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National Evaluation Of The Second Round Of The Coordinated Care Trials – Indigenous And Mainstream Health Outcome Evaluation Overview.

Abstract

In this paper we present aspects of the national evaluation framework for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing's Second Round of the Coordinated Care Trials (CCT2), an initiative that involves two mainstream and three Indigenous trials. The goal of CCT2 is to provide additional benefits to clients and communities through coordination and integration of care and effective use of resources. This goal is to be achieved by adopting either or both of the following two innovative approaches:

- implementing a whole of population approach to improve access and delivery of primary health care services, as well as improvements to the coordination of care for the community in general; and
- focusing on the coordination of care for those with various degree of complex chronic conditions.

The overall evaluation question is: compared with existing care, does coordinated care improve service delivery and outcomes for communities and participants? To answer this question our evaluation framework has been informed by lessons learned from the evaluation of the First Round of the Coordinated Care Trials¹ and a range of methods drawn from best research practice. This paper will focus specifically on:

- the evaluation design of the individual and group level outcome evaluation components;
- the process of tailoring the evaluation framework to be applicable to both mainstream and indigenous populations; and
- the methodological rigour of the evaluation.

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¹ Australian Coordinated Care Trials: Reflections and lessons, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.