

OCHRE Evaluation | Stage 1: Implementation and early outcomes

Campbelltown mw.1011 T2o.

Research Team

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The Social Policy Research Centre is based in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences at UNSW Sydney. This report is an output of the OCHRE Evaluation, funded by Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

1 Introduction

The Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW Australia (the research team) have been contracted by Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Department of Education, to conduct an evaluation of OCHRE including the Campbelltown Opportunity Hub (the Opportunity Hub). OCHRE is the community-focused plan for Aboriginal affairs in NSW.

The evaluation will be based on the principles of decolonising research, consistent with the underlying philosophy of OCHRE to facilitate the self-determination of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. For more information on the approach see Section 3.1 of the OCHRE Evaluation Plan: Overview and Stage 1.

This plan sets out how the first stage of the evaluation of the Opportunity Hub will be conducted. This is an abridged version of the detailed data collection plan developed and approved by the community. For more information on this stage of the evaluation, see Section 5 of the OCHRE Evaluation Plan: Overview and Stage 1. This plan identifies key stakeholders, what local community view as success and how it might be measured (where identified), method and timing of data collection.

2 About the Campbelltown Opportunity Hub

The Campbelltown Opportunity Hub is one of four state government funded initiative Opportunity Hubs operating in NSW. It opened its doors in March 2014 and is run by MTC Australia, based at Queen Street, Campbelltown. The Opportunity Hub coordinates and matches training and career opportunities with Aboriginal students, providing incentives to finish school and transition into tertiary study and sustainable jobs.

The Opportunity Hub works closely with community, schools, industry and employers, tertiary institutions and other NGOs to deliver cultural programs; career aspiration, education and planning; resilience and confidence building; and life skills programs and activities.

As at August 2017 there were 35 schools participating in the Campbelltown Opportunity Hub. More information on the Opportunity Hub can be found here <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/ochre-a-continuing-conversation/about-the-communities-involved>.

3 Ethics and permissions

On 9 August 2016, ethics approval was received from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council Human Research Ethics Committee (AH&MRC HREC). For further information, see Section 5.3.3 of the OCHRE Evaluation Plan: Overview and Stage 1.

Between May and August 2016, the research team received approval from Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), and MTC Australia to continue the conversation with the Aboriginal community in Campbelltown about the Opportunity Hub.

In September 2017, the NSW Department of Education, through the State Education Research Applications Process (SERAP), provided permission for the research team to talk to staff and students in Year 8 and above, within the school grounds, with the consent of the Principal.

4 Gathering information

Dharawal Country covers a large area from the southern and south-western Sydney area from the south side of Botany Bay, around Port Hacking to the north of the Shoalhaven River (Nowra), and extending inland west to Campbelltown and Camden.

The Opportunity Hub footprint covers the Campbelltown area only, a small part of Dharawal Country. Aboriginal interests in the Campbelltown area are represented through the Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation and the Tharawal LALC. The Tharawal LALC covers an area larger than the Opportunity Hub footprint, encompassing the local council boundaries of the Campbelltown, Wollondilly, Camden and Liverpool Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The SPRC team respectfully acknowledge that people from many Aboriginal nations live in the Opportunity Hub footprint area, and that the Opportunity Hub works with peoples of

- The Opportunity Hub, including the General Manager, Coordinator, Youth Advisors (MTC Australia) and the Opportunity Hub Advisory Board
- NSW Government, including the Director, Department of Industry; Aboriginal Affairs NSW, and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)
- Other employment program providers, including the NRL School to Work, AFL School to Work, Ability Options employment, and the Aboriginal Employment Strategy
- Participating school communities, including Principals, Aboriginal Education Officers, students in Year 8 and above and parents/carers (both those participating and not participating in any Opportunity Hub program)
- Non-participating school communities includes Principals, students and parents/carers
- Industry groups includes Hutchison Builders, Australian Army
- Other stakeholders, such as NSW TAFE.

4.2.1 Who will participate in the conversation?

The table below indicates the range of people we hope to have conversations with and how they may be approached. We aim to have conversations with around 60 people.

Stakeholder group

