



Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations 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.

The Family Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) Programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), (the Program) will fund ACCOs to meet existing FDSV service needs. This was one of the immediate priority grant opportunities identified in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023-2025 which was developed in partnership between Commonwealth and state and territory governments and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council.

The Program is designed to support 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 FDSV Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.


The program aims to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by assisting providers design tailored activities that align with the unique histories and needs of each community and contribute to achieving program objectives.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the 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 restricted competitive grant process. Applications which underwent 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 and 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 in the guidelines
- alignment with the grant opportunity objectives
- how well the applications responses met the assessment criterion
- how the services and/or project would be delivered
- the capability of the organisation/s to deliver the proposal
- any existing and/or potential market failure
- the extent applications compared against other applications
- whether projects provided value with relevant money
- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies.

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 criteria.

The 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 what were quality responses to the assessment criteria.



Criterion 1

Why do you think this program is a good fit for your community?

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

When addressing this criterion, 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 would come together to develop community-led services and/or programs to support men 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 how the model aligned with local priorities.
- described the intended impact, scale and proposed geographical locations for the project and how the project would be best suited for the proposed geographical location.
- clearly defined and explained primary areas of focus where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were looking to foster change, with clear and direct reference to local culture and knowledge.
- showcased examples of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members coming together to develop community-led services which prevented violence against women and children by challenging gender stereotypes and promoting healthy relationships.
- provided detailed strategies for how the project would interact with the community, what it would achieve and how it would help align the project to local priorities.
- clearly articulated the scale, scope and intended impact of their project, and the geographical locations they would operate in. Evidence, evaluation, and data were clear and related to the need in the proposed geographical locations.



Criterion 2

What will you do with the funding if successful?

Describe your proposed service or program and how it will support Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations in your area.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- described the specific actions they would pursue to support Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations
- described how the project would deliver on the objectives and outcomes 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 were coming together to gather information and build support for community-led changes in attitude and societal norms through positive role models.
- 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 projects aims.
- planned actions were detailed and specifically linked to delivering or supporting FDSV programs in ACCOs.
- directly related project activities to Target 13 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and explained how the outcomes and objectives of the grant round were specifically being targeted and worked towards.
- provided clear examples of community members coming together to implement community-led changes, with clear reference to the use of positive role models within the community.
- linked their projects, plans or strategies to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being, and doing and explained how they would remain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led throughout the project life.
- where applicable, described the nature of any partnerships or relationships to relevant services, stakeholders or organisations that would be used to achieve the project aims. Formal partnerships were outlined with reference to Service Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.



Criterion 3

How will you do it?

Describe how your organisation will deliver the project.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- provided a description of the proposed project and activities and how it would address the objectives and outcomes of the grant activities including how the initiative would be designed, implemented and evaluated (what data they would use, 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.
- described how their organisation would create and support culturally responsive and safe environments and processes for staff and community members who support the project.
- described how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, frameworks and responses would be centred in the program in the way that services are designed and delivered to meet the needs of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- identified if their organisation would be seek 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).
- detailed their project and how it would address the objectives and outcomes of the grant, with specific reference to design and implementation phases as well as how the project would be evaluated. Evaluation was detailed with methodology, reasoning and examples of what success would look like in the context of their grant activity.
- provided detailed explanations of the project governance structure and outlined the roles of staff working on the project. Decision-making processes were clear and specific to different stages of the project.
- provided clear strategies as to how both staff and community members that participated in the project would be ensured of a culturally responsive and safe environment.
- clearly linked Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, frameworks and responses in the project, detailing how the project was to be designed and delivered in reference to better meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- provided details of the additional support their organisation would need to support their project, including who would be providing the additional support and what impact it would have on the project.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback is available upon request, with guidance provided by the department on how unsuccessful applicants can improve their proposal for future opportunities. Applicants seeking individual feedback should submit requests to DedicatedActionPlan@dss.gov.au.

Applicants may request written feedback or verbal feedback.

Written feedback will be provided within 14 days of receipt of the request. Verbal feedback will be provided as soon as practicable for both parties.