

Case Practice Audit Reports – Delegated Aboriginal Agencies

Purpose

The purpose of the Aboriginal case practice audit process is to support and improve practice in delegated Aboriginal agencies (DAA). Through a review of a random sample of case files, audits provide a base-line measure of the current level of practice, confirm good practice and identify areas in which practice may require improvement.

Audit reports summarize a delegated agency's compliance to the Aboriginal Operational and Practice Standards and Indicators (AOPSI) and include recommendations to address the identified practice and systemic issues. The report also provides contextual information such as an overview of the community served by the agency, staffing complement, staff training, the supervision/consultation process in the agency and strengths and challenges facing the agency.

Process

The audit process is rigorous and in order to receive a compliance rating there must be documentation that confirms the compliance criteria for each standard have been met. Many of the measures contain multiple criteria and if any of the criteria are inadequately documented, a non-compliance rating results. All non-compliance ratings are reviewed by the agency supervisor to ensure that any outstanding work is completed.

As a result of an initial audit, a DAA may be re-audited to ensure the effectiveness of recommendations and strategies developed to address those practice areas with low compliance, providing an opportunity to measure improvement. The process of improving the level of compliance is very much a collaborative process involving the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies.

It should be noted that non-compliance does not suggest a child may be at risk. However, if during the audit process, any circumstance in which an auditor considers a child may be at risk is immediately brought to the attention of the supervisor and addressed.

Audit Posting

In 2007, a decision was made by the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies to post annual audit summary results going back to June 2003. An aggregate review of eight audits conducted between 2003 and 2005, and six audits that were conducted during the 2006 calendar year were posted in January of 2009. A further three audits finalized in the 2008 calendar year were posted in June, 2009. Two audits finalized in 2009, were posted in August, 2010. Three audits finalized in 2009, are to be posted in late December 2010 or early January 2011.

Personal information has been removed from the reports due to the privacy requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.