

NSW Treasury

Introducing the First Nations Investment Framework

Presentation to the Economic Society of Australia Cost Benefit Analysis Forum


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First Nations Economic Wellbeing

8 August 2024




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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



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Overview

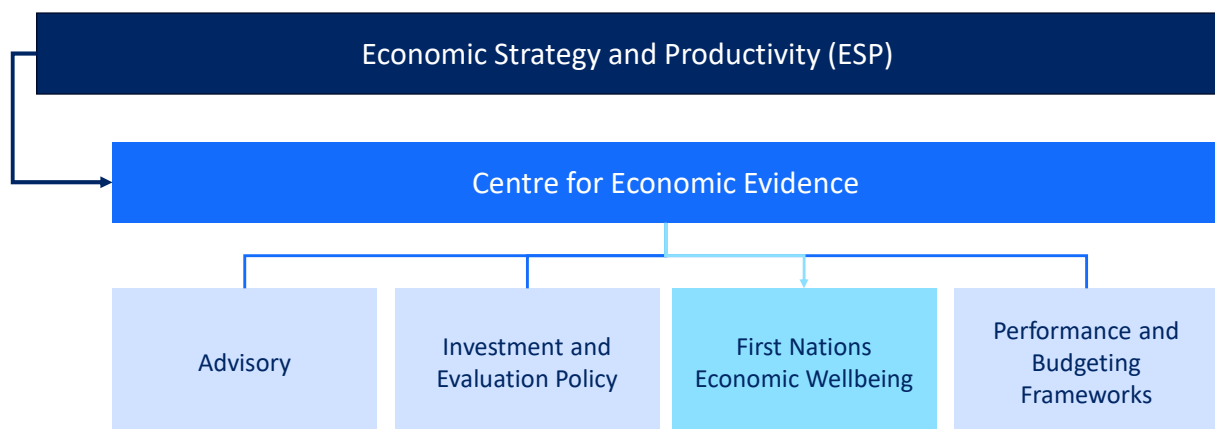


- 1) Introduction to our branch
- 2) First Nations Investment Framework – a new TPG
- 3) Our research on, and guidance for, CBA
- 4) Discussion / questions

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About our branch



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Our mission



Supporting the NSW Government's core business practices and ways of working to integrate First Nations values, perspectives and aspirations

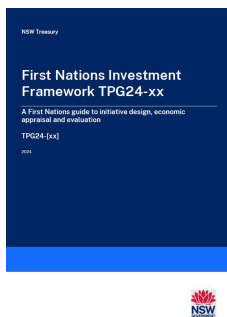


Lifting the evidence base available for NSW Government to better identify and prioritise 'what works'

