

Aboriginal engagement, Aboriginal evaluation: Owning an evaluation through comprehensive co-design

Presentation to the International Evaluation
Conference, Sydney, 18 Sep 2019

Lisa Jackson Pulver and Tosh Kelly



Government of South Australia
Health Performance Council

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge all the Aboriginal peoples of South Australia, the complexity and diversity of their communities and that each has its own beliefs and practices. We recognise their cultural authority and respect their enduring spiritual relationship with their countries.



Background



Source Based on boundary data from: Department of Health, Government of Australia. *PHN digital boundaries*. Retrieved 22 Aug 2019 from <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHN-Digital>



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Background

Country South Australia



Adelaide area



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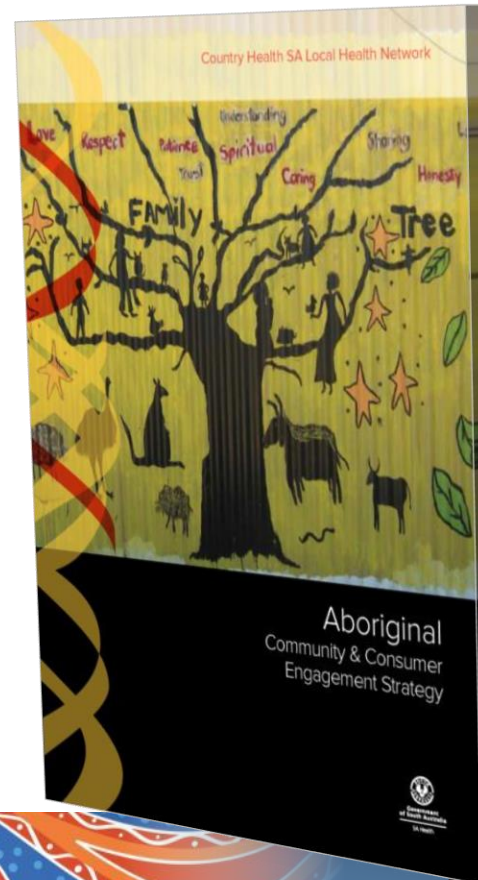
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Background

Aboriginal Community & Consumer Engagement Strategy

Launched **May 2015**

by Country Health SA



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Background

South Australia

Health Care Act 2008



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decision to **review the Strategy**



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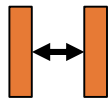
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Review project brief

Review the Strategy's *implementation* for...



successes in influencing change



gaps remaining to achieve its aims



areas for future focus to achieve long-term outcomes



Governance

- > **Project owner:** Health Performance Council
- > **Co-design authority:** project advisory group
- > **Data collection:** expert contractor
- > **Ethical oversight:** Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee
- > **Operational management:** secretariat



Advisory group

- > **Terms of reference** self-determined
- > **Membership** needed work for complete representation
- > **Respectful recognition** with modest sitting fees* and expenses covered
- > **Commitment** to meet once outside of Adelaide

* Fees paid where permitted under government policy



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Advisory group

Travelling to regional meeting



Visiting Port Lincoln
Aboriginal Health Service

Advisory group

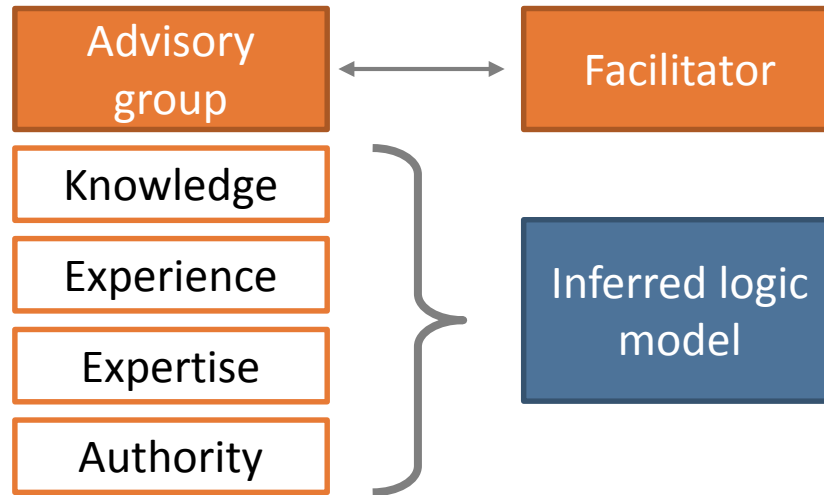
Group polo shirt



Evaluation design

Preliminary review: no identified outcomes to evaluate

Hence...



The evaluation

- > Three-phase mixed methods review
 - Desktop review
 - Stakeholder surveys
 - Focus groups



Evaluation delivery

Advisory group led work on...

