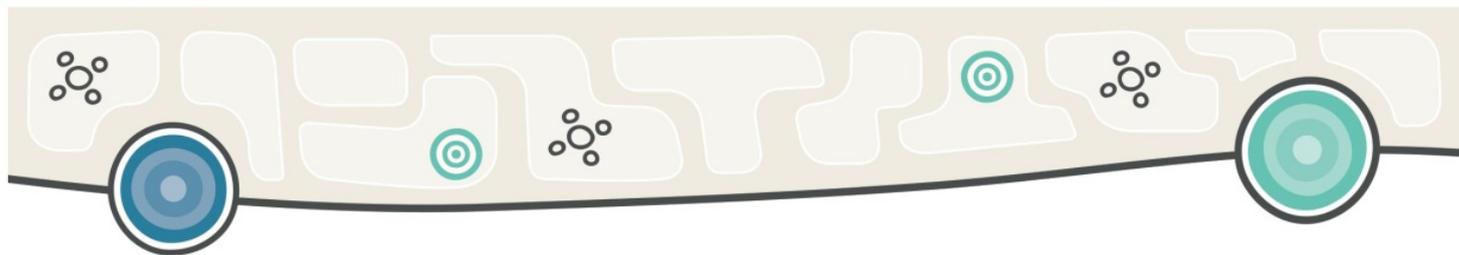
The evaluations/reviews listed below were published in 2017–18.

Cross-cutting evaluations/reviews/capability

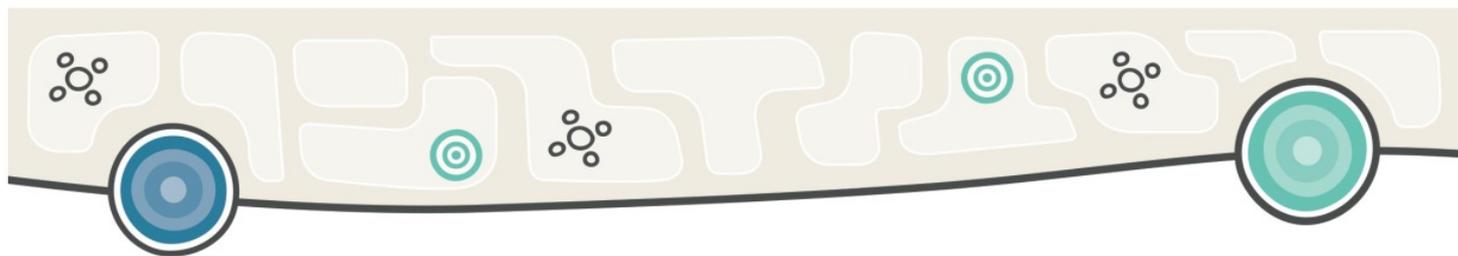
Description	Type
<p>Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS)</p> <p>This impact evaluation measured the impact of RSAS on school attendance rates through an analysis of quantitative data. A qualitative impact study also explored how RSAS may influence parental behaviour and choices that generate patterns of school attendance.</p> <p><i>Publication date: May 2018 2018</i></p> <p>Link: Understanding family perspectives of school attendance in remote communities</p>	Evaluation

Program evaluations/reviews

Description	IAS Programme	Type
<p>Community Stores</p> <p>This capability development work enabled the development of a real-time store food sales monitoring system to provide information to decision-makers at all levels, including participating store boards and other relevant policy makers, covering key food and nutrient performance indicators.</p> <p><i>Note: as this project was to create a database to enable the continuous monitoring of store sale activities in real time, there is no evaluation report available for publication.</i></p>	Safety and Wellbeing	Capability
<p>Indigenous Broadcasting</p> <p>This review on Indigenous Broadcasting provided insight into the impact Indigenous Broadcasting is having on stakeholders through stakeholder surveys and indicators, and used financial proxies to value outcomes.</p> <p><i>Publication date: March 2018</i></p> <p>Report: More than radio – a community asset: Social Return on Investment analyses of Indigenous Broadcasting Services</p>	Culture and Capability	Review



Description	IAS Programme	Type
<p>Indigenous Procurement Policy</p> <p>This review examined the first year of implementation of the Indigenous Procurement Policy.</p> <p><i>Publication date: November 2017</i></p> <p>Report: Year one review of the Indigenous Procurement Policy</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Review
<p>Indigenous Scholarships</p> <p>This initial review of IAS funded secondary school scholarships identified areas for data improvement to support ongoing monitoring and impact evaluation.</p> <p><i>Publication date: March 2018</i></p> <p>Report: Review of the IAS funded secondary school scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students</p>	Children and Schooling	Review
<p>Stronger Communities for Children Program</p> <p>This implementation evaluation assessed the progress achieved to date on the delivery of a range of program outcomes.</p> <p><i>Publication date: December 2017</i></p> <p>Report: Stronger Communities for Children</p>	Children and Schooling	Evaluation



EVALUATIONS/REVIEWS COMPLETED BUT AWAITING RELEASE

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

Cross-cutting evaluations/reviews/capability

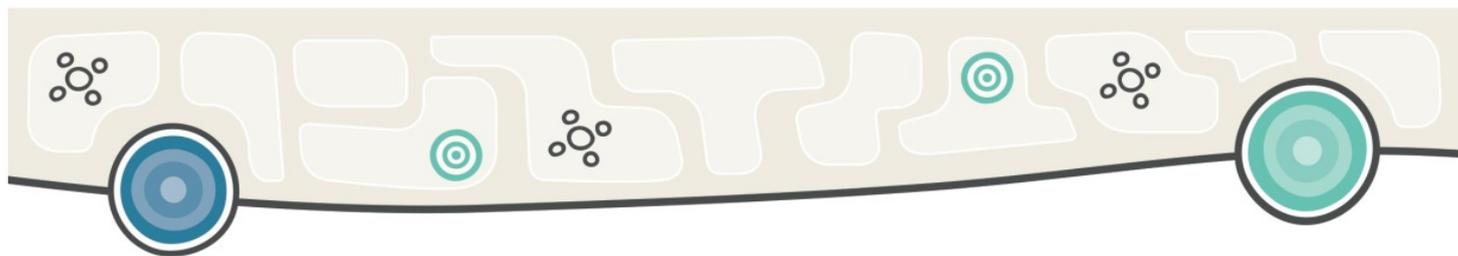
Description	Type
<p>Closing the Gap</p> <p>This review covered a qualitative analysis of attitudes and reflections on 10 years of the Closing the Gap initiative.</p>	Review
<p>Community Development Program (CDP)</p> <p>This multi-year impact evaluation used mixed methods to examine outcomes in the first two years, and explored how and why the CDP works in various contexts.</p>	Evaluation
<p>Mental Health First Aid Training</p> <p>This review 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.</p>	Review
<p>School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM)</p> <p>This impact evaluation through a randomised controlled trial examined the impact of SEAM on school attendance rates.</p>	Evaluation

Program evaluations/reviews

Description	IAS Programme	Type
<p>Aboriginal Employment and Training Activity</p> <p>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.</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Evaluation
<p>Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program</p> <p>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.</p>	Culture and Capability	Review



Description	IAS Programme	Type
<p>Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas Fee for Service</p> <p>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.</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Evaluation
<p>Indigenous Rangers Cost Analysis</p> <p>This review covered a cost analysis to inform the development of funding guidelines that can be used to ensure consistency and fairness in funding Indigenous Rangers.</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Review
<p>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders Program Pilot</p> <p>This review of the pilot program covered implementation, delivery and assessment of outcomes for building leadership aspirations.</p>	Culture and Capability	Review
<p>National Disability Insurance Scheme – East Arnhem Land Co-Design Project</p> <p>This implementation evaluation studied the first 12 months of implementation of the East Arnhem Land co-design project using a participatory action research method.</p>	Safety and Wellbeing	Evaluation
<p>Review of Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund – Business Advisors</p> <p>This review assessed the effectiveness of the business advisor model and considered options beyond the initial 12-month pilot period.</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Review
<p>Review of Regional Employment Targets under the Community Development Program</p> <p>This review focused on the Regional Employment Target methodology and developed a tool for setting future employment targets.</p>	Jobs, Land and Economy	Review
<p>School Nutrition Program</p> <p>This review 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.</p>	Safety and Wellbeing	Review



APPENDIX TO 2018–19 ANNUAL EVALUATION WORK PLAN

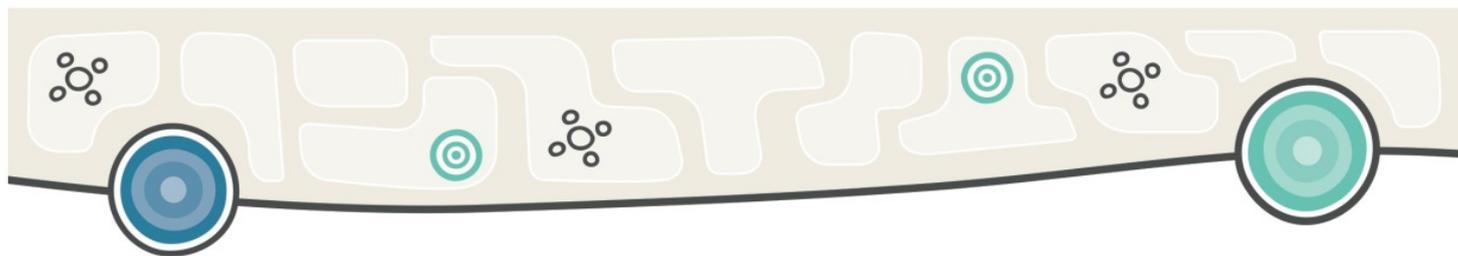
These are all enabling activities that support future evaluations. This includes evaluation strategies, capability development projects, and data improvement projects.

