



FIRST NATIONS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM

EVALUATION PLAN OVERVIEW

Queensland Mental Health
Commission





Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these lands never ceded. We acknowledge the continued custodianship and protection of country and culture. We acknowledge the cultural knowledges that sustain country, culture and community. We honour our old people and thank them for their leadership, their guidance and their legacy. This is, was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Indigenous Procurement

First Nations Co. is certified as an Indigenous company with Supply Nation. As such, work with First Nations Co. contributes to the objectives of the Australian Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy.





Evaluation Overview

Evaluation Overview

The evaluation of the First Nations Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program will explore the experiences, outcomes and broader impacts of funded initiatives across participating communities. The evaluation is being undertaken by First Nations Co. in partnership with the Queensland Mental Health Commission and will focus on understanding what is working well, identifying opportunities for improvement, and capturing insights to support future planning and investment in culturally safe social and emotional wellbeing initiatives.

Cultural Governance

The evaluation is being delivered through an Aboriginal-led approach that centres community perspectives, Cultural Safety and respect for local knowledges, experiences and community priorities. Ongoing engagement with stakeholders and communities will help inform the evaluation process and findings.

Scope

The evaluation will consider:

- Experiences and outcomes associated with funded initiatives
- Accessibility and cultural responsiveness of services and activities
- Community perspectives on strengths, challenges and future priorities
- Factors that support sustainability and long-term impact

The evaluation will draw on a range of information sources, including stakeholder consultations, surveys, program documentation and other relevant materials.

Deliverables

The evaluation will produce a range of outputs including:

- Evaluation planning materials
- Interim findings summaries
- A final evaluation report
- Stakeholder feedback opportunities
- Intended Outcomes

The evaluation aims to:

- Support continuous improvement
- Strengthen understanding of community experiences and outcomes
- Inform future planning and decision-making
- Highlight strengths and learnings across participating initiatives





Community-Led Project Initiatives

Community-Led Project Initiatives (1/2)

The First Nations SEWB Program invests directly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to design and deliver initiatives that reflect local priorities, strengths, and cultural knowledge. This approach recognises that sustainable improvements in mental health and wellbeing require solutions that are community-led, culturally grounded, and responsive to place.

Project Partner		Location	Initiative	Purpose
1	Bidjerdii Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation Community Health Service	Rockhampton, Mt Morgan and Blackwater	Nurturing Spirits SEWB Project	To provide alcohol and other drug education and enhance the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Central Queensland through a culturally adaptive program that respects and integrates traditional Aboriginal practices with contemporary health strategies.
2	Central West Aboriginal Corporation	Barcaldine	CWAC Horsemanship Therapy Program	To engage First Nations young people (aged 5-19) in activities that encourage connectedness with the aim of improving self-confidence, self-esteem, sleep, gross motor functioning, cognition, social and emotional wellbeing, happiness, camaraderie, trust, and sense of responsibility.
3	Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	Cherbourg	Stronger, Healthier Together Project	To assist young to people to find meaningful work in community that connects them to community, culture, and country through a youth-led social enterprise.
4	Galangoor Duwulami Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay and Maryborough)	Bawa Marigurim Gambay Stand Up Strong Together Program	To improve the mental health and SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, reduce harm and increase safety associated with alcohol and other drug use and reduce rates of suicide.
5	Gunya Meta	Logan	Healing Spirit Together	To break the cycle of low social and emotional wellbeing, reduce the impact of trauma on families and create intergenerational healing through the delivery of culturally sensitive trauma-informed workshops.



Community-Led Project Initiatives (2/2)

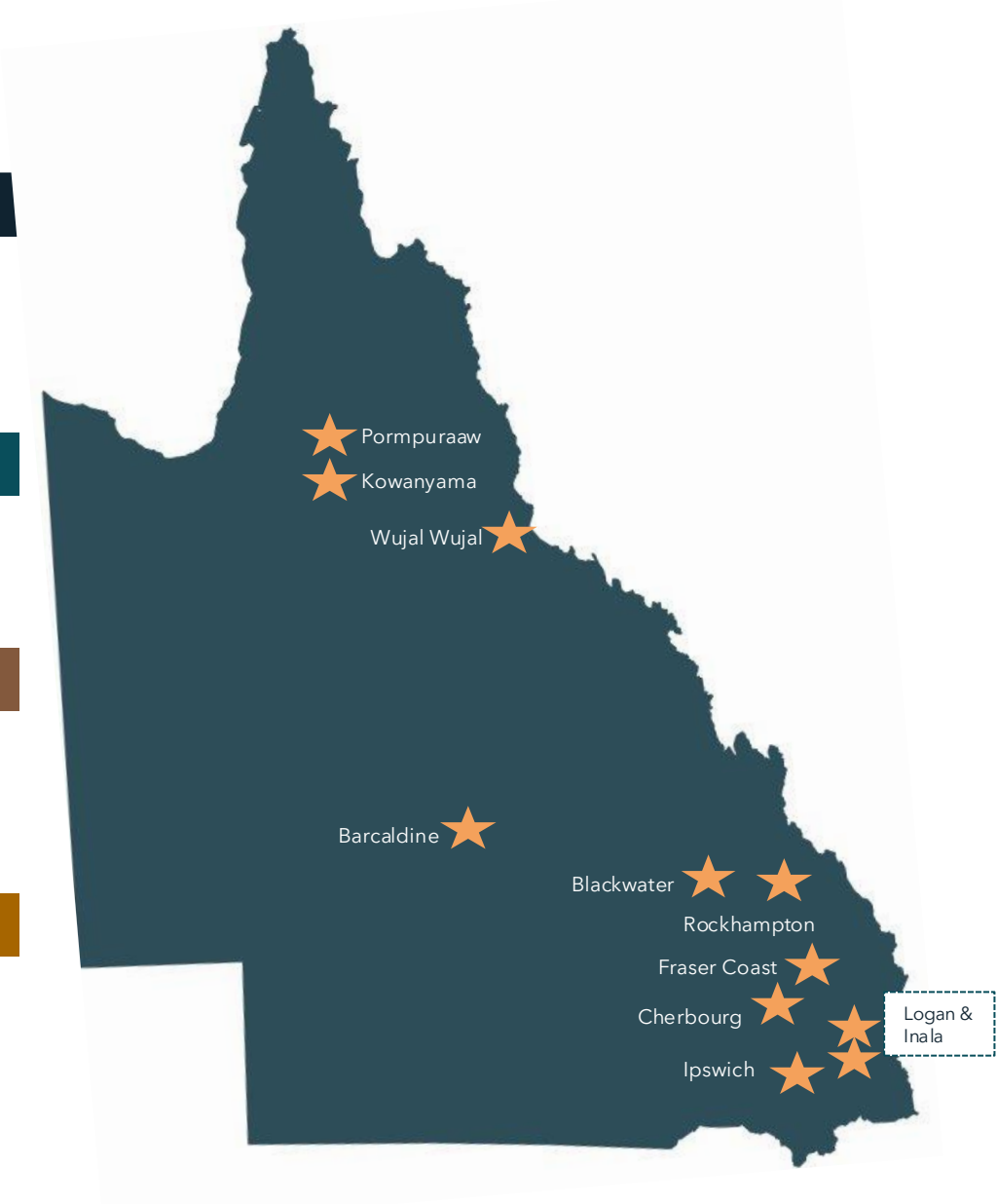
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Project Partner		Location	Initiative	Purpose
6	Inala Wangarra	Inala	Strong Mob Inala SEWB Project	To improve mental health and SEWB and reduce the risk of suicide and self-harm.
7	Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Corporation for Health	Ipswich	Social Health Program	To reconnect individuals with their culture and identity, promote healing and empowerment, as well as equip you with the necessary tools, skills and support to make informed decisions in your life.
8	Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Kowanyama	The Future is in Your Hands	To engage young people living in Kowanyama and enhance their mental health, and SEWB through a range of initiatives and activities including, community engagement, active research, physical activities, healthy choices activities and education - culminating in a co-designed Youth Strategy.
9	Pompur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation	Pormpuraaw	Thrive Together	To enhance the mental health and SEWB of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families by providing culturally appropriate support, counselling services, educational workshops and other activities.
10	Wujal Justice Group Indigenous Inc	Wujal Wujal	Healing On Country Program	To support community members with services and emotional wellbeing programs that reconnect them with Elders, Country and Culture, heal from trauma, reduce drug and alcohol consumption and increase social and emotional wellbeing.



Locations

South-East QLD	
Gunya Meta	Logan
Inala Wangarra	Inala
Kambu Aboriginal Corporation for Health	Ipswich
Central QLD	
Bidgerdii Aboriginal Corporation	Rockhampton, Mt Morgan & Blackwater
Central West Aboriginal Corporation	Barcaldine
Far North QLD	
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Kowanyama
Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation	Pormpuraaw
Wujal Justice Group Indigenous Inc	Wujal Wujal
Wide-Bay-Burnett	
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	Cherbourg
Galangoor Duwulami Aboriginal Corporation	Fraser Coast (Hervey bay & Maryborough)



Evaluation Framework: Four Pillars

The evaluation framework is structured around four pillars that guide the key lines of enquiry and underpin the evaluation questions. Together, these pillars ensure the assessment captures program impact, long-term sustainability, funding design, and the role of community-led solutions.

1. Program & Policy Impact	2. Program Sustainability	3. Funding Design	4. Community-led Solutions
<i>Are initiatives improving outcomes and shaping system reform?</i>	<i>Will initiatives deliver lasting benefits beyond initial funding?</i>	<i>Do funding models enable equity, self-determination, and adaptability?</i>	<i>How do community-led approaches strengthen self-determination and drive system change?</i>
- Measures the extent to which SEWB initiatives deliver meaningful outcomes for First Nations communities. - Assesses improvements in access, Cultural Safety, and effectiveness of help-seeking pathways. - Examines alignment with statewide priorities and the influence of initiatives on equity, policy reform, and broader system change.	- Examines whether initiatives generate sustained outcomes beyond initial funding cycles - Evaluates integration into local systems, workforce capability, and governance structures. - Assesses the strength of community ownership, leadership, and resourcing to support long-term.	- Reviews whether funding processes are accessible, equitable, and responsive to community needs. - Evaluates the Cultural Safety and appropriateness of funding requirements and reporting. - Assesses the extent to which funding models support self-determination and adapt to emerging priorities.	- Examines the depth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in shaping, delivering, and sustaining initiatives. - Assesses alignment with cultural values, local priorities, and governance mechanisms. - Evaluates how community-led approaches strengthen self-determination, influence systems, and create enduring change.



This content is for general information purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for consultation with professional advisors.

At First Nations Co., our purpose is to utilise collective knowledge to enhance outcomes for First Nations communities. We are committed to operating within a cultural framework that leverages collective knowledge to interrogate Western Systems and implement strengths-based approaches for change.

Find out more and share what matters to you by visiting us at www.firstnationsco.com.au

