



Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program

Round 2, Assessment Cycle 1.

Feedback for applicants

The Attorney-General's Department (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program – Round 2, Assessment Cycle 1, 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 5 January 2024 and closed on 10 May 2024.

Justice reinvestment aims to prevent and reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contact with the justice system in a particular place or community. It enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and leaders to come together to identify local solutions to local issues, using strengths of community, cultural knowledge and stories to measure progress over time. It offers a way for communities to drive local solutions through improved collaboration and partnership with governments and service providers.

The intended outcomes of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program are:

- Community-led crime prevention in Central Australia to reduce contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and young people, in line with Closing the Gap Targets 10 and 11.
- Contributing to strengthened community supports, treatments and diversionary measures for drug and alcohol use and addiction in Central Australia.
- Contributing to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Central Australia.

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 department assessed and considered all applications through an open non-competitive grant process.

An assessment panel (panel) was established by the department, and comprised of subject matter experts, with the majority of members being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the decision-maker.



When assessing and deliberating on applications the panel took into consideration several factors including the volume of applications received and the total amount of funding available in the assessment cycle.

The panel's consideration of applications was also based on:

- compliance and suitability against the eligibility criteria in the guidelines
- how well each applicant responded to the assessment criterion
- whether proposed financial and non-financial costs (that is funding, time, and resources) represented value with relevant money
- whether the applicant was an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation which intended to or could demonstrate a plan to become a Community Controlled organisation in the future
- how well the evidence in each application demonstrated the proposed initiative would achieve the objectives and outcomes of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program.

In addition to the above-mentioned considerations, the panel also assessed whether the initiative was place-based (as per the meaning outlined in the guidelines), including whether the initiative was supported by the local community.

Selection Results

Unfortunately, on this occasion there were no successful applicants. Compliant applicants did not demonstrate their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criterion.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing. This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what would have constituted as quality responses to the assessment criterion.

Criterion 1

Why did you think justice reinvestment was a good fit for your community?

Applicants described some of the challenges in their community impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth and the need for change.

When addressing the criterion, applicants were asked to:

- describe some of the factors driving contact with the criminal justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth, including information about crime prevention challenges, and/or issues with alcohol and drug use which affected their community
- provide examples of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members would come together to gather information, and build support for community-led change to improve outcomes
- describe the primary areas where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were looking to lead and drive solutions, centred in local culture, knowledge and voices.



To strengthen applications, applicants needed to demonstrate:

- an understanding of justice reinvestment and how it would work in the context of the Central Australia region of the Northern Territory
- how the initiative would be centred on the needs of people in the region, including greater detail (such as evidence) of what the needs are
- how the initiative would ensure long-lasting impacts through the community working together (such as referral pathways).

Criterion 2

What would you do with this funding if successful?

Applicants described their proposed project, plan or strategy and how it would:

- prevent and reduce crime and contact with the criminal justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in their area, or
- provide community led treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary supports for illegal drug use.

When addressing the criterion, applicants were asked to describe:

- how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members had been involved in leading its design
- the connection between their proposed project, plan or strategy and the prevention of crime in their community, or how they would address issues with alcohol and other drug use affecting their community
- how their project, plan or strategy would continue to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and centred around a shared connection to place
- whether they planned to collaborate with relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to achieve their projects aims. If so, who and why?

To strengthen applications, applicants needed to demonstrate:

- how the organisation(s) would achieve their intended outcomes in line with the overall program objectives. By providing further detail within the application and supporting material, applicants would have demonstrated how they would achieve their outcome.
- how the initiative was primarily connected to crime prevention, including how alcohol and drug use would be addressed.



Criterion 3

How would you do it?

Applicants described how their organisation would deliver the project including providing information on:

- 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 including thorough activity work plans or draft budgets, where appropriate
- how they would measure and evaluate progress over the course of the project (what data would they use, and what success looked like in their local context?)
- if their organisation would seek 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).

To strengthen applications, applicants needed to demonstrate:

- how value for money would be achieved, including greater evidence (such as quotes) to support the funds being requested
- whether staff had sufficient qualifications and/or the skill set required for the panel to deliver the initiative (such as trauma informed practice or drug and alcohol counsellors)
- how monitoring and evaluation would be implemented, impact the program's longevity, and clearly identify who would be responsible for this work.

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 Justicereinvestment@ag.gov.au

Applicants may request written feedback or verbal feedback.

Written or verbal feedback will be provided as soon as practicable for both parties.