

Culturally Responsive Initiatives: Introducing the First Nations Investment Framework

Presentation to Australian Evaluation Society International
Evaluation Conference

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18 September 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of Australia, and the oldest continuing culture in human history. We pay respect to Elders past and present and commit to respecting the lands we walk on, and the communities we walk with.

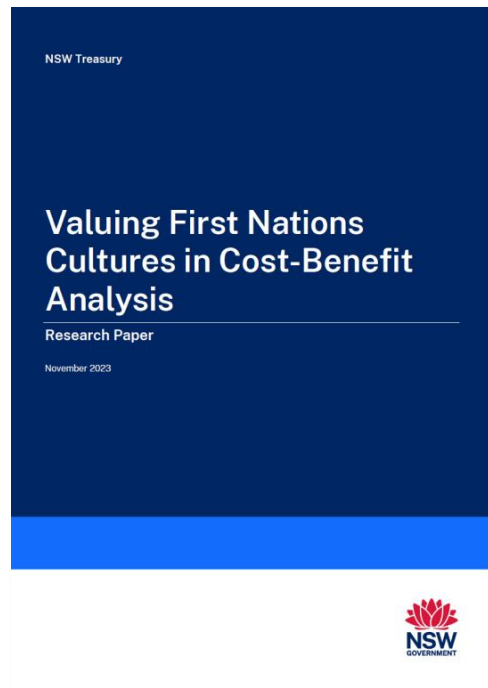
Artwork:

