



# Community-led Prevention Services, Programs and Campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

## Feedback for applicants

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The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Community-led Prevention Services, Programs and Campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children 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.

Community-led Prevention Services, Programs and Campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children (the program) is a program funding prevention services, programs and campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including on-Country learning.

The program aims to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by helping providers design tailored family, domestic and sexual violence prevention activities that support children by challenging gender stereotypes and promoting healthy relationships from an early age. This could include providing holistic responses with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, children and families with multiple and complex needs.

In line with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023–2025*, 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 align with the unique histories and needs of each community.

### 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 grant opportunity guidelines
- suitability against the eligibility criteria in the grant opportunity 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
- 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 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 what was 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 children of an early age 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 would come together to develop community-led services, programs and/or campaigns to prevent violence against women and children by challenging gender stereotypes and promoting healthy relationships from an early age.
- described how the project would engage with the community and 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.
- provided clear evidence, evaluation, and data related to the need in the proposed geographical locations.
- provided detail about how the project would interact with the community and how this would help align the project to local priorities.
- provided detailed actions specifically linked to increasing access to family, domestic and sexual violence prevention services, programs and campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

- directly related project activities to Target 13 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

## Criterion 2

### What will you do with the Community-led funding if successful?

Describe your proposed service, program or campaign and how it will increase prevention services, programs and campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including on- Country learning in your area.

Strong applications:

- described the specific actions they would pursue to increase prevention services, programs and campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- 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 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 the project's aims.
- directly related project activities to the outcomes and objectives of the grant round.
- provided clear reference to the use of positive role models within the community.
- where applicable, described the nature of any partnerships or relationships to relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to 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.

Strong applications:

- provided a description of the proposed project and activities and how they would address the objectives and outcomes of the grant activities, including how the initiative would be designed, implemented and evaluated.
- 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 better meet the needs of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- identified 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.
- detailed the planned actions with specific reference to design and implementation phases as well as how the project will be evaluated.
- provided detailed explanation of how the project would address the objectives and outcomes of the grant.
- provided detailed explanations of the project governance structure and outlined responsibilities and roles of staff working on the project.
- provided clear strategies as to how both staff and community members that participate in the project will be ensured a culturally responsive and safe environment.
- clearly linked Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural knowledge, frameworks and responses into the project design and delivery in reference to better meeting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- provided details of the additional support their organisation would need to achieve success with their project, including who would be providing the additional support and what impact it would have on the project.

## Individual feedback

Individual feedback will also be 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](mailto: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.