



Supporting Adolescent Boys

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Supporting Adolescent Boys 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 17 May 2024 and closed on 24 June 2024.

The Australian Government has committed funding to establish a new national early intervention trial for young men and boys aged 12 to 18 years who present with adverse childhood experiences including family and domestic violence, and who are using or at risk of using family, domestic or sexual violence (FDSV).

The objective of the Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial is to test a therapeutic individual support service that is trauma and healing informed for young men and adolescent boys to:

- support participants' recovery and healing from their experience of family and domestic violence
- help participants to avoid choosing to use FDSV
- build the evidence base on effective support service approaches to supporting young men and boys exposed to family and domestic violence to reduce the risk of them using FDSV.

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 targeted 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:

- meeting the compliance and eligibility requirements outlined in the guidelines
 - how well the responses met the assessment criteria
 - the extent to which applications compared against other applications
 - the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
 - whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
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- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the department and the Commonwealth.

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 was quality responses to the assessment criteria.

Criterion 1

How will you support 12-18 year old males who have experienced FDV?

Describe how you would use the grant to deliver a therapeutic support service specifically for young men and adolescent boys aged 12 to 18 years who present with adverse childhood experiences including family or domestic violence, and who are using or at risk of using FDSV (participants). Your service will be delivered within the trial site community and surrounds for which you have been invited to apply (see Appendix A). Explain how it will support participants to improve their wellbeing and help them to avoid choosing to use violence.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- Indicator 1: Described their proposed service model, including explaining how it met the intention and requirements of the Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial (see section 5.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines), is evidence-informed, and is feasible and suitable for delivery within their trial site. This included:
 - the type of therapeutic intervention to be delivered
 - anticipated qualifications of the workers delivering the services
 - how their proposed service would complement any existing services (such as Specialised Family Violence Services Children’s Specific Counselling services) any additional eligibility restrictions (for example, how they would avoid duplicating an existing service in their trial site by only providing the trial service to participants in a youth justice setting who are otherwise underserved)
 - identified referral pathways (for example, multiple entry points for participants such as through schools, criminal justice diversion programs or family and domestic violence services)
 - their approach to publicising the service (to avoid stigmatising participants)
 - methods for engaging productively with participants, including any innovative approaches.

Strong applications:

- described their proposed service model and discussed how their model met the objectives of the Supporting Adolescent Boys trial, specifically individual therapeutic approaches, in detail
- presented information to support effectiveness of proposed approach, and intensity of engagement with the boys demonstrating value for money

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- discussed proposed therapeutic interventions relevant to the GOGs, and how they would complement pre-existing services
 - identified the qualifications of key staff involved in the service
 - provided clear referral networks for participants, listing organisations involved and the types of services they would provide
 - discussed how they would promote their services and the methods they would use to engage participants
 - provided a service model based on an evidence-informed approach.

Criterion 2

Criterion 2: How will you ensure your service is effective, accessible and inclusive?

Describe how you will use the grant to provide an effective service that is accessible to, and inclusive of, eligible young men and adolescent boys, including those who identify as having a disability and/or identify as neurodiverse, First Nations, GBTIQA+, being from refugee, migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- Indicator 2a: Described their organisations, and/or partnering organisation's existing expertise and experience in:
 - delivering trauma and healing-informed and strengths-based services, and any steps they would take to develop these skills to deliver the trial.
 - delivering relevant service/s specifically for young men, adolescent boys or children and expertise engaging with this cohort credibly to avoid stigma and collusion and promote therapeutic relationships and program retention. Explained any additional steps they would take to enhance these skills to deliver the trial.
- Indicator 2b: Described their existing expertise and experience working to support people in a culturally safe and inclusive manner, and how they would build on this to deliver the trial. This included:
 - their capacity to deliver quality, culturally competent services for the young men and boys from diverse communities in their trial site (including identifying if their organisation is an Indigenous organisation as per section 10.4 of these guidelines)
 - their commitment to providing First Nations or other culturally and linguistically diverse people with employment opportunities, and other organisational tactics such as clear cultural governance structures across the organisation, cultural awareness training, and a Reconciliation Action Plan
 - their plan for conducting consultation with local community members, Elders and cultural authorities, partners and other services/organisations to ensure the trial is designed and delivered in an appropriate way within your trial site. Depending on the community in their trial site, this might support National Closing the Gap Agreement Priority Reform 118
 - their plan for delivering services to support participants' needs for cultural and community connection, such as facilitating engagement with cultural mentors.
- Indicator 2c: Described their existing expertise and experience working to support young men or adolescent boys with disability, and their proposed approach to developing these skills and/or working with other organisations to deliver the trial.