Regeneration by Josie Rose

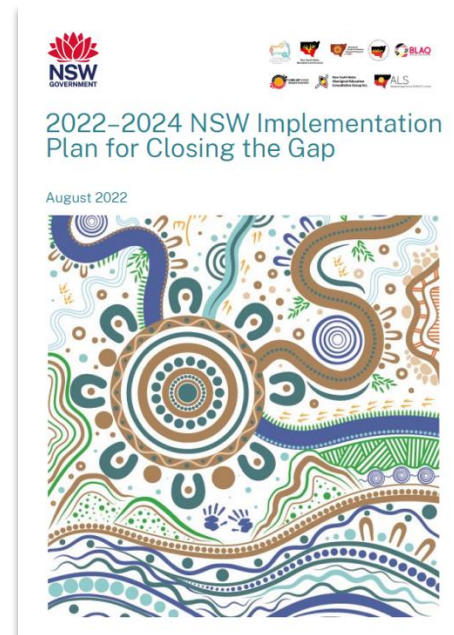


First Nations Economic Wellbeing at NSW Treasury

Evidence
***Presentation at
12pm in room 103**



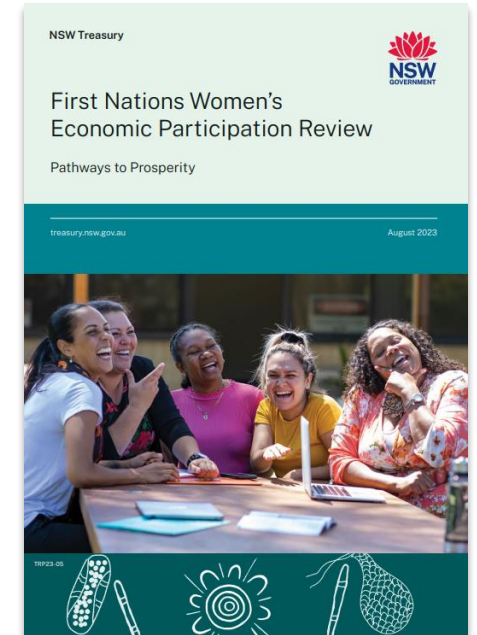
Data reform



NSW First Nations
Business Sector Report

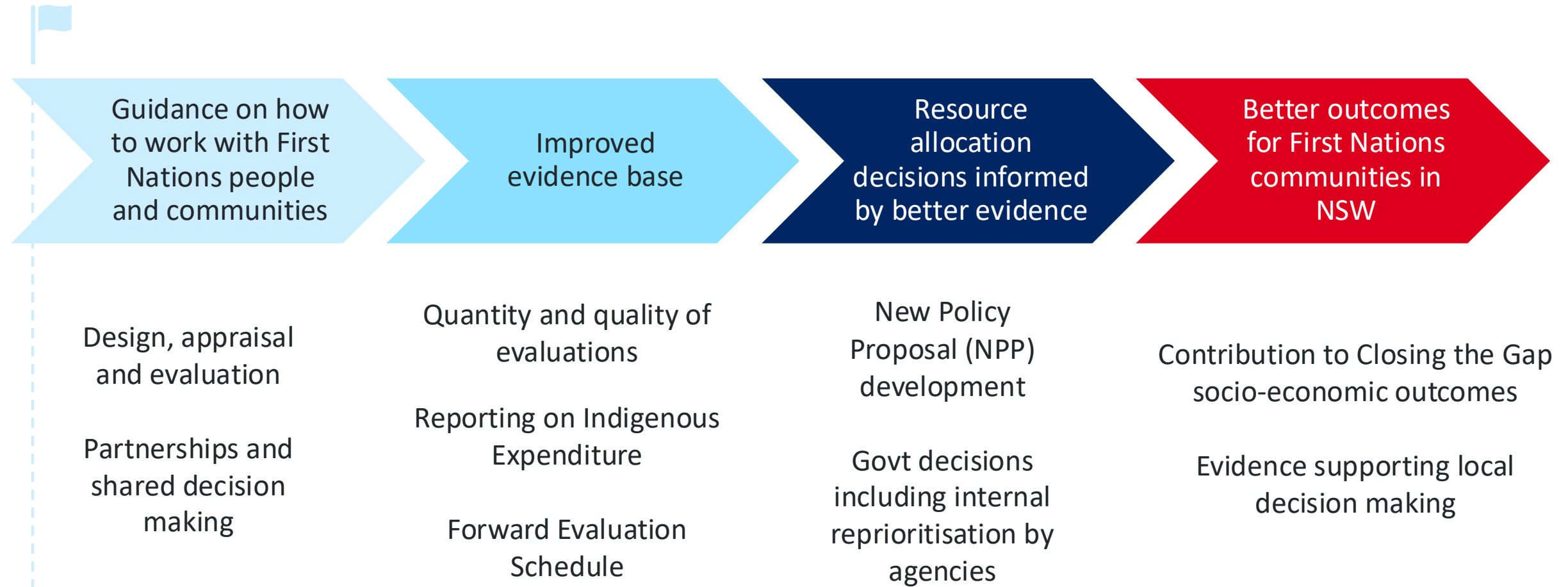


First Nations Women's
Economic Participation



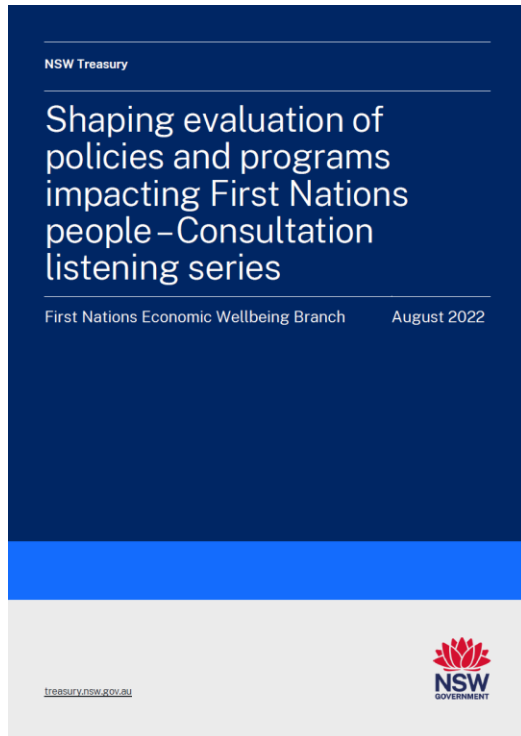
What our work contributes to

Fulfilling Treasury commitments to evaluation and NSW's Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap.