Our work



Evidence



Data reform



NSW First Nations Business Sector Report

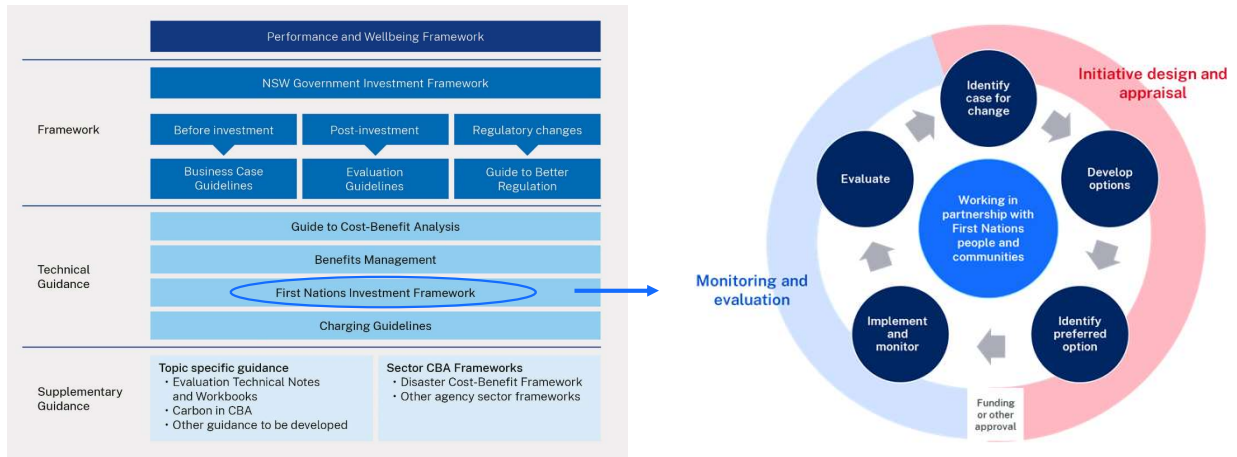


First Nations Women's Economic Participation





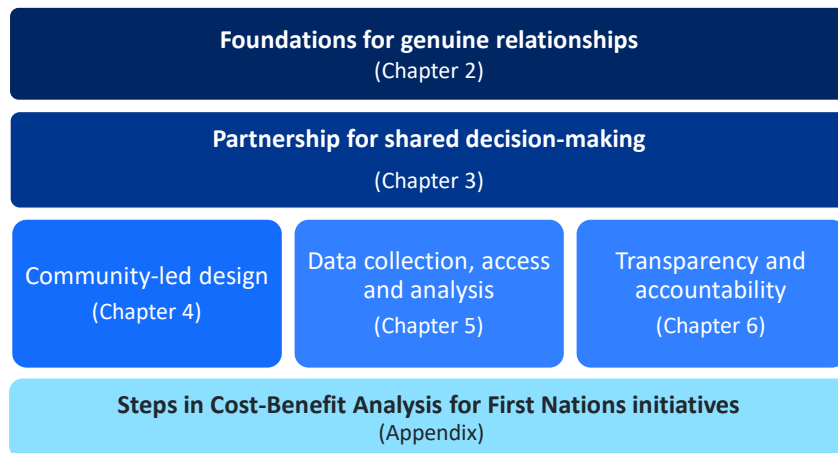
First Nations Investment Framework TPG



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Framework structure



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Research stage - publications



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.

[Read the paper at this link.](#)



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.

[Read the paper at this link.](#)

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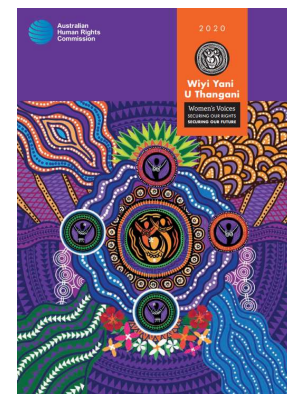
A prelude for thinking about culture in the context of CBA



“Culture is a concept difficult to articulate, because it is, as the women on Murray Island said, ‘everything’ ...

Culture is the English word used to capture a diverse range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional practices and our many contemporary ways of expressing ourselves, all of which can vary considerably across Australia.

Culture, in this broad and sometimes simplistic usage can hide and diminish the many aspects of our cultural practices, while also making us, as a peoples and societies, seem unchanging.”



June Oscar AO, Bunuba woman, former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

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Exploring the evidence

Table 1: Cultural domains and sub-domains linked to First Nations health and wellbeing

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Connection to Country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spiritual connection living on Country land rights and autonomy caring for Country | Indigenous beliefs and knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spiritual and religious beliefs traditional knowledge traditional healing knowledge transmission and continuity | Indigenous language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts of language on health language revitalisation language education |
| Family, kinship and community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> family and kinship community | Cultural expression and continuity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identity traditional practices arts and music community practices sport | Self-determination and leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cultural safety self-determination and wellbeing leadership |

Source: Salmon et al. 2019.

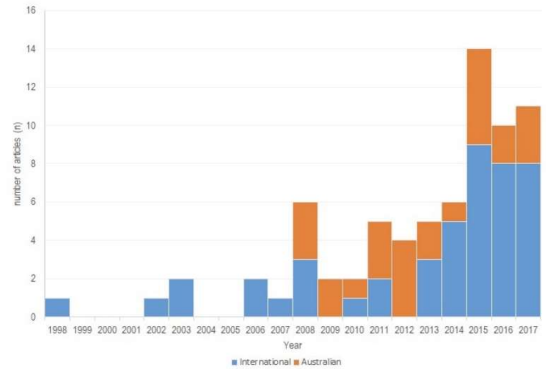


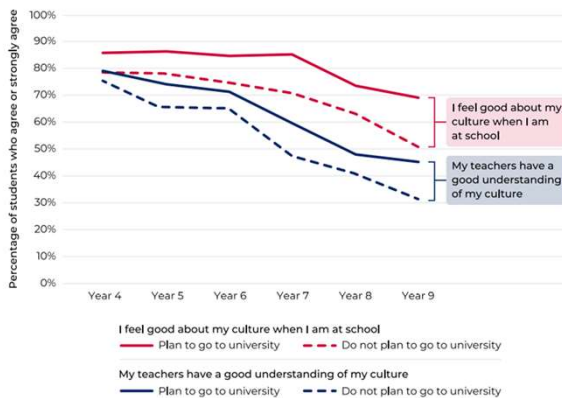
Figure 2: Number of Publications on Health and Culture Relationships by Year and Location, 1998-2017
Source: Authors 2018

Source: Bourke & Wright (2018)



Australian examples

Feeling good about culture at school



Source: Tell Them From Me student survey.

