Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Families and Communities Program

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

National Initiatives

Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women

Funding Round Summary

National Initiatives – National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

National Initiatives

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides leadership in Australian Government policy on issues affecting women and children's safety.

DSS works with state and territory governments as well as portfolios across the Commonwealth through the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* and the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* to help support and bring about change for our most vulnerable children, women and families. These National Initiatives Activities emphasise supporting systems and services for those affected by violence and abuse.

The National Initiatives aim to achieve positive outcomes for families, women and their children by working across sectors to improve the safety and wellbeing of children, advancing gender equality and reducing violence against women and their children.

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan) is a long-term partnership between the Commonwealth Government, state and territory governments and civil society to reduce violence against women and their children in Australia.

Under the Third Action Plan 2016-2019 of the National Plan, National Priority Area 3: greater support and choice, identifies the need to "reduce the barriers experienced by women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds by driving innovation and collaboration between specialist and mainstream services to develop culturally sensitive and integrated service responses". Action 3.6 of the Third Action Plan aims to "improve the quality and accessibility of services for women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds".

Responding to the sector

In 2015 and 2016, the Australian Government consulted[1] CALD women, business leaders, specialists from domestic violence and sexual assault services, academics and key stakeholders from a range of cultural backgrounds and communities, about responding to violence against CALD women.

These consultations identified barriers to accessing support services that CALD women face, as well as innovative, practical and evidence based solutions that could address these barriers and improve access to family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services for CALD women.

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[1] For complete reports from the consultations, visit the following links:

- *A platform for action: report from the national roundtable on responding to violence against culturally and linguistically diverse women and their children* (2016) http://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/final_online_accessible_a_platform_for_action_report_1_april_2016.pdf

- *Hearing her voice: report from the kitchen table conversations with culturally and linguistically diverse women on violence against women and their children* (2015)http://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/cald_womens_safety_report.pdf

- Better outcomes, better lives: roundtables to inform the Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children – Summary report (2016) https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/10_2016/third_action_plan_roundtables_summary_report_0.pdf

The report from the national roundtable on responding to violence against CALD women and their children, *A platform for action*, informed the development of this grant. This grant specifically responds to the identified theme*: connecting services on the ground*. This theme identifies the need to "support what already exists and resource mainstream and specialist CALD services to work together", and to find ways to collaborate that will improve the capacity of services and agencies to address the needs of CALD women and their children.

Applicants are strongly advised to read these reports alongside the *National Initiatives Guidelines Overview* included with the Application pack, the National Plan and the Third Action Plan before submitting an Application Form.

Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women

The Community Grants Hub on behalf of DSS, is inviting organisations to apply for a grant for the *Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women*, funded under the National Initiatives Activity.

Selection type

This grant opportunity is an open competitive selection process to select providers to test innovative and collaborative methods of improving service pathways for CALD women living in regional areas that are experiencing, or are at risk of, family and domestic violence or sexual assault.

An open competitive selection process is open to all providers operating in the market place. Open processes are advertised on the Community Grants Hub website and through other sources such as the media (if required) in order to attract as much interest as possible. Open rounds have nominated open and close dates, with Applications being assessed against the designated selection criteria.

Applicant eligibility

To satisfy eligibility requirements, Applicants for *Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women* must fall into one of the following categories:

- Incorporated Associations (incorporated under state/territory legislation, commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc.' in their legal name)
- Incorporated Cooperatives (also incorporated under state/territory legislation, commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- Companies (incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 – may be a proprietary company (limited by shares or by guarantee) or public companies)
- Aboriginal Corporations (incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006)
- Organisations established through a specific piece of Commonwealth or state/territory legislation (public benevolent institutions, churches, universities, unions etc.)
- Partnerships
- State and territory governments
- Local Governments

Available funding for this Activity

Total funding of up to $1.5 million is available over the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years. Applications will be considered for time limited projects of up to $187,500 per project over this two year period. Applicants can apply for grants for up to two projects only.

Should an Applicant submit more than two Applications, only the two **latest** on time Applications received will be progressed. If duplicate Applications are received (applications that are for the same project and delivered in the same locations), the **latest** of the duplicate Applications received will be progressed. More information can be found in the questions and answers for this grant round available on the Community Grants Hub website.

DSS is seeking a mix of projects across different regional locations and communities. Projects may test new, or build on existing, approaches to improving service pathways for CALD women.