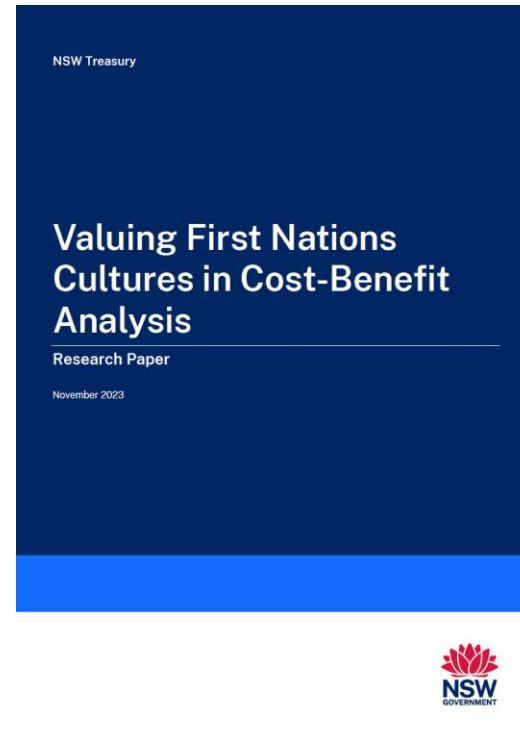
Background

Our research and consultation has highlighted the need for practical guidance to lift capability across the sector.



Consultation listening series on evaluation practice (August 2022).

Identifies the need for targeted and culturally responsive guidance on evaluation of initiatives that impact on First Nations people and communities.