Articles

Effect of a Birthing on Country service redesign on maternal and neonatal health outcomes for First Nations Australians: a prospective, non-randomised, interventional trial

Summary
There is an urgency to reduce unacceptable maternal and infant health outcomes for First Nations Australians. A multidisciplinary partnership between two Aboriginal Community-controlled health services and a tertiary hospital to deliver a culturally safe, respectful, and evidence-based birthing on Country service. In this study, we aimed to assess and report the clinical effectiveness of the BOC service on the maternal and infant health outcomes compared with that of standard care.

Introduction
Pregnant women attending the Mater Mothers Public Hospital (Mater MPPH), Australia who were having a First Nations baby were offered access to the BOC service. In this prospective, non-randomised, interventional trial of the service, we compared maternal and infant health outcomes for women who attended a health centre or Aboriginal Medical Centre. Participants were offered either standard care services or the BOC service. Prospective primary outcomes to test the effectiveness of the BOC service versus standard care were the proportion of women attending for or more antenatal visits, smoking after 20 weeks of gestation, who had a positive birth (Apgar 10), who also were exclusively breastfeeding at discharge from hospital. We used binary probability of maternal engagement, binary outcomes and odds ratios to measure effect. This trial is registered with the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry: ACTRN1261800030337.

Findings
Between Jan 1, 2017, and Jun 30, 2019, 1007 First Nations babies were born at the Mater Mothers Public Hospital. After exclusions, 1022 women received either standard care (502 participants) or the BOC service (520 participants) and were included in the analysis. Women attending the BOC service were more likely to attend for more antenatal visits (adjusted odds ratio 1.24, 95% CI 1.13-1.37, p=0.004), less likely to have an infant born premature (0.62, 95% CI 0.42-0.92, p=0.019), and more likely to exclusively breastfeed on discharge from hospital (2.14, 95% CI 1.70-2.70, p=0.001). No difference was found between the two groups for smoking after 20 weeks of gestation, with both showing reductions compared with smoking levels reported at first hospital booking visit.

Interpretation
This study has shown the clinical effectiveness of the BOC service, which was redesigned by stakeholders and supported by birthing on Country principles. The integrated nature of the new service should be prioritised. Dedicated funding, knowledge translation, and implementation science are needed to ensure all First Nations families can access birthing on Country services that are adapted for their specific contexts.

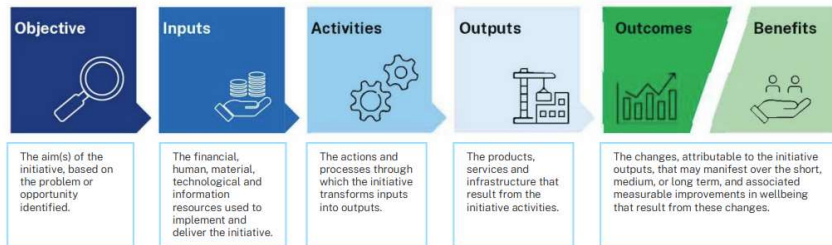
Findings
Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

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Introduction
While little improvement is seen in health outcomes, primary care urgently needs to reduce unacceptable maternal and infant health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (collectively called First Nations) women and children. A key priority is to improve the health and wellbeing of women and children, with a focus on the reproductive health, education, and employment outcomes between First Nations individuals and their families. More (WHO) 2020 health care professionals, clinical researchers, and culturally safe practitioners training services with impact on the health and wellbeing of First Nations people.

So far, CBAs tend to assess culture qualitatively

Figure 4: Culture as both an input and outcome in a program logic



Culture is embedded in the initiative, as self-determined by the community.
 This could include cultural knowledge, customs, practices, or a culturally safe environment based on truth and healing.

This can build a stronger connection to culture and improve other economic, social, or environmental outcomes.

Challenges to navigate:

- Ensuring cultural appropriateness in non-market valuation
- Benefit transfer

Source: Adapted from NSW Treasury 2023a.

Opportunities to improve current practice

- 1) Genuine partnership from early stages
- 2) CBA specific methodological guidance
- 3) Investment in research, outcome evaluations and ex-post CBAs



Mayi Kuwayu Study

The Mayi Kuwayu Study is controlled by Aboriginal researchers at the Australian National University. In Ngyampaa language, 'Mayi Kuwayu' means to follow Aboriginal people over time.
 We want to understand how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture links to health and wellbeing. We have worked with many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to make this survey.

