



# National Justice Reinvestment Program – Round 2 Assessment Cycle 1

## Feedback for applicants

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The Attorney-General's Department (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the National Justice Reinvestment Program 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 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 Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to improve the justice outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) targets and Priority Reforms.

### 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 eligible and compliant applications through an open non-competitive grant process.

The selection advisory panel (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 requirements outlined in the guidelines
- Meeting the 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



- 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 successful 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

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

Applicants were required to state some of the justice challenges in their community impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth and the need for change.

When addressing the criterion strong applicants:

- described some of the factors driving contact with the justice system by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in your community
- provided examples of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were coming together to gather information, and build support for community-led change to improve justice outcomes
- described 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.

#### Strong applications:

- Demonstrated a strong understanding of what justice reinvestment is and how it works.
- Demonstrated that the proposal is placed-based, that is, it will be implemented by people in the location of the program, and will be designed specifically for that location.
- Demonstrated how the approach is addressing the systems of justice, and not just implementing a program.

### Criterion 2

#### What would you do with justice reinvestment funding if successful?

Applicants described their proposed project, plan or strategy and how it would prevent and reduce contact with the justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in their area.

When addressing the criterion strong applicants described:

- how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members have been involved in leading its design
- the specific actions they would like to pursue to help prevent and reduce contact with the justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth living in 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?



**Strong applications:**

- Demonstrated that the initiative will be community led and/or has community buy in. This was demonstrated within the application and by letters of support from community members and/or relevant organisations.
- Demonstrated plans to work with diverse stakeholder organisations.
- Demonstrated that First Nations people are involved in the design and leadership of the initiative, either through the work plan or governance structures.

**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 would major decisions 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 they would 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).

**Strong applications:**

- Demonstrated value for money, particularly that the budget is appropriate to the scale of the initiative, including if an initiative involves organisations in a consortium, why a larger budget may be appropriate.
- Demonstrated data partnerships within their community to best evaluate the impact of their initiative.

**Individual feedback**

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