Enabling activities

Description	Type
<p>AIATSIS Ethics Project</p> <p>This capability development project will embed AIATSIS ethics clearance processes in IAS evaluation activities.</p>	Capability
<p>NEW Allied Health in Remote Schools Trial</p> <p>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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Regional Profiles</p> <p>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.</p>	Data improvement
<p>NEW Business Development and Assistance Program</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will cover methods to examine if the program is meeting its objectives.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Community Development Program (CDP)</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will identify methods for evaluating the effect of the CDP reforms in improving outcomes for participants and communities.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Cross-Portfolio Review of Away from Base Activities</p> <p>This evaluation strategy about current Away from Base activities, assess the need and impact of distance learning support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students.</p>	Strategy
<p>Empowered Communities (EC)</p> <p>This framework development is the preliminary step to an evaluation of the EC initiative following the first three years of implementation. In 2018-19, the project will focus on the development of a national 'EC monitoring and evaluation framework', in partnership with EC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders.</p> <p>The purpose is to support EC regions to continue to embed adaptive learning and to help inform the subsequent evaluation to be co-designed with EC Indigenous leaders.</p>	Framework
<p>NEW Employment Parity Initiative (EPI)</p> <p>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.</p>	Strategy



Description	Type
<p>NEW IAS Evaluation Guidance Materials</p> <p>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.</p>	Capability
<p>NEW Indigenous Girls STEM Academy</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will cover the program's design and implementation.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Indigenous Grants Policy</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will focus on the effectiveness of the Indigenous Grants Policy, including the 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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Indigenous Justice and Community Safety</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will cover the impact of the Commonwealth contribution to Indigenous justice and community safety.</p>	Strategy
<p>Indigenous Rangers and Protected Areas</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will cover the development of a shared outcomes framework for the Indigenous Rangers and Indigenous Protected Areas programs, developed in collaboration with stakeholders.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Indigenous Scholarships</p> <p>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 the impact of IAS secondary scholarship activities.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training – Community Empowerment through Local Instructors</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will cover the approach required to assess how the training of local MHFA instructors and the delivery of 15 MHFA workshops to a broader community has had an impact on addressing suicide and mental health issues.</p>	Strategy
<p>National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and Remote Housing Strategy</p> <p>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.</p>	Strategy
<p>Our North, Our Future: White Paper of Developing Northern Australia</p> <p>Three evaluation strategies will be 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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Remote School Attendance Strategy (RSAS) Reforms</p> <p>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.</p>	Strategy



Description	Type
<p>Strengthening Organisational Governance Policy</p> <p>This evaluation strategy will focus 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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW System Effectiveness</p> <p>An evaluation strategy about the system effectiveness of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Tailored Assistance Employment Grants (TAEG)</p> <p>An evaluation strategy about assessing the effectiveness of TAEG in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Strategy
<p>Testing the Impact of the Prisoner Through-care Service Model for Improving Community Safety and Justice Outcomes</p> <p>An evaluation strategy covering the impact of a program model to enhance existing prisoner through-care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners.</p>	Strategy
<p>Testing the Impact of Youth Through-care Program Models for Improving Community Safety and Justice Outcomes</p> <p>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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Time to Work Employment Service</p> <p>This evaluation strategy covers the effectiveness of the Time to Work Employment Service 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.</p>	Strategy
<p>NEW Vocational Training and Employment Centres (VTEC)</p> <p>An evaluation strategy covers the long-term effectiveness of the VTEC program.</p>	Strategy



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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
2017–18 Annual Evaluation Work Plan	See 2017-18 Annual Evaluation Work Plan
Capability development	<p>A project that encompasses one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 IAG's 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.
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	<p>An evaluation that assesses whether an intervention makes a difference, its impact. The key feature is the study of the net effect, or difference, which can be attributed to the intervention.</p> <p>See BetterEvaluation website for examples of impact evaluation methodologies.</p>
Implementation evaluation	An evaluation that measures the <i>outputs of implementing</i> 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	<p>The guide for evaluation of programs and activities within the IAG, delivered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.</p> <p>See Indigenous Advancement Strategy Evaluation Framework</p>
Review	These projects provide descriptive accounts of performance, emphasising operations and outputs.