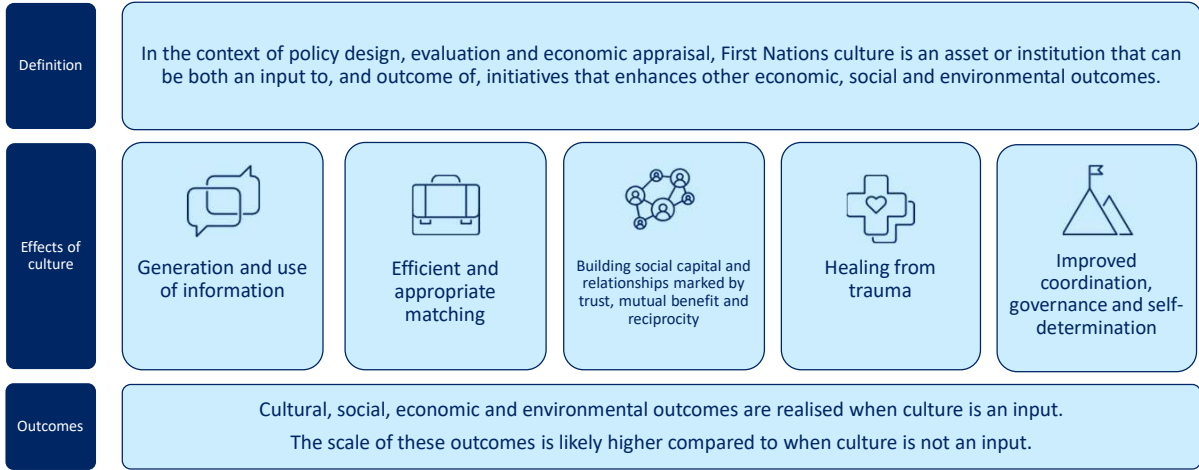
We invite you to complete this survey to help us understand how culture links to health and wellbeing. So that we can follow your health over time, we ask you to fill out the Mayi Kuwayu survey every few years, and to have your Mayi Kuwayu survey connected to other health information about you.

To do this survey over the phone, call: 1800 531 600 (free call).

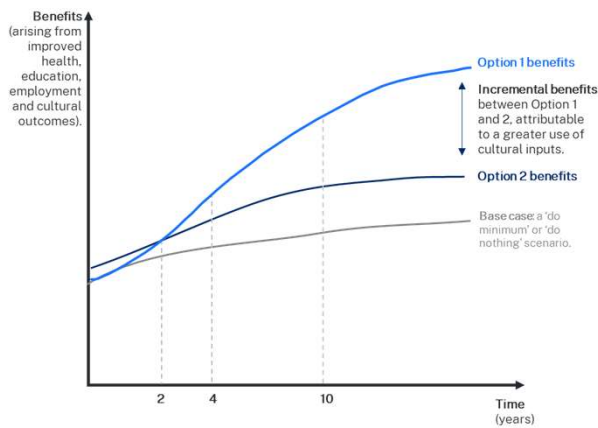
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Introducing the economic framework of culture



Worked example – land management

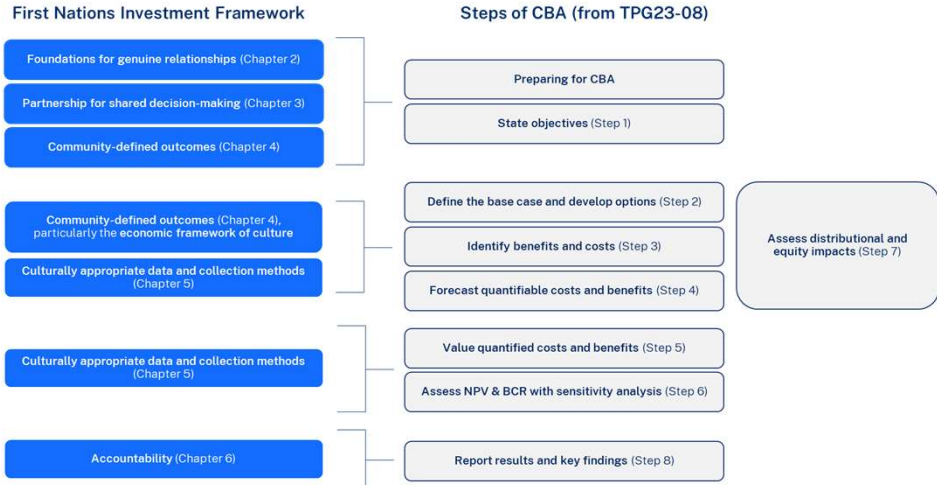


Option 1: investment in First Nations community-controlled organisations to run land management projects

Option 2: creating new First Nations identified positions within government land management agencies



Summary - applying the Framework to CBA



Questions or comments