

## Monitoring and evaluation of the CRE-IQI as an innovation platform

Due to the inherent challenges with evaluating complex networks (such as an innovation platform) we have designed a mixed-methods, multi-pronged evaluation. We are employing three evaluation approaches to learning about the establishment, functioning and outcomes of the CRE-IQI as an innovation platform:

- + Network evaluation
- + Economic and impact assessment
- + Developmental evaluation.

The evaluation of the CRE-IQI as an innovation platform has international relevance, and will make a unique contribution, because of the paucity of well-conducted evaluative research on innovation platforms in the peer-reviewed literature.

The evaluation group has Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-leadership and comprises: Ross Bailie, Roxanne Bainbridge, Jodie Bailie, Veronica Matthews, Frances Cunningham, Andrew Searle, Chris Doran, Shanthi Ramanathan, Alison Laycock and Boyd Potts.

Here we briefly describe the evaluation approaches, progress to date and key messages emerging from the evaluations so far.

### Network evaluation

#### Aim

**To assess how well the CRE-IQI is working as a collaborative network, over its lifespan, to strengthen integrated continuous quality improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC) systems.**

#### Overview

The evaluation will examine how well the CRE-IQI is functioning both from a network governance perspective and from a social network analysis perspective. The latter will assist in identifying the underlying network of relationships in the collaboration that people rely on to find information and to solve problems. This approach is being undertaken to evaluate network governance and the collaborative aspects of the CRE-IQI via two linked surveys of network members, covering feedback from members and network relationship questions. The first survey was conducted midway through the CRE-IQI implementation and the second will occur in 2019.

#### Outputs to date

- + Ethics approval granted.
- + Survey 1 conducted in late 2017 to early 2018.
- + A paper from the Audit and Best Practice for Chronic Disease (ABCD) National Research Partnership network published in June 2018.
- + A report of findings from Survey 1 disseminated. Qualitative feedback and results of the social network analysis indicate good performance for the CRE-IQI both as an innovation platform and in achieving its aims from the perspective of its members. Network data analysis showed a high incidence of information sharing and collaboration, both within and outside of collaborating partners, and engagement with CRE-IQI bi-annual meetings and other events.
- + A workshop held at the May 2018 bi-annual meeting to discuss the translation of findings.
- + A set of recommendations and an action list for strengthening the CRE-IQI's collaborative network have been developed

#### Key messages

- + To expand the representation of the CRE-IQI network.
- + To encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-leadership, representation and ways of working.
- + To strengthen connectivity, both within the existing network and the extending network of new members.
- + To convene a national workshop, policy thinktank or a CQI collaborative event (modelled on the Northern Territory CQI Collaboratives) to progress the national agenda on CQI in Indigenous PHC.
- + To increase cross-promotion and communication about the CRE-IQI.
- + To provide better support to health services through targeting CRE-IQI research towards their needs, supporting them in their research interests, and involving their staff in capacity building activities.
- + To build on the strengths of the CRE-IQI collaborative network by setting network development goals and encouraging more promotion.

<i>Project team</i>	Frances Cunningham (Team Leader) <sup>1</sup> , Boyd Potts <sup>1</sup>
<i>Project status</i>	Current
<i>Dates</i>	2015 – 2019
<i>Further information</i>	Dr Frances Cunningham <b>T</b> +61 7 3169 4219 <b>E</b> frances.cunningham@menzies.edu.au

<sup>1</sup> Menzies School of Health Research (Charles Darwin University)

## Economic and impact assessment

### Aim

To evaluate five selected CRE-IQI Flagship projects, using the 'Framework to Assess the Impact of Translational health research (FAIT)'

### Overview

This evaluation approach uses a comprehensive, mixed-methods, four-phase design to evaluate the selected projects, and incorporates a process evaluation to understand researchers' experience of the framework. The assessment measures impact using three proven methods – payback, economic evaluation and narratives – to encourage research translation and assess the wider impact of research. There is scope in the FAIT to customise the domains being used to assess impact based on the focus of each Flagship project.

### Outputs to date

- + Ethics approval granted.
- + A protocol paper published in October 2017.
- + Program logic models and metric spreadsheets collaboratively developed with each project team. The models identify key activities and completed or anticipated outputs and outcomes from each of the other five Flagship projects.
- + Interviews contributing to the project narratives conducted with key members of each project team. The narratives will detail the pathway to impact, any unanticipated outcomes of the research, and document non-quantifiable impacts.
- + Ongoing work to develop costing models for each Flagship project.
- + The preliminary findings from the impact assessment of the ABCD National Research Partnership project presented at the PHCRIS Primary Health Care Research Conference in Melbourne in August 2018.
- + Economic and impact assessments of other selected projects are in progress.

### Key messages

Preliminary findings indicate that the ABCD Partnership had significant impacts on knowledge advancement, capacity building, economic benefits and policy and legislation in the field of CQI in Indigenous primary health care; moderate impacts on practice change; and limited impacts in terms of community benefit (i.e. health outcomes). The latter proved the most challenging domain to evidence.

<i>Project team</i>	Andrew Searles (Team Leader) <sup>1</sup> , Chris Doran <sup>2</sup> , Shanthy Ramanathan <sup>1</sup>
<i>Project status</i>	Current
<i>Dates</i>	2016 – July 2019
<i>Further information</i>	Professor Andrew Searles <b>T</b> +61 2 4042 0669 <b>E</b> andrew.searles@hmri.org.au

1 Hunter Medical Research Institute      2 Central Queensland University

## Developmental evaluation

### Aim

To synthesise and apply lessons from the CRE-IQI's establishment, functioning and outcomes based on its action learning cycle.

### Overview

Use of a developmental evaluation approach has allowed real-time feedback and adjustments to be made to the formation and functioning of the CRE-IQI since its establishment. It ensures that there is ongoing adaptive development and improvement in the effectiveness of the CRE-IQI as the research program progresses. Developmental evaluation concepts are being applied in practice at the CRE-IQI through a range of operational aspects including the CRE Management Committee and the bi-annual face-to-face meetings. Every opportunity is taken to draw on participant feedback at different levels of the CRE-IQI to inform its operations, work programs and future directions.

### Outputs to date

- + Ethics approval granted.
- + A peer-reviewed publication that conceptualises and defines innovation platforms in the CRE-IQI context.
- + A refined format for the face-to-face meetings.
- + Development and implementation of the Research capacity strengthening principle of 'All teach, all learn' across CRE-IQI activities, including bi-annual meetings and masterclasses.
- + Increased and varied strategies to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-leadership and participation.
- + Support for pursuing innovative ideas and processes emerging from the CRE-IQI research.
- + Dissemination of a monthly electronic newsletter.
- + Development of a research translation strategy.
- + The employment of a Research Translation Fellow.

### Key messages

The Year 2 and Year 4 Reviews of the CRE-IQI are important developmental evaluation activities. By collating our progress to date, along with key messages, assessment and feedback from external reviewers, they encourage adaptation and reflection among the CRE-IQI team. The developmental evaluation of the CRE-IQI is also the PhD topic of Team Leader Jodie Bailie.

Our experience suggests that developmental evaluation is an appropriate approach for supporting the continued evolution of the CRE-IQI as an Innovation Platform.

<i>Project team</i>	Jodie Bailie (Team Leader) <sup>1</sup> , Alison Laycock <sup>1</sup>
<i>Project status</i>	Current
<i>Dates</i>	2015 – 2019
<i>Further information</i>	Jodie Bailie <b>T</b> +61 2 6629 4171 <b>E</b> jodie.bailie@sydney.edu.au

1 University Centre for Rural Health (University of Sydney)