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| **Title of Research Presentation** Reframing evaluation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health towards a health equity perspective |
| **Background/Objectives**Research and evaluation are recognised as essential aspects in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy and practice. However, there is concern from community, evaluators and government that the evaluation of programs addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing does not always deliver promised benefits. Moreover, increasing health equity is rarely an explicitly stated goal of evaluation. The current paper describes the development of a coherent framework that guides the evaluation of policies, programs and services to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. **Methods**In order to develop an evaluation framework, a comprehensive review of peer-reviewed literature, evaluation reports and tender documents was conducted. All evaluation reports, tender documents and peer reviewed articles reports were reviewed with regards to ethics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research principles. The review period was from 2007-2017 and included 81 peer reviewed articles and 390 publicly advertised evaluations. The findings of the evaluation and a subsequent workshop informed the development of the framework.**Results**Only 5 per cent of tender documents and 33 per cent of evaluation reports were able to be obtained. All Australian governments have developed principles for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; however, these are often not reflected in evaluations. In order to improve the benefits of evaluation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, a 2-part evaluation framework was developed outlining what to evaluate and how to evaluate. The project highlights the importance of examining evaluative practice as a whole and identifying systemic barriers to its use in improving practice.**Discussion**Overall, the project found a high level of recognition of limitations of current practice from a range of perspectives. The will to improve practice was reflected in positive initiatives to address these limitations. However, there was also recognition that systemic change is required to fully implement the changes required to improve the benefits of evaluation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The framework aims to ensure that delivering benefit to community is an explicit goal in the conduct of evaluations as well as a standard element of evaluations in addition to the policies, programs and services that are being evaluated. This will ensure a greater focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in governance, agenda-setting and capacity building. **Keywords**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health; evaluation; equity |