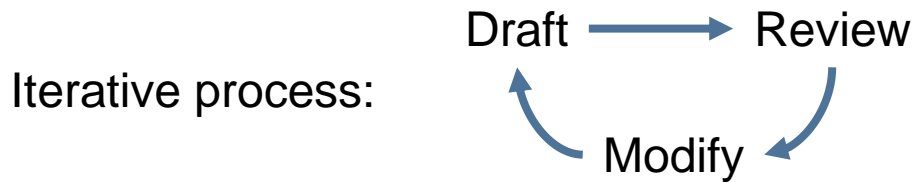
- > **Oversight:** South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee
- > **Appropriate conduct:** advised on Aboriginal-led external social research firm
- > **Appropriate data collection:** advised on correct focus group locations throughout country South Australia



Evaluation delivery

Advisory group led **validation** of outputs

- > **Review** of the data contractor's reports
- > **Advice** on incorporation into final report
- > **Drafting and review authority** on final project report



Evaluation delivery

Advisory group **recommended**

stand-alone **community edition** of final report

and recommended

expert Aboriginal writer to produce it



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Discussion

- > Proper ownership of process

led to

- > co-design model

led to

- > validity of findings and resonance with community



Discussion

- > **High value** derived from **deliberative, measured, iterative** processes
- > Advisory group **ownership** and their processes resulted in evaluation to **meet the needs** of the projects and results that could be accepted
- > Final report **usable** to drive change **only because of this**



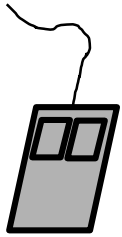
Discussion

- > **Devolvement of power** on advisory group **removed risk** from the project:
 - Cultural
 - Acceptance of results
 - Ability to collect data
- > **Governance model** created good-will
- > **Health Performance Council** learning process



A little of what we found

- > Beyond scope of this presentation
- > Refer to our full report for more details



[HTTPS://www.hpcsa.com.au/aes19](https://www.hpcsa.com.au/aes19)

- > However, some key points presented here



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A little of what we found

Strategic goals requiring action at the 'easy' end of the IAP2 public participation spectrum were more likely to have been achieved.

More likely to have been successfully achieved

Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

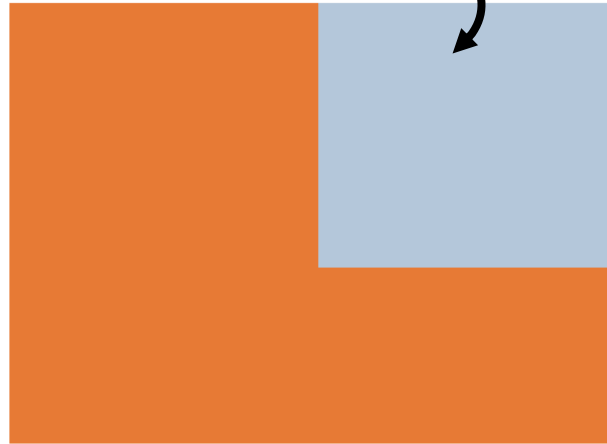
Empower

Less likely to have been successfully achieved



A little of what we found

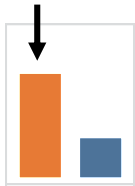
- > **Mandatory** cultural learning... but 29% of staff not undertaking it



A little of what we found

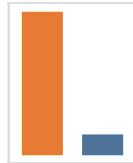
Aboriginal staff **under-represented** across the organisation

Aboriginal population

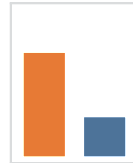


Aboriginal staff

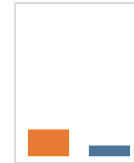
Region A



Region B



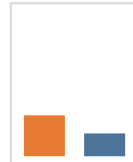
Region C



Region D



Region E



Region F



*charts are
indicative only*



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A little of what we found

> Some bright spots:

- Awareness of engagement with health services
- More system participation by Aboriginal consumers and community members
- Groundwork for staff training and development



A little of what we found

- > Some opportunities to improve
 - Aboriginal workforce participation
 - Support for community to engage further
 - Governance structures for the Strategy
 - Cultural learning



Acknowledgements

- > Our project advisory group, for generously giving of their time, expertise and experiences. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and future, and thank them for all they have done and continue to do.
- > Funding was provided by South Australian Health Performance Council secretariat.



Artwork

Jordan Lovegrove, Ngarrindjeri, Dreamtime Public Relations

The Health Performance Council (shown as the largest main meeting place) watches over the health and care journey of people to make sure that they are getting the proper care in every way. The journey paths emanating to and from the meeting place indicate the distance while the blue colour variations show the landscape types. Around the central meeting place are many communities. Yellow dots around these places keep the people safe through their journey, ensuring proper care is achieved for everybody and that their needs are properly met.



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More information

Email

HealthHealthPerformanceCouncil@sa.gov.au

Phone

+61 (8) 8226 3188

Web

<https://www.hpcsa.com.au>



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Questions



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