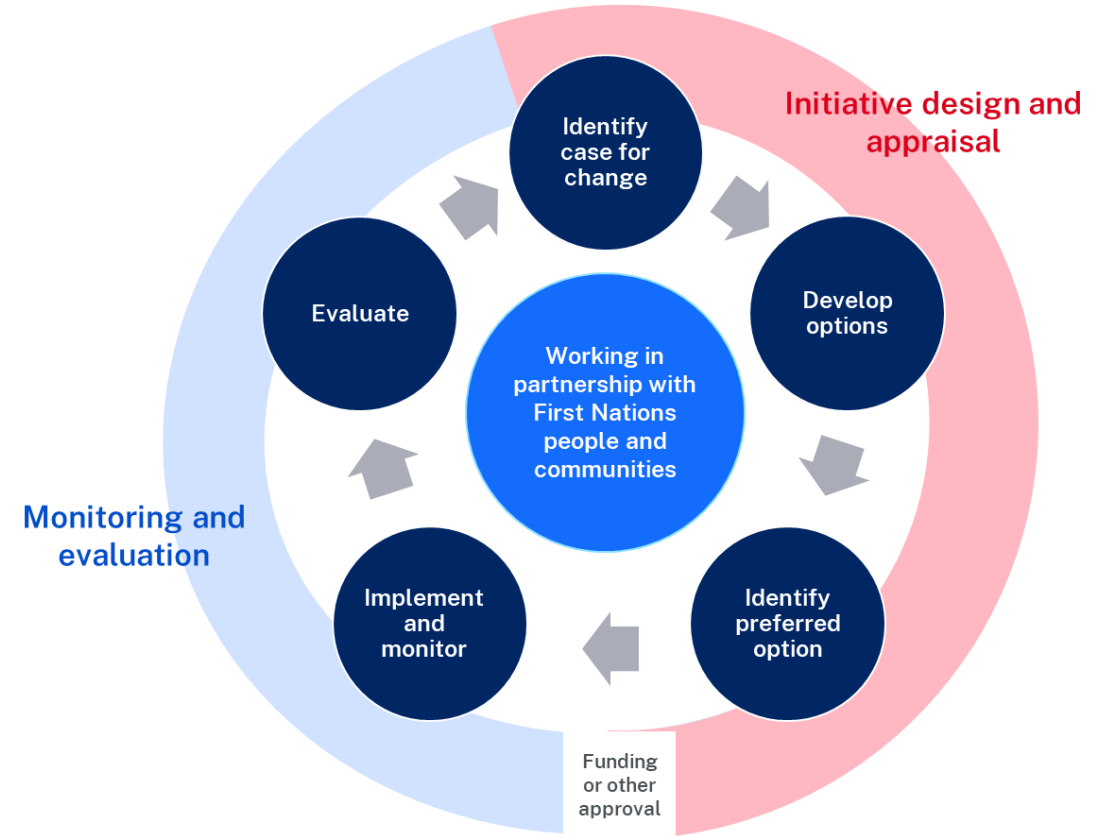
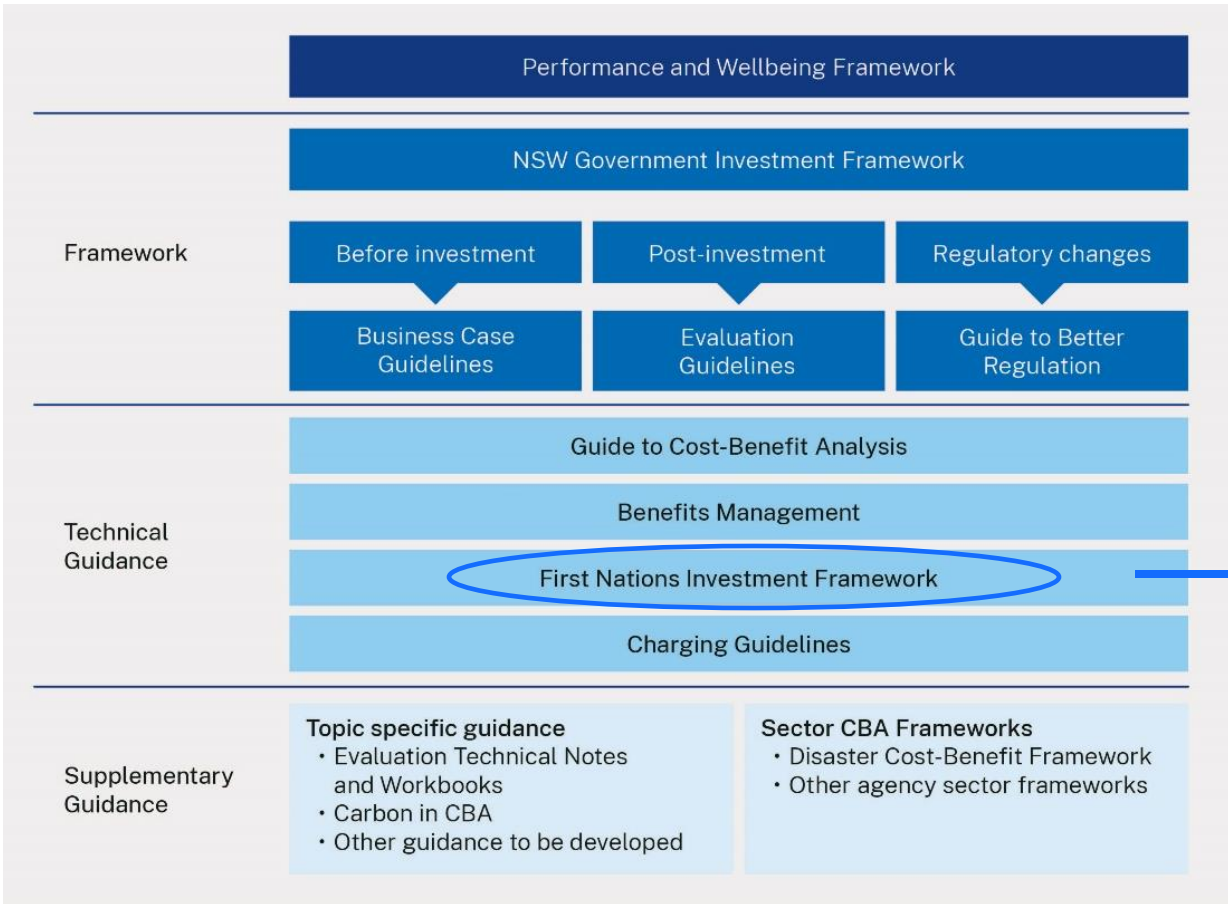


