Reviewer’s report

Title: Using developmental evaluation to support knowledge translation: Reflections from a large-scale quality improvement project in Indigenous primary health care

Version: 0 Date: 27 May 2019

Reviewer: Edoardo Aromataris

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present a descriptive paper describing their experience with using developmental evaluation (DE) to support the implementation of an interactive dissemination strategy focused on engaging stakeholders with aggregated CQI data from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC) services with the ultimate aim of identifying evidence practice gaps and further strategies for improvement.

Overall the paper is well written and describes a complex scenario well. I have a few minor comments.

It appears the only stakeholders involved were health care providers. This may have been a necessitated by the online components of both the ESP (program) and evaluation. Some comment would be ideal re if there was opportunity to involve clients/patients and the likely benefits or drawbacks of doing so in this DE process.

It is unclear whether the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC services were community controlled (ACCHOS) or not (AMS), or in fact if both types of organisations were included? The difference has some influence on principles, systems, and the scope of care provided in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC. Some comment re whether the experience here is applicable (particularly with regards to the future) to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC settings would be ideal.

There are remarkable differences in the size, resources (infrastructure and workforce), demographics, geography and range of service delivery across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care. Barriers to the ESP in one setting may not be issues in another. Were these differences encountered across sites/settings involved and how did the DE process accommodate these potentially vast differences in context. Some elaboration would be ideal.

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