

Deadly Innovation Evaluation

BACKGROUND

From July to December 2022, Nous Group conducted an evaluation of Deadly Innovation to understand its success and effectiveness and to inform the way the Queensland Government supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. This document shares the evaluation's key findings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nous Group acknowledges the work, input and contributions that Indigenous people, businesses and communities across Queensland have made through Deadly Innovation towards supporting this evaluation.

DEADLY INNOVATION IS A RANGE OF INVESTMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES INCLUDING:

BACKING CHANGE AGENTS

to deliver projects that create wealth and self-determination in community.

BUILDING CAPABILITY

through supporting access to training and learning pathways, including scholarships, training programs and mentoring that lead to real jobs.

INFLUENCING OTHERS

to create shared success across government, industry, investors and Indigenous innovators, businesses and communities by shaping policies and practices and building collaboration.

CO-DESIGNED WITH INDIGENOUS INNOVATORS AND BUSINESS LEADERS

The Deadly Innovation Strategy was co-designed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Business and Innovation Reference Group (BIRG) alongside other key stakeholders.

The Deadly Innovation Strategy outlines a culturally responsive approach to engaging with, supporting, and partnering with Indigenous communities, businesses and innovators to create jobs and generate wealth. The Strategy identified three critical actions for DTIS:

SHARE
opportunities and supports with Indigenous businesses and their communities

HEAR
from Indigenous voices through authentic engagement

ACTIVATE
communities and businesses through change agents and empowering self-determination

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE DELIVERY

RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST WERE KEYS TO SUCCESS

The below four key elements were critical to achieving the strong relationships between government and Indigenous communities, businesses and innovators:

MOVING AT THE SPEED OF TRUST

Investing time in building personal and genuine cultural relationships at both the individual and community level.

BUILDING MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Shared high expectations between government and participants to make and fulfil commitments.

ACTIVATING CHANGE AGENTS

Recognising and empowering change agents and champions within communities to build coalitions of the willing and drive shared success.

MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE AT

Supporting innovators, businesses and communities on the ground with the support that they wanted.

*"We are looking to the future - it feels like there are people around us supporting us, that believe in us and are supporting us in our journey."
- Program participant from Deadly Innovation*

*"I never would have dreamed that I could become a successful business owner, let alone be competitive in a med tech space that is not commonly occupied by Indigenous people, particularly Indigenous women."
- Deadly Deals recipient*

*The sense of cultural safety flowed from the pride of staff in the work they do, their ability to be able to talk in both yarning and educating terms, and through open and honest conversations."
- Deadly Innovation grant recipient*

COMMUNITY-FIRST APPROACH

Support went directly to Indigenous innovators, businesses and communities to create jobs, generate wealth and grow confidence and skills to engage in innovation.

\$1m

Funding for Indigenous business, innovators and communities to grow their businesses

100+

Businesses and innovators supported and trained in core business and innovation skills

50+

Jobs created and supported with more forecast to come

51

Scholarships supported Indigenous students to study at TAFE

CASE STUDY: ACTIVATING AUSTRALIA'S FIRST COMMUNITY-OWNED SERVICE CENTRE

Deadly Innovation helped establish Australia's first community-owned and operated not-for-profit Service Centre in Cherbourg. The Service Centre supports Fujitsu and other large clients as a full-service contact centre providing phone and IT support to customers.

The Service Centre has created more than 10 jobs in Cherbourg, with more on the way following strong interest from industry and government.

Through training for its staff, the Service Centre provides career pathways in technology and digital skills related roles.

*"The service centre has shown to me that I can do something that I never had the self-belief or confidence to do. I never thought I could be a part of this digital job and it has meant so much to me."
- Service centre employee*

