

Targeted Early Intervention Evaluation - Sector Engagement

Overview of the TEI Evaluation

The Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has engaged Taylor Fry in partnership with Social Ventures Australia (SVA) and Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources (G.U.I.R.) (the evaluation team) to undertake an evaluation of the Targeted Early Intervention (TEI) program.

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the overall impact of the TEI program and build the evidence base to inform the evolution of the TEI program and the commissioning process planned for 2025. The evaluation will also provide evidence of the efficacy of programs under each stream of TEI to support funding decisions, as well as identify areas and strategies for program improvement.

The proposed methodology is a mixed-methods approach which comprises three parts, and it is as follows:

- **Process evaluation** – to assess how well the overall TEI program was designed, including splitting the program into two program streams.
- **Outcomes evaluation** – to assess to what extent did TEI achieve its vision and objectives in the short, medium, and long term.
- **Economic evaluation** – to assess to what extent did the TEI program represent value for money and deliver economic benefits to the community and government.

Key Deliverables for the evaluation are as follows:

- 1 September 2023 – TEI Evaluation interim report is due.
- 1 May 2024- TEI Evaluation final report is due
- 1 June 2024 – Endorsement of the final report

Opportunities for Involvement

As the sector that delivers TEI services, you play an integral role in the TEI evaluation. DCJ appreciates that service providers have a unique and significant understanding around how well the TEI program functions and what changes need to occur to the program to ensure greater benefit for families, young people and children. This knowledge is invaluable, and it is essential for the evaluation that it is adequately captured, so that changes can be made to improve the TEI program.

All TEI service providers will be provided the opportunity to provide input into the evaluation via a survey. In some cases, service providers will also be asked to take part in interviews with the evaluation team. Due to quantity of TEI service providers, there will be limits on how many service providers the evaluation team can interview. Interviewees will be selected by the evaluation team to capture a diverse selection of service providers across different geographical locations.

You can choose whether or not to participate in any of these evaluation activities. There will be no consequence to your organisation whether you choose to participate or not.

Below is a timeframe of anticipated stakeholder consultations:

Date	Engagement and discussion opportunities
Approximately July - September 2023	<p>Service Provider Surveys - An online survey will be distributed to all service providers to gain insights and perspectives on both TEI processes and TEI outcomes.</p> <p>Each service provider will be asked to choose one person to complete the survey (in cases where a service provider organisation has more than one TEI contract, the service provider may submit one survey response per contract, choosing the most appropriate person to respond in relation to each).</p>
Approximately October – December 2023	<p>Deep dive case studies - During the initial research phase and development of the interim report, the evaluation team will identify significant themes that need to be explored in more depth. Each deep dive will have a targeted focus on a theme, which may be about location, program activity or cohort.</p> <p>For each deep dive case study, service providers as well as clients will be invited to take part in additional interviews and surveys.</p> <p>If your service falls into one of the deep dive topics, you will be contacted in Quarter 3, 2023 with further information about the focus and process for participation.</p>

*Please note that the above timeframes may be subject to change.

In addition to the above, DCJ will participate in sector forums and events to provide updates and engage in discussions about the evaluation as the project progresses. We will provide further updates as these opportunities eventuate. Additionally, regular sector consultation briefings on the evaluation will occur through TEI Inform Newsletters and DCJ’s Targeted Early Intervention Website.

What has occurred to date

To date, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Establishment of the Aboriginal Reference Group - made up of 10 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including AbSec, who will provide ongoing cultural guidance.
- Establishment of DCJ Aboriginal Advisory Group- This group consists of Aboriginal DCJ employees from across District Commissioning and Planning teams and Transforming Aboriginal

Outcomes. The role of this group will be to act in parallel to the external Aboriginal Reference Group.

- An ethics application was submitted to the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW.
- Analysis of TEI data held on the Data Exchange has commenced.
- Accessing Human Services Dataset - The evaluation team have applied to seek access to the Human Services Dataset (HSDS).
- Design Workshop –The objective of the design workshop was to help the evaluation team map out short to long term chains of outcomes they should expect to see from TEI and to add additional depth of understanding to existing program logics.
- Interviews with Peaks, DCJ Central and DCJ Districts – In April, the evaluation team commenced interviewing key personnel, from DCJ Central, Peaks and DCJ Districts, who have had an integral role in the development and/or ongoing delivery of the TEI program.

If you have any questions regarding the evaluation, please email the TEI inbox at TEI@fac.s.nsw.gov.au