



Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion 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 29 November 2024 and closed on 12 December 2024.

On 1 May 2024, the Australian Government announced the permanent establishment of the Leaving Violence Program to support victim-survivors to make choices about leaving violent intimate partner relationships and increasing their safety by providing financial and other supports.

The Leaving Violence Program consists of the National Program and the 4 Regional Trials. The delivery models for the Leaving Violence Program provides choice for all victim-survivors, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors on how they would like to be supported.

The purpose of the grant is to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities, aligning with:

- the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#)¹, Families and Households Outcome 13 target to reduce the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by 50% by 2031.
- the [National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032](#)², which includes a commitment for 2, 5-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plans.

The Regional Trials will provide financial assistance and support to individuals of any gender and background, experiencing intimate partner violence, empowering them to separate from an abusive intimate partner relationship. The Regional Trials will provide eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the option to access the Leaving Violence Program through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO), or other Indigenous providers.

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.

¹ <https://www.niaa.gov.au/our-work/closing-gap#:~:text=National%20Agreement%20on%20Closing%20the%20Gap.>

² <https://www.dss.gov.au/national-plan-end-gender-based-violence>

Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion

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.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- Meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
- Meeting the eligibility requirements outline in the guidelines
- how well the responses met the assessment criteria
- the volume of applications received and 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
- how the proposed activities compared to <insert information>
- 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

Coverage and scope for the region

Demonstrate how your organisation, individually, or as the lead of a consortium, would provide a strong representative base with coverage and scope for the region.

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants:

- outlined the service footprint area their organisation proposed to undertake the delivery of services within.
- demonstrated how their organisation would have collaborated or worked with a broad range of networks to support victim-survivors.
- demonstrated the coverage of services across the region and how their organisation would have collaborated with the target groups of victim-survivors.
- demonstrated how their organisation would ensure resources are available throughout the service footprint area and how they would have approached the service delivery in different areas.
- outlined the approach to delivery methods such as face to face, staff in different locations, web forms and so on.

Strong applications:

- Clearly outlined targeted service areas with and demonstrated a broad range of existing service coverage across all of the communities.
- Demonstrated a well-defined collaborations and partnership model to ensure access to relevant networks that have supported victim-survivors.

Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion

- Showcased their strategy to collaborate with the target group of victim-survivors and explained their role in the program.
- Explained a diverse range of intake and support options for victim-survivors which the network considered to be a critical success factor in order to have accommodated the entire of the service footprint.
- Clearly outlined the approach of methods of service delivery such as online, outreach services, and face-to-face engagements.

Criterion 2

Priorities for supporting victim-survivors

Demonstrated your organisation's priorities for supporting victim-survivors that have experienced intimate partner violence.

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants:

- demonstrated how their organisation, individually or as the lead of a consortium, would deliver the intended outcomes for victim-survivors that experienced intimate partner violence in a culturally appropriate way.
- explained how these outcomes would specifically address needs, including the unique challenges faced by victim-survivors of intimate partner violence.
- provided examples of planned approaches and initiatives that would be implemented to achieve these outcomes.

Strong applications

- Demonstrated willingness to learn and provide culturally appropriate, victim-centred and trauma-informed approach for supporting the target cohort.
- Clearly explained how the specific needs and unique challenges faced by victim-survivor would be addressed through the outcomes of the project.
- Explained their strategy and approach to achieving positive outcomes for victim-survivors with reference to the resources available.

Criterion 3

Collaboration with victim-survivors and other stakeholders

Demonstrate how your organisation would collaborate with victim-survivors, your community, peers, community stakeholders, and other organisations in the family, domestic and sexual violence sector.

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants:

- provided examples of how their organisation has successfully delivered similar supports and services.
- discussed strategies their organisation would employ to ensure collaboration is achieved with all relevant parties, including proactive engagement and partnership-building approaches.
- explained how their organisation's governance structures, or those of the consortium, would work to facilitate collaboration, achieve results, and resolve any difficulties that arise during the partnership.
- outlined their organisation's approach to collaborating with the other Leaving Violence Program Service Providers, including through the Community of Practice.

Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion

Strong applications:

- Described examples of organisation's past successful services and activities and referenced key metrics showcasing the scale of the project.
- Outlined various strategies they would employ to ensure collaboration was achieved with all relevant parties, including proactive engagement and partnership-building approaches.
- Outlined what governance structures would be in place including how they would maintain these and how they would facilitate collaboration, achieve results, and resolve any difficulties that arise during the partnership.
- Demonstrated willingness to participate in Community of Practice to achieve program's objectives.

Criterion 4

Experience with grant activities

Demonstrated your organisation's experience in developing, implementing, managing, and monitoring grant activities to achieve grant objectives for all stakeholders on time and within budget.

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants:

- demonstrated your organisation's proven ability to effectively develop, implement, manage, and monitor grant activities to achieve positive outcomes for the target group, including examples of past successes and key metrics.
- provided evidence of sound governance structures within your organisation, including strong financial controls, risk management frameworks, as well as a focus on providing value for money in all grant-related activities.
- highlighted how your organisation's membership and board members included individuals with lived experience of being or working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as well as relevant experience in the FDSV sector, ensuring culturally appropriate and responsive service delivery.
- detailed how you planned to meet your objectives on time and within budget. If forming part of a new consortium, outlined the specific strategies that will be put in place to ensure cohesion and effective collaboration within the consortium to achieve shared goals.
- detailed experience in data collection and reporting which included sharing data with the other Service Providers in the Leaving Violence Program.
- detailed how your organisation would mitigate the risks of fraud and corruption, and how you would actively work to prevent fraud and corruption impacting upon program delivery.

Strong applications:

- demonstrated their ability through metrics and examples to deliver, implement, manage, and monitor effective support services to create positive outcomes.
- provided a transparent and strong governance structure, outlining stringent financial controls, risk management and showed how this would lead to value with relevant money.
- identified the expertise and experience of staff involved in the delivery of services and identified any stakeholders they have consulted with or would engage to ensure the trial is delivered appropriately.
- demonstrated their experience and strategy to ensure that grant objectives could be delivered on time and within budget. This included specifically experience with data collection and reporting as well as fraud and corruption.

Leaving Violence Program Regional Trials Expansion

Criterion 5

Strengths of the organisation

Demonstrated the overall qualities, experience, and strengths of your organisation in achieving results under the Regional Trial, either as an individual organisation or as the lead of a consortium.

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants:

- demonstrated your organisation's strength and experience in working within the FDSV sector and its capability to achieve positive results under the Regional Trial.
- described your organisation's vision for the Regional Trial and how you would assess the effectiveness of your approach.
- provided examples of previous success in driving outcomes, including where relevant, success as part of a consortium. Where relevant, examples could include how you have addressed multiple issues at once, like meeting community needs, improving cultural safety, supporting mental health, and/or addressing issues with housing instability.

Strong applications:

- Provided a clear description of their organisation's relevant experience and capacity to deliver trauma informed healing services for the target cohort and explained how the services would be delivered in a culturally safe and inclusive manner.
- Described the organisation's vision for the regional trial as an initiative that enhances the safety, well-being, and empowerment of victim-survivors through collaborative, culturally appropriate, and holistic approaches.
- Effectively showcased how they would have assessed the effectiveness of their approach including what strategies and/or metrics they planned to use.

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.