



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Continuing Professional Development for Legal Practitioners on Coercive Control

Feedback for applicants

The Community Grants Hub (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Justice Sector Education Program Continuing Professional Development for Legal Practitioners on Coercive Control 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 26 November 2024 and closed on 15 January 2025. This grant opportunity was announced as part of the funding commitments for the women's safety package in the 2022–23 Federal Budget, and will support the implementation of *the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032*.

The objective of the grant opportunity is to build understanding and capability of legal practitioners around the fundamentals of family and domestic violence (FDV) and its underpinning dynamic of coercive control. This will include case studies on the experiences of First Nations peoples and other vulnerable cohorts, and support engagement with victim-survivors and their families.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- development and delivery of a national online foundational e-Learning module for legal practitioners focused on identifying and responding to coercive control
- for the training to embed *the National Principles to Address Coercive Control in Family and Domestic Violence* as a common national foundation for legal practitioners
- the training package is designed to count towards annual continuing professional development (CPD) for legal practitioners to incentivise uptake.

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 the eligible and compliant application through a Targeted Competitive grant process.

The selection advisory panel (panel) established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed the application 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 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

The preferred applicant demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria.

The department notified the applicant of the outcome in writing.

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

Funding sought relates to program objectives and outcomes

When addressing the criterion applicants identified:

- their planned grant activity built the understanding and capability of legal practitioners, around FDV and its underpinning dynamic of coercive control, including case studies on the experiences of First Nations peoples and other vulnerable cohorts, and supported engagement with victim-survivors and their families
- the delivery of the program, including how they developed, implemented, promoted and reviewed it
- how they evaluated the impact of the training package on legal practitioners
- their key stakeholders, and how their approach targeted, supported and benefited legal practitioners and their clients
- how they provided information about their methodology for engaging collaboratively with the legal and FDV sectors to ensure the training program is fit-for-purpose, is safe and trauma informed and incorporates best practice approaches
- how their approach to program delivery represented value for money.

Strong applications:

- the applicant submitted a consortium approach, consisting of 3 significant legal assistance peak bodies, to developing and delivering the training. This presented value for money as it utilises existing structures, contacts, expertise, e-Learning infrastructures and adaptation of existing resources developed by consortium partners on family violence. The applicant also proposed developing a governance committee and reference group of subject matter experts to ensure a collaborative approach to design, development and promotion of the training.

Criterion 2

Government policy

When addressing the criterion applicants identified:

- how the grant activity supported the efficient and effective operation of the justice system
- how the grant activity supported the implementation of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032
- how the grant activity embedded the National Principles.

Strong applications:

- the applicant acknowledged recent amendments to family law and alignment of the training to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32. The applicant also specifically outlined how each of the National Principles will be incorporated and/or addressed within the development and/or delivery of the training materials.

Criterion 3

Organisational capability to deliver the program outcomes

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- described prior experience and expertise in developing and delivering continuing professional development in FDV particularly an information and communication project and providing online services
- detailed their established relationships with relevant sector stakeholders to support the design and delivery of a national training program
- described their ability to respond to the evolving needs of legal practitioners and their clients, including demonstrated understanding of how coercive control impacts First Nations people, LGBTQI+ people, people with refugee, migrant or culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people living with disability or other vulnerabilities
- demonstrated their capability to develop an appropriate mechanism to evaluate the impact of the training package on the legal practitioner sector, and on clients of the legal practitioners who are experiencing FDV and its underpinning dynamic of coercive control
- demonstrated their capability to meet reporting and performance requirements.

Strong applications:

- the applicant demonstrated the experience and expertise of the consortium partners in developing and delivering continuing professional development for legal practitioners, which included training in family and domestic violence.

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.