



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

Charles Perkins House
16 Bowes Place, Phillip

Mr Romlie Mokak
Commissioner
Productivity Commission
Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
Locked Bag 2, Collins St
East Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Commissioner Mokak,

I am pleased to present a submission from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) in response to the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper to develop a whole-of-government Indigenous evaluation strategy.

As you are aware, the NIAA was established by an Executive Order on 29 May 2019. Among our functions is to analyse and monitor the effectiveness of programs and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including programs and services delivered by bodies other than the Agency. The development of a whole-of-government Indigenous evaluation strategy by the Productivity Commission will be an integral part of us being able to deliver on this important function.

We have several years' experience in evaluating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific initiatives and programs, and in early 2018 we released the [Indigenous Advancement Strategy \(IAS\) Evaluation Framework](#). The design of the IAS Evaluation Framework features three streams of activity: collaboration, capability, and knowledge. We have structured our submission to the Issues Paper under these three activity areas. Our submission draws on our experience in undertaking evaluations and pursuing best practice principles which are embedded in the IAS Evaluation Framework.

We consider that improving the lives of Indigenous Australians is the most important objective for any evaluation framework. In this context, it is important that the evaluation framework developed by the Productivity Commission is broad enough to be applicable to mainstream government programs as well as programs targeted specifically at improving outcomes for indigenous people.

We have a strong relationship with the Productivity Commission, built over many years, as a result of our common interest in ensuring data and reporting on indigenous Australians is accurate, meaningful and of a high-quality. We look forward to continuing this strong relationship as you develop a whole-of-government Indigenous evaluation strategy and to sharing lessons learnt from our own experience in undertaking evaluations.

If you have any questions regarding our submission please contact Mr Troy Sloan, Group Manager of Employment, Environment and Evaluation:

Yours sincerely,

Professor Ian Anderson AO

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

National Indigenous Australians Agency

10 September 2019