The intention is to offer grants for single projects in a range of targeted regional areas across Australia. However, depending on the quality and quantity of Applications, DSS may consider offering grants for more than one project in a particular jurisdiction.

Closing date and time

Applications must be submitted by **2:00pm AEST Thursday 25 May, 2017**.

Late Applications – information on the late Application policy is available on the Community Grants Hub website.

Questions

Questions and answers for this grant round are available on the Community Grants Hub website.

If you cannot find an answer to your question, relating to this selection process or the Activity, please send your question to support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Answers to questions will be published on the grant round page within five working days of receipt, unless the answers are available in the Application Pack.

The Community Grants Hub will only answer questions to explain the requirements of the Application Form and Program Guidelines. The Community Grants Hub will not advise how to answer to specific selection criteria or advise on individual Applications during the assessment process.

All Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their Application when the selection process is complete.

If you would like help or support in using and/or submitting the Application Form, please call 1800 020 283 or TTY 1800 555 677 or email support@communitygrants.gov.au.

The question and answer period will close at **5:00pm AEST Thursday 18 May 2017**. Following this time, only questions relating to using and/or submitting the Application Form will be answered.

Grant objectives

The overarching aim of the *Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women* grants is to help CALD women living in regional areas who are experiencing, or are at risk of, family and domestic violence or sexual assault, to access the support that they need.

Family and domestic violence and sexual assault support services play a critical role in most Australian communities to help women who are experiencing violence, or who may have experienced violence in the past. However, consultation with CALD women indicates that services could (for example) be more proactive in offering support, and could work with CALD specific services, such as multicultural services, to assist CALD clients to become familiar with the kinds of support available.

These grants are intended to help address barriers for CALD women living in regional areas in accessing mainstream family and domestic violence or sexual assault services.

To this end, projects may include partnerships with organisations that may not traditionally be associated with family and domestic violence or sexual assault issues. Projects should have strong CALD community investment, ownership and engagement to help drive sustainable change beyond the life of the project.

It is DSS' intention that the learnings from these projects are made widely available to the Australian community and service sector. These learnings will inform future work around improving provision of, and access to, family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services for CALD women living in regional areas.

Therefore, the outcomes of the projects would ideally be scalable and/or replicable and/or able to be tailored to the local needs and available resources of other communities.

IMPORTANT: The grant is not intended to provide for ongoing services or projects, but to enable existing service providers to identify and test lasting ways to work together with other services, community organisations and government agencies so that CALD women experiencing violence can access the support that they need. This grant is intended to complement and support work within existing service systems and not duplicate existing activities.

Statement of Requirement

When completing your Application you must provide all information as directed. Your application/s will not be considered if you do not do so.

DSS is seeking projects from eligible Applicants to identify and reduce barriers to accessing support services for CALD women living in regional locations who are experiencing, or at risk of, family and domestic violence or sexual assault.

Projects could be new ideas or a fresh take on an existing innovative process, methodology or model. Alternatively, projects could build on, or test in a new location, existing successful processes, methodologies or models.

DSS will take into consideration whether projects:

- aim to improve access to family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services for CALD women and their children living in regional locations who are experiencing, or at risk of, family and domestic violence or sexual assault ;

- build or strengthen innovative integration, partnerships and pathways between mainstream family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services and specialist CALD services;

- improve information-sharing and referral pathways between services;

- assist CALD women to navigate service systems; and

- improve culturally sensitive practices within mainstream family and domestic violence or sexual assault services.

Applicant organisations

Successful Applicants are expected to have the influence and cultural expertise, access to (or the ability to build and maintain) effective partnerships with community representatives who have this capacity, to deliver the project within the community they propose to target. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate local CALD community engagement through establishing or leveraging CALD reference, advisory groups or governance models.

DSS is eager to support consortia or partnership arrangements between organisations of any size for these projects. Examples could include:

- a family and domestic violence or sexual assault support service provider partnering with a cultural/community/ethno-specific service provider;

- a settlement services provider partnering with a women's refuge;

- an organisation that specialises in providing family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services to CALD women partnering with a mainstream homelessness provider;

- a specialist family and domestic violence or sexual assault support service supporting CALD women and operating in a metropolitan area partnering with a mainstream provider in a regional area;

- a small service provider assisting a specific CALD cohort partnering with one or several family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services; and

- a mainstream mental health provider partnering with a family and domestic violence or sexual assault service and a cultural/community/ethno-specific service provider.

