



Specialised Family Violence Services

Grant Opportunity Fact Sheet

The Australian Government is supporting people affected by, or at risk of, domestic and family violence by investing \$10 million (across FY2019-20 to FY2021-22) in additional specialised services, focused on children and other priority cohorts identified through the national consultations on the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan).

The National Plan recognises the gendered nature of family, domestic and sexual violence and aims to connect the important work being done by all Australian governments, community organisations and individuals to reduce violence so that we can work together to ensure each year, less women experience violence and more women and their children live safely.

This fact sheet supplements the Specialised Family Violence Services Grant Opportunity Guidelines distributed on 5 April 2019, and provides important information about the policy intent for the extended services and will inform the selection process, particularly the Selection Advisory Panel when making recommendations for this funding.

Priority cohorts

Priority will be given to those organisations who demonstrate they can provide specialised support to children who have witnessed or experienced family violence. This is a crucial role in breaking the ongoing cycle of violence, as children who have witnessed partner violence are two to four times more likely to experience it as adults.

Strong applications will demonstrate an understanding of the gendered nature of family, domestic and sexual violence and address the needs of diverse cohorts and intersections of disadvantage experienced by these groups:

- children and young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- women with disability
- people with diverse sex, sexuality and gender.

Priority locations

Priority will be given to applications that strongly demonstrate the need for specialised family violence services within their community. Preference will be given to applications, which can provide empirically supported evidence, draw on administrative data (such as Recorded Crimes, Personal Safety Survey), peer-reviewed research or other appropriate sources.

Organisational expertise

All services are required to adhere to robust safety planning principles and risk management practices.

Priority will be given to applications that strongly demonstrate their skills and experience in providing services to one or more of the priority cohorts.

Family and Relationship Services organisations are encouraged to consider joint (consortia) applications for funding, or subcontracting arrangements. Applicants should demonstrate a strong knowledge of the gendered nature of family, domestic and sexual violence, and consider partnerships with specialist sector partners (e.g. the women's sector, Indigenous organisations, or those representing culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women with disability and people with diverse sex, sexuality and gender) to improve service delivery outcomes in particular locations or for particular cohorts.

Strong applications will demonstrate:

- expertise in family and domestic violence
- compliance with relevant standards (*for example, it is an expectation that all activities working with perpetrators meet the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions*)
- an appropriately qualified and experienced workforce
- culturally safe and appropriate referral networks
- knowledge of the community.

Appropriate support for individuals, families and children experiencing violence

Investing in the expansion of Specialist Family Violence Services means that people experiencing family and domestic violence can access the appropriate support they need for themselves, their family, and their children when they need it.

The policy intent of the extended services does not require women to leave or stay in a violent relationship.

Services need to be tailored to an individual's personal circumstances and must apply safety-first principles.

Counsellors are required to support a victim of violence to navigate the complexity of their personal safety decisions in a supported, rights-based, and autonomous fashion.

Specialised Family Violence Services aim to provide broad-based counselling to individuals or couples impacted by domestic and family violence. This ensures that people, who may be in relationships where violence is a factor, can access specialist support either as individuals, couples or for the children involved.

Applicants are required to identify risks, and outline mitigation strategies, relating to delivering services to couples who seek counselling who are at risk of, or have experienced, family and domestic violence. This includes safety planning and regular risk re-assessment.