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- Indicator 2d: Described their existing skills/experience working to support GBTIQA+ people (cis and trans), and their proposed approach to developing these skills and/or working with other organisations to deliver the trial.

Strong applications:

- provided a clear description of their organisation's relevant experience and capacity to deliver trauma and healing informed services for the target cohort and how the services would be delivered in a culturally safe and inclusive manner
- identified the expertise and experience of staff involved in the delivery of services and identified any key stakeholders they have consulted with or would engage with to ensure the trial is delivered appropriately
- explained how they would deliver the services without stigma and explained the steps they would take to promote their services
- described their proposed approach to deliver their services to support young men and adolescent boys with disability and GBTIQA+ people, including how they would work with other organisations to deliver these services.

Criterion 3**Criterion 3: How will your service delivery prioritise safety?**

Describe how your service will promote the physical and psychological safety of participants, their family members, carers and intimate partners, and your staff through adherence with existing external requirements and internal governance structures including strong risk management policies and procedures.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- Indicator 3a: Described how their service would promote the safety of participants, including:
 - adherence to child safeguarding, reportable conduct, mandatory reporting, privacy and other legislative requirements
 - risk assessment and safety planning
 - the safe management of risk and critical incidents, including outside of office hours
 - proactive collaboration with family, domestic and sexual violence crisis and police services, and sharing risk information and safety planning
 - appropriate management of outreach approaches within service provision.
- Indicator 3b: Described how their service would promote the safety of participants' family members, carers and intimate partners.
- Indicator 3c: Described how their service would promote the safety of workers, including through risk management processes, supervision arrangements and strategies to minimise vicarious trauma.

Strong applications:

- outlined their organisation's safety and risk management procedures in some detail and how they would promote the safety of participants and their families
 - discussed the methods they would use to collaborate with family and other services including the procedures they have or will introduce for information sharing about risk and safety planning
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- described how they would promote the safety of participants and staff to minimise risk and harm to those involved.

Criterion 4

Criterion 4: How will you collaborate to deliver the Supporting Adolescent Boys Trial?

Describe how you will deliver the trial service as an effective supplement to existing services within your trial site so that the broader needs of participants and their families, carers and intimate partners can be addressed. Also explain how you will contribute to the evaluation of the trial.

When addressing this criterion, strong applications:

- Indicator 4a: Described how the trial service would supplement their existing service offering. Including how existing services such as family therapy could be supplemented by the individual trial service to eligible young men and boys
- Indicator 4b: Described how they would leverage or create collaborative linkages with other organisations in their trial site to meet the needs of participants and their family members, carers and intimate partners. Including how they would enhance referral networks with disability, housing, alcohol and other drug, health, education and youth justice service organisations.
- Indicator 4c: Described any relevant prior experience participating in data gathering and evaluation activities that can demonstrate they would be capable of cooperating with the independent evaluators of the trial.

Strong applications:

- described how they would supplement their existing services through the trial in some detail
- discussed their existing links with other organisations at their trial site and the methods they would use to collaborate, including referral pathways, to meet the needs of participants, their family members, carers and intimate partners
- demonstrated their experience in gathering data and participating, in or undertaking evaluation activities.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. Applicants seeking individual feedback should submit requests to WSI.GrantPrograms@dss.gov.au. Requests for individual feedback will only be accepted within 35 days of receipt of the outcome of your application. Feedback will be provided within 21 days of receipt of the request.