Cost-benefit analysis research paper (March 2024).

Identifies the need for methodological guidance on how to effectively capture and incorporate the value of First Nations cultures in CBA.

***Presentation at 12pm in room 103**

Context



Framework structure

Foundations for genuine relationships
(Chapter 2)

Partnership for shared decision-making
(Chapter 3)

Community-led design
(Chapter 4)

**Data collection, access
and analysis**
(Chapter 5)

**Transparency and
accountability**
(Chapter 6)

Steps in Cost-Benefit Analysis for First Nations initiatives
(Appendix)

Case study: Dubbo Bridge

Delivering tangible impact for First Nations people and communities by establishing relationships early, listening and working in partnership.

- The New Dubbo Bridge project is being delivered by Transport for NSW as part of the Newell Highway Upgrade.
- Dubbo is Wiradjuri Country and home to more than 14,300 First Nations people (~16 per cent of the population).
- Local Aboriginal representation body Three Rivers Regional Assembly (TRRA) reports that 32 per cent of the project workforce identify as First Nations people.
- This high proportion of First Nations employment can be attributed to early engagement by the proponent with TRRA and commitment to establishing strong relationships with the local community.

According to Robert Riley, chairperson of the Dubbo Aboriginal Working Party:

"These employment opportunities actually change lives. I know of young people working on the project who are now the highest paid worker in the family at 19 or 20 years-old, I know of grandfathers who are the leader of the family and can make more things happen now for their grandkids, for their nephews, for their nieces.

The true indication of getting the great results that we've gotten to date is because the consultation happened from day one. "

Case study: Barang Regional Alliance

Shared decision making enabling improved First Nations outcomes



Context

- Local Decision Making is an initiative under OCHRE, the NSW Government's community focussed plan for Aboriginal Affairs
- Barang is an Aboriginal Regional Alliance under OCHRE and member of the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances (NCARA)
- Barang is also the 'backbone organisation' for the Central Coast under Empowered Communities (Aus Gov approach)

Partnership approach

- Under the banner of Empowered Communities, Barang recruits, convenes and supports panels of independent Aboriginal community members to provide a second tier of accountability on specific funding streams
- This involves:
 - Recruiting and maintaining a register of panel delegates
 - Convening program specific community panels
 - Training and documentation
 - Secretariat support
- This provides a mechanism for the Aboriginal community to directly assess funding proposals, evaluate the effectiveness of past programs, and influence funding decisions and conditions

What we're doing to support implementation

- Change management approach
 - Video summaries by chapter
 - Capacity building through additional resources and case studies
 - Considering developing training modules, workshops
 - Ongoing engagement with sector committees e.g. Evidence Bank Working Group
 - Ongoing engagement with key partners including NSW CAPO and NCARA
- Leverage New Policy Proposals (budget bids) and Closing the Gap Forward Evaluation Schedule to gauge uptake, provide feedback and build capability
 - Aligning with existing Treasury processes to reduce burden on agencies and encourage uptake as BAU
 - Quality of analysis of First Nations outcomes in NPPs and evaluations will be a key measure of success