Preference will be given to Applications from organisations that deliver:

- family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services;

- services for CALD women and their children, such as settlement services or Migrant Resource Centres;

- services that women escaping family, domestic or sexual violence may access, such as homelessness or Emergency Relief services;

- community legal services;

- family and relationship, children's contact, or dispute resolution services;

- financial counselling and microfinance services;

- medical clinics or allied health professionals; and

- mental health services.

Target locations

Applications **must** target CALD communities in regional areas. For the purposes of this grant, DSS is targeting Local Government Areas (LGAs) in regional areas exhibiting some or all of the following characteristics:

- high numbers of recent CALD arrivals

- areas with significant cultural diversity and identified high rates of family and domestic violence.

A list of the specific LGAs that Applicants must select from is at **Attachment A.**

For the purposes of this grant, the term 'CALD community' is generally defined as a geographical location with significant numbers of people born overseas in countries other than the main English speaking countries. It can be used more broadly to refer to people who are Australian-born and have at least one parent who was born overseas.

Restrictions

Grants are not provided for:

- developing new services

- ongoing delivery of existing services

- wrap-around support services

- risk assessment, safety planning and security upgrades

- ongoing cost of maintaining community engagement and/or networks

- developing new toolkits or resources except where this is a by-product of the project

- covering retrospective costs

- costs of preparing a grant Application or related documentation

- major construction/capital works

- purchasing land

- overseas travel

- activities for which another Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies has primary responsibility

An action research approach

To receive a grant for this activity, successful applicants will be required to work with an external research organisation and use an action research approach to continuously reflect on and improve their project to help achieve outcomes. Successful applicants will be required to publish information to share their processes and outcomes with other communities.

The action research approach will involve:

- a commitment to include other organisations in processes to build networks or engagement between existing services, and taking other organisations' views into account when planning improvements

- using three cycles of *planning, acting, collecting and reflecting* over a grant funding period

- refining processes in response to the understanding gained from the above cycles

- sharing experiences and understanding with other communities and service providers, including by publishing information about processes and outcomes over the life of the project.

Successful applicants will be provided with help and support to design their research, undertake action research and document/publish information about the project and its outcomes. This will involve gathering information during the trial to critically reflect on strengths, barriers, and assumptions, and using these learnings to experiment with new actions to improve implementation of the project.

DSS will separately engage a specialist research organisation to provide this assistance and support to grant recipients. This support will help the rigour of the research design and processes without over-burdening the grant recipient or other participants. Successful organisations will be required to participate in up to three face to face workshops and would need to meet the cost of attendance from their grant.

Value for Money

In assessing the extent to which Applications represent value for money, consideration will be given to the information provided at the 'Achieving value for money' section 3.3 of the Program Guidelines available on the DSS website or in the Application Pack available on the Community Grants Hub website.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are equally weighted.

Criterion 1 – Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded Activity in the specified community and/or the specified target group.

Your response **must** demonstrate **all** of the following:
- understanding of the target CALD community and ethnic groups

- understanding of local service systems including issues for CALD women accessing family and domestic violence or sexual assault support services

- evidence (anecdotal evidence, statistics, case studies or reports) detailing the community need and the extent of violence against women within the target CALD community

- understanding of gender inequality as a key driver of violence against women and how violence against women manifests in, and impacts on, the target community.

Criterion 2 – Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding.

Your response **must** include **all** of the following:

- a description of the intended project: how it will be implemented and improve service pathways and address barriers to accessing support services for CALD women and their children living in regional areas that are experiencing, or at risk of, family and domestic violence or sexual assault

- how the target community will be engaged/consulted

- how the work and outcomes of this project will be sustained after the funding period.

Criterion 3 – Demonstrate your experience in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring activities to achieve Activity objectives for all stakeholders.

Your response **must** demonstrate **all** of the following:

- either a proven track record and capability in providing quality and culturally competent services to the CALD community/individuals OR previous experience effectively engaging with them to establish and deliver services and networks

- a credible record of good governance and efficient delivery of relevant products

- a sound record of working collaboratively with other organisations and CALD communities and individuals

- how you will work with DSS to maximise outcomes and effectively manage, deliver and report on the project.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Documents/attachments not requested by DSS **will not** be assessed as part of your application.

Organisations applying as a consortium or partnership **may** be asked to provide a letter of support from each consortium member/partner confirming willingness to work with the lead organisation in delivering the project.

Attachments

For this round, no attachments are requested. Documents attached to applications will not be assessed.

Feedback for this grant round

The Feedback Summary will be published on the website following the finalisation of the funding round.

The Feedback Summary will provide general round-specific information and will include main strengths and areas of improvement for the Applications received in this round.

Multicultural Access and Equity Policy

Australia's *Multicultural Access and Equity Policy: Respecting diversity. Improving responsiveness* means that Australian Government agencies make sure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people who need to access government and community services. This means, for example, that appropriate language services should be provided. Grant Applicants should consider whether professional translating or interpreting services may be needed to deliver services, projects, activities or events to non-English speakers. If your Application Form states that a budget is required, costs for translating and interpreting services should be included in your budget.

Assessment

The Assessment Team may comprise Australian Government officers from each state/territory and national offices. Teams will undertake training so that Applications are assessed consistently. The Assessment Team will be bound by the APS Code of Conduct and Departmental Secretary's Instructions.

Probity and fairness

The selection of funding recipients must be fair, open and demonstrate the highest level of integrity.

The following principles will be applied throughout the selection process:

- fairness and impartiality
- consistency, accountability and transparency of process
- security and confidentiality of information
- identification and resolution of conflicts of interest
- compliance with legislative obligations and government policy.

These principles are intended to achieve an equitable, justifiable and sound process.

The Community Grants Hub may engage a Probity Advisor to help meet its obligations to make selection processes defensible and able to stand up to external and internal scrutiny. The Probity Advisor also advises the Community Grants Hub on, and monitors, the procedures used in the selection process to make sure they comply with the published Program Guidelines. The Probity Advisor plays no part in assessing Applications.

Program Guidelines

The Program Guidelines, the *National Initiatives Guidelines Overview,* provide the starting point for parties considering whether to apply for a grant and are the basis for the business relationship between DSS and the grant recipient. Applicants are strongly advised to read the Program Guidelines before completing an Application Form.

How to apply

Once you have completed your Application Form, you must submit it electronically by using the submission section at the end of the form. Following electronic submission, a message with your Submission Reference ID will appear on your screen. An email will be sent to the main email contact provided in the Application Form.
A function is also available on the submission page to allow you to send a receipt email to the address of your choosing. Please save this email receipt for future reference and use it in all correspondence about this Application.

If you do not receive a confirmation email or you have difficulties submitting the Application Form, please call the Community Grants Hub Grants Hotline on 1800 020 283 or TTY on 1800 555 677.

Grant Agreement information

The Grant Agreement is a performance-based, legally enforceable agreement between the Commonwealth (represented by DSS) and the successful Applicant that sets out the Terms and Conditions governing the grant to be provided.

The type of Grant Agreement entered into will depend on the Activity, the assessed Activity risk level, the length of the Activity and the amount of the grant.

**Safer Pathways for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women
Target Locations**

On the Application Form, under Part 4, Applicants must use the Statistical Area 3 (SA3) corresponding to the Local Government Area in which they wish to conduct their project.

State	Local Government Area	SA3 On Form
New South Wales	Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour
	Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga
	Albury	Albury
	Shoalhaven	Shoalhaven
	Byron	Richmond Valley - Coastal
Victoria	Greater Shepparton	Shepparton
	Greater Bendigo	Bendigo
	Ballarat	Ballarat
	Mildura	Mildura
	Wodonga	Wodonga - Alpine
	Swan Hill	Murray River - Swan Hill
Queensland	Cairns	Cairns - North
	Townsville	Townsville
	Toowoomba	Toowoomba
	Mackay	Mackay
	Rockhampton	Rockhampton
	Lockyer Valley (Laidley)	Ipswich Hinterland
	Somerset (Kilcoy)	Caboolture Hinterland
South Australia	Mount Gambier	Limestone Coast
	Murray Bridge	Murray and Mallee
	Mount Barker	Adelaide Hills
	Whyalla	Eyre Peninsula and South West
	Naracoorte and Lucindale	Limestone Coast
Western Australia	Mandurah	Mandurah
	Bunbury	Bunbury
	Roebourne - Karratha	Pilbara
	Kalgoorlie/Boulder	Goldfields
	Geraldton-Greenough	Mid West
Tasmania	Launceston	Launceston
	Glenorchy	Hobart - North West
	Hobart	Hobart Inner
	Clarence	Hobart - North East
	Kingborough	Hobart - South and West
	Devonport	Devonport
Northern Territory	Darwin	Darwin Suburbs
	Palmerston	Palmerston
	Alice Springs	Alice Springs
	Litchfield	Litchfield
	Katherine	Katherine