



Feedback for Applicants

Men as Role Models for Preventing Violence against Women and their Children

Overview

On 9 August 2019, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed the Fourth Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan). The Australian Government committed \$340 million to the Fourth Action Plan, to prevent violence before it happens and provide support to women and children.

This included funding of \$2.472 million GST exclusive across three financial years (2019–20 to 2021–22) for the Men as Role Models for Preventing Violence against Women and their Children grant opportunity. The aim of this opportunity is for organisations to develop and deliver primary prevention activities that encourage men to be positive role models.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) sought applications from specialist organisations, or consortium partnerships led by specialist organisations via an open competitive grant opportunity. For the purposes of this grant opportunity, a specialist organisation required expertise in family, domestic or sexual violence, gender equality or primary prevention.

The application period opened on 13 August 2019 and closed on 24 September 2019. Activities are expected to commence in February 2020 and end in June 2022.

The feedback provided below is to help applicants understand the selection process for this grant opportunity, and how to strengthen future applications. In line with the Question and Answers released with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines individual feedback will not be made available.

Selection process

172 applications were received making the selection of successful grant recipients competitive, particularly given the stated intention to fund two to three organisations.

Initial screening determined 165 applications were eligible and compliant with the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. These applications were assessed against six equally weighted assessment criteria. Of the 165 applications:

- 76 fully met the selection criteria
- 52 partially met the selection criteria
- 36 did not meet any of the selection criteria.

A DSS Selection Advisory Panel, with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise, then considered all applications and their assessment results and made funding recommendations on applications having regard to:

- whether the project, and its elements, aligned with the program objectives
- value for money
- conformance with Grant Opportunity Guideline eligibility criteria
- service provider mix (location and cohort)
- how the services and/or project would be delivered.

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, primary prevention, sexual assault and domestic and family violence.

The Selection Advisory Panel and the Expert Advisory Group acknowledged the high level of commitment to primary prevention across the sector, as evidenced by the large number of applications. The applications were generally of high quality, reflecting the efforts made by applicants to comprehensively address the assessment criteria. The Selection Advisory Panel and Expert Advisory Group members prioritised projects which:

- were innovative and would add to the knowledge base about successful strategies to reduce violence
- demonstrated a high level of engagement with identified priority cohorts
- were located in geographic regions where there were relatively few existing services or programs.

After assessment, three applications were selected for funding, totalling \$2.334 million (GST exclusive). The DSS Delegate, the Deputy Secretary, Families and Communities, approved funding to the successful grant recipients.

The successful applicants proposed activities that were eligible, appropriate 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, including sub-criteria, were addressed
- demonstrating their consideration of the grant program's objectives
- including relevant information that was supported by reliable and current evidence.

The table below provides further information about stronger and weaker responses.

Topic	Stronger responses	Weaker responses
Alignment with Grant Opportunity Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was within the funding range of \$750,000–\$900,000 for this grant opportunity. Projects were innovative and/or complemented and expanded on existing effective projects, frameworks and campaigns. Activities were primary prevention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding amount was outside the funding range. Funding was for an existing program with no expansion. Activities were not primary prevention – e.g. men’s behaviour change programs and individual counselling for victims.
Organisation expertise and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong evidence of a track record in delivering quality outcomes, including details of previous programs and evidence of their success. Suitably qualified and experienced staff. Well-developed governance proposal. Disclosure management (including mandatory reporting) and trauma-informed, culturally appropriate practices were detailed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant (or lead applicant) did not provide evidence to support the claim of being a specialist organisation with expertise in family/domestic/sexual violence, gender equality or primary prevention. Unclear consortia arrangements including the roles, responsibilities and decision making processes.
Gendered drivers of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong recognition and analysis of gendered drivers of domestic and family violence. Activities aligned with existing primary prevention frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender inequality was not recognised as the driver of family and domestic violence. Program/activities focused on factors that reinforced violence (such as substance abuse) rather than drivers of domestic and family violence.
Program need and reach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong recent evidence to demonstrate the need for the program/activity. Demonstrated a contribution to long term change. Potential for a broad reach in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected a small number of participants, with a limited reach, or the number of participants were not estimated.
Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project plan was well developed, including timeframes, key deliverables, budgeting and evaluation plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient detail was provided on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> management and identification of key risks timeframes and key deliverables evaluation planning.
Engaging men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly articulated how men would be engaged as role models, appropriate to target cohort. Project clearly targeted identified priority cohort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men were involved but not as role models.