



Australian Government

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

AUSTRALIA'S COMMERCIAL KAVA PILOT



In Australia

The Australian Government Department of Health (the Department) has commissioned the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) and Ninti One Limited, an Indigenous owned organisation, to monitor and evaluate the kava pilot. The evaluation will assess the health, social, cultural and economic effects of the pilot on the Australian community, particularly in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Pacific Islander communities.

The Department is working closely with jurisdictions to ensure a coordinated and collaborative effort and has established a Monitoring and Evaluation Project Reference Group to assist NDARC and Ninti One on key elements of the evaluation, including how the pilot is working in each jurisdiction. The Project Reference Group will continue to meet regularly throughout the pilot.

To determine the impact of the kava pilot in Australia, NDARC and Ninti One will be utilising a mixed methods evaluation approach, drawing on both qualitative and quantitative measures. Specific evaluation methods will include community surveys and focus groups; interviews with key stakeholders; analysis of routinely collected data; and health economic methods.

NDARC and Ninti One will report on the evaluation regularly, including through formal progress reports to the Department on a six-monthly basis. The final report, due in mid-2023, will detail key findings on the health, social, cultural and economic effects of the pilot.

In the Pacific

Kava makes a significant contribution to rural livelihoods in a number of Pacific Island producing countries. It is an important cash crop and a significant source of income and employment for rural households and those involved in its harvesting, processing and sale. It has important cultural and social dimensions, including in Australia and New Zealand, and is used internationally for medicinal and therapeutic purposes.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has engaged the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access (PHAMA) Plus program to conduct monitoring and evaluation in the Pacific, to measure the impact of Australia's commercial kava pilot on kava growing countries in the region. PHAMA's analysis will include looking at the number of companies exporting to Australia, the value of kava exports and changes in the livelihoods of growers and other kava value chain actors.