



Increasing Capacity of Crisis Accommodation Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Increasing Capacity of Crisis Accommodation Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

Overview

The application submission period opened on 18 December 2023 and closed on 16 February 2024.

Increasing Capacity of Crisis Accommodation Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (the program) is a program to support urgent attention to increase the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander shelter and accommodation services, especially in regional and remote areas.

The program is designed to centre Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, frameworks and responses in the way that services are designed and delivered to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with multiple and complex needs. This includes a focus on the Action Plan Framework developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council that sets out the vision for the Action Plan.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's grant opportunity delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through a closed non-competitive grant process. Applications which had undergone preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (panel) for deliberation.

The panel established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

When assessing and deliberating on applications the panel took into consideration several factors including the inclusion or exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received, meeting the identified requirements outlined in the guidelines and the available funding envelope.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- compliance with the guidelines
 - suitability against the eligibility criteria outlined in the guidelines
 - alignment with the grant opportunity objectives
 - how well the application responses met the assessment criterion
 - how the services and/or project would be delivered
-



- any existing and/or potential market failure
- whether the proposal provided value for money
- the capability of the organisation to deliver.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criterion.

The Community Grants Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criterion.

Criterion 1

In what ways will your organisation increase capacity of crisis accommodation services?

Tell us about some of the challenges in your community impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the need for change.

Strong applications:

- Described the primary areas where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were looking to lead and drive solutions, centred in local culture and knowledge.
- Provided examples of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were coming together to develop community-led services and/or programs to support and prevent violence against women and children by challenging gender stereotypes and promoting healthy relationships.
- Described how their project would engage with the community and align the model with local priorities.
- Explained how the organisation incorporated specialist support services met the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Provided evidence of their organisation's existing links with relevant services and stakeholders in the community.



Criterion 2

What will you do with the grant funding if successful?

Describe your proposed service, program or campaign and how it will support increasing capacity of crisis accommodation services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in your area.

Strong applications:

- Described the specific actions they would pursue to support increasing capacity of crisis accommodation services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their area.
- Described how the project would deliver on the objectives and outcomes of this grant round and contribute to Target 13 (by 2031, reduce the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by at least by 50%, as progress towards zero) in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Provided examples of how community members would come together to gather information.
- Described how their project, plan or strategy would continue to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and centred around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.
- Described their plan to collaborate with relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to achieve their project's aims. If so, who and why? Including information about the way partners would work, for example Memoranda of Understanding, Service Agreements and so on.

Criterion 3

How will you do it?

Describe how your organisation will deliver the project.

Strong applications:

- Provided a description of the proposed project and activities and how it addressed the objectives and outcomes of the grant activities including how the initiative would be designed, implemented and evaluated. (What data would be used, and what success looked like in their local context?)
- Included information about who would run the day-to-day operation of the project (for example, staff, budgets) and how major decisions would be made (for example, decision-making structure) over time.
- Demonstrated how their specialist support services are client-centred, trauma-informed, accessible, and culturally appropriate.
- Described how their organisation would create and support culturally responsive and safe environments and processes for staff and community members who supported the project.
- Outlined if their organisation would be seeking additional financial, in-kind or logistical support from other organisations to maximise impact or strengthen the financial sustainability of the project over the long term (for example, non-government-organisations, philanthropic funders, service providers, local/state/territory governments).

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. To request individual feedback please follow the instructions as set out in the section 9.1 of the guidelines.