



Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Family Law Services: Children's Contact Service - Melbourne Inner

General feedback for applicants

Overview

The Family Law Services: Children's Contact Service – Melbourne Inner grant opportunity will improve the wellbeing of Australian families, particularly