Evaluation Section

**Indigenous Advancement strategy Evaluation Framework**

Evaluation capability plan 2019-20

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Evaluation Framework, released in February 2018, was developed to guide the conduct of robust, transparent and credible evaluations of the IAS policy and programs.

Directing efforts towards building evaluation capability is a critical step to deliver high quality evaluations under the Framework and, ultimately, to enhance the use of evaluations in policy development. In order to move towards best practices in evaluation, the Framework includes a stream of capability development activities.

In June 2019 the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) released the ‘[Evaluating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs](https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/evaluating-indigenous-programs)’ report. The ANAO noted in the report that the Framework had the potential to strengthen evaluations under the IAS. To implement the Framework, the ANAO recommended the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA):

* ensure its performance information for evaluations of IAS programs and policies is supported by a reliable methodology for measuring the longer-term outcomes of better evidence from the evaluation framework (recommendation 1)
* develop a comprehensive and easy to navigate set of procedures to support the implementation of the IAS Evaluation Framework (recommendation 2).
* formalise the evaluation prioritisation process by developing structured criteria for assessing significance, contribution and risk and conducting a strategic analysis of gaps in evaluation coverage (recommendation 3).

This Evaluation Capability Plan for 2019-20 provides a road map of actions to build evaluation capability and strengthen the evaluation culture in the NIAA, and address the ANAO recommendations. Over this next year, the Agency will be developing and rolling-out: measures of the long term outcomes of better evidence from the IAS Evaluation Framework; 'how to’ material to build and embed internal evaluation capability; and formal criteria for prioritising evaluations.

The development of these capability actions will be supported by the Indigenous Evaluation Committee (IEC). The IEC provides independent strategic and technical advice to the NIAA to support rigorous evaluations.

## Road Map for Building NIAA evaluation capability, 2019-2020

### ANAO Recommendation One:

#### Measures of evaluation capability, accountability, and increased transparency objectives

* November 2019 – January 2020
  + Develop a set of draft performance measures for long-term outcomes of the IAS Evaluation Framework
* February – May 2020
  + Consultation with the Indigenous Evaluation Committee on the draft measures and further refine
* June 2020
  + Measures are finalised
* Continued actions
  + Ongoing reporting against measures

### ANAO Recommendation Two:

‘How to’ evaluation Handbook

* November 2019 – December 2020
  + Develop Handbook in consultation with Indigenous Evaluation Committee
* January 2020
  + Handbook made available to NIAA staff
* Continued actions
  + Seek staff feedback and update content as needed

NIAA evaluation ethics policy to guide staff on how to commission ethical evaluations,

* November 2019
  + Roll out evaluation ethics policy to NIAA staff
* Continued actions
  + Support and training materials updated as required, ethics coaching services offered to staff managing evaluations
  + Continuous quality improvement to support organisational learning about ethics requirements for evaluation

### Staff training materials

* November– end of December 2020
  + Develop capability learning outcomes and select most appropriate delivery methods in consultation with the Indigenous Evaluation Committee
* January 2020
  + Set training calendar
* Continued actions
  + Staged roll out of learning events, and continuous quality improvement to support organisational learning about evaluation

### ANAO Recommendation Three:

### Prioritisation criteria for assessing significance, contribution and policy risk of evaluations

* November – end of December 2019
  + Develop prioritisation criteria and seek feedback from the Indigenous Evaluation Committee
* February – May 2020
  + Develop process to implement prioritisation and begin road testing
* June 2020
  + Prioritisation criteria used in development of the 2020-21 work plan
* Continued actions
  + Prioritisation criteria used in development of future work plans

### Strategic analysis of gaps in evaluation coverage

* Mid December – January 2020
  + Undertake 2019 – 2020 strategic gap analysis
* February 2020
  + Seek feedback from Indigenous Evaluation Committee on 2019 – 2020 strategic gap analysis
* Continued actions
  + Strategic gap analysis used to inform the 2020-21 and future work plans