Call for Expressions of Interest for Regional Case Studies - Round 2

The second round of EOIs are now open for existing stakeholder groups or networks, who have been working to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care at a local or regional level, to participate as 'case studies' for a national evaluation

Background to the Evaluation

The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision (Roadmap) was published by the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) at The University of Melbourne in 2012, following extensive national consultation. The Roadmap made a number of recommendations about what is needed to close the eye health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

A recommendation from the consultations was that activities to improve eye care for Indigenous Australians should happen at a local level, in 'regions' across Australia. Since 2012, the implementation of the Roadmap has supported regional approaches to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye care.

IEH is now evaluating the progress of regional implementation of the Roadmap, to consider if it has been effective, including what sorts of changes are happening at a local and regional level, what has supported these changes and what successes and challenges people working in the area have experienced.

A series of case studies will form part of this evaluation, along with a national survey and key informant interviews.

Ethics and Project Guidance

The evaluation project is being developed through a co-design process with people working in the Indigenous eye care sector and direct guidance is provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Reference Group. The project is overseen by an Evaluation Project Advisory Committee.

Ethics approvals for the project have been received from The University of Melbourne, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee of South Australia, Human Research Ethics Committee of the Northern Territory, Central Australian Human Research Ethics Committee and the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee. Applications are pending with other entities and appropriate local approvals will be sought as required.

'Case study' regions

As part of the evaluation, we are looking for regional groups or networks of stakeholders, who have been working together to identify and address the eye care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within their local or regional area, to participate as 'case studies' for the evaluation.

The aim of the case studies is to explore regional approaches in more detail, to better understand and describe the activities that have been undertaken, the changes that have been seen, the key things that have worked and the challenges involved in improving eye care services and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at a local or regional level. This is also an opportunity for regional groups to share their experiences and learning.

We are looking for 5-7 case studies and would like to have representation of groups and networks from across urban, regional and remote geographical areas and from different states and territories. We are interested to hear from both newer and more established regional stakeholder groups and networks.

What will be involved for case study sites?

Focus Groups - Independent evaluators from **ARTD Consultants** will run a focus group discussion with each of the selected regional networks, between February and April 2021.

The focus group discussion will run for about 2 hours and will likely be held via video due to social-distancing restrictions. In-person focus groups may be arranged, if this is possible and appropriate within the timeframe of the project.

Interviews - There will also be an option for individuals from the group to participate in separate telephone or video interviews with the evaluators, either for those who prefer this, or for the evaluators to follow-up for further information. This will be voluntary and on a case-by-case basis.

Reviewing the report - Members of your stakeholder group will have the opportunity to review a report about your group before it is finalised, to make sure the evaluators have accurately captured what was discussed.

The information will be used to inform the evaluation and the evaluation report will be publicly available at the end of the project, you can choose if you want your group to be identified.

Sharing your stories - Support and opportunities will be offered for regional groups or networks who have participated in this evaluation project to use the regional information gathered to present their stories in future through publications and conference presentations, if they choose to.

How do we express our interest?

Fill out the EOI form below, or available on our website, and email to Tessa.Saunders@unimelb.edu.au by: **Friday 5th February 2021.**

It is important that there is agreement from your regional stakeholder group members and, specifically, that Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations involved in the network provide their agreement to be involved in the evaluation, before submitting an EOI. This is a requirement to participate.

What is the selection process?

Up to 7 sites will be selected, with the aim of getting good representation from across states and territories and different remoteness areas. The committee will also consider selecting sites that represent different models of working and stages of development.

Groups will be contacted via their key contacts for further information if it is needed.

Depending on the local requirements for the selected regions, additional ethics approvals or site approvals may be needed before the focus groups can start. If this is the case, we will seek letters of support from the organisations participating in the regional network to support the applications.

Once all approvals are received, the evaluators will contact you to make arrangements for the focus group. They will try to arrange a time that aligns with a planned stakeholder meeting if that is possible.

Consent to participate in the focus group will be required from each individual group member, this will be explained by the evaluators.

How do we find out more?

For full details visit the evaluation page on our website here

For more information about the EOI or the evaluation contact Tessa.Saunders@unimelb.edu.au

Application Form

Expression of Interest for Regional Case Studies

Please read the information sheet before completing this form. The information sheet can be accessed on the evaluation section of the IEH website and by **clicking here.**

Please email completed forms to Tessa.Saunders@unimelb.edu.au by 5th February 2021.

Details for key contacts for this EOI
The people that we can contact for further information and to advise of the outcome of the EOI

Main contact:	**Alternative contact (optional):**
Full name	Full name
Email address	Email address
Phone number	Phone number
Role in group (e.g. Chair)	Role in group

Name of regional group or network
Area that your network or group focuses on. For example – The North Western Sydney Aboriginal Eye Health Stakeholder Group

State/Territory

Geographical remoteness area the stakeholder group covers

Urban/metro   Regional/rural   Remote/very remote

How long has your stakeholder group been working together for?

Less than 2 years   2 years or more

Have stakeholders involved in the group agreed to express interest as a case study?

Yes   No   Some

Have the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations who are part of the stakeholder group agreed to express interest as a case study?
It is a requirement for any regional group participating in the evaluation to ensure support is provided by the community-controlled organisations involved

Yes   No   Some

Please list all organisations that are members of the group or network: