



Feedback for Applicants

2018-2570 Accredited Training for Sexual violence Responses

Overview

The Australian Government's commitment to the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 (National Plan) included funding of \$4.494 million over three years (FY2019–20 to 2021–22) for the development and delivery of training that builds the capacity of frontline workers to better recognise and respond to all victims of sexual violence.

This grant opportunity sought applications from consortia partnerships to develop and deliver a national training program which has broad reach across a range of professions that interact with people affected by sexual violence. Lead organisations were required to be specialist organisations with sexual violence expertise and be able to demonstrate relationships with other specialist organisations who work with, or represent, people from diverse backgrounds.

The application period opened on 11 July 2019 and closed on 4 September 2019. A total of eight applications were received, all of which were eligible, making the selection of successful grant recipients competitive. After assessment, no applications were selected for funding.

The feedback provided below on behalf of the Department of Social Services is to help grant applicants understand how to strengthen future applications.

You can find out about new grant opportunities on [GrantConnect](#).

Selection Process

An open competitive selection process was undertaken, allowing a range of organisations that met the eligibility criteria to apply.

Applications were first screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, including the requirement for lead organisations to be specialist organisations with sexual violence expertise, such as

- Specialist women's sector and / or sexual violence service
- Peak advocacy organisation in the sexual violence sector
- Researcher and/or university with expertise in sexual violence.

All eligible and compliant applications were then assessed and moderated by the Department of Social Services against the four assessment criteria.

A Department of Social Services Selection Advisory Panel, with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise, then made funding recommendations to the Department of Social Services' Decision Maker. The recommendations were based on the strength of responses to the assessment criteria and the applicant's ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

DSS established an Expert Advisory Group to provide supplementary advice to the Selection Advisory Panel on suitability, value for money, sector specific knowledge, service delivery expertise regarding priority cohorts, development and delivery of training programs and sexual violence.

The Selection Advisory Panel considered all applications and their assessment results and made recommendations on applications having regard to:

- whether the project, or any of its elements did not align with the program objectives
- value for money
- conformance with eligibility criteria
- service provider mix
- level of innovation
- how the services and/or project will be delivered.

After assessment, one application was selected for funding, totalling \$4.494 million (GST exclusive). The DSS Delegate, the Deputy Secretary, Family and Communities, approved funding to the successful grant recipient.

The successful applicant provided a proposal that was eligible, innovative and considered effective for achieving the program objectives. They demonstrated their suitability for public funding, value for money and met all of the eligibility requirements in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

General feedback

Applicants could have generally strengthened their application by:

- ensuring they thoroughly read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- ensuring all aspects of the criteria were addressed
- demonstrating their consideration of the Grant Program's objectives, particularly in relation to addressing the needs of a wide range of cohorts
- only including relevant information that is not ambiguous
- supporting claims with relevant, reliable and current evidence linking claims back to the policy objectives and the training program to be delivered
- ensuring key concepts within the proposed project are clearly defined – for example, defining who is considered to be a “frontline worker”.

As this grant opportunity sought applications from consortia partnerships, applications could also have been strengthened by:

- providing adequate information about what each consortium member will bring to the project

- including details relating to how governance arrangements within the consortium would operate
- describing how consortium members will contribute to successful sector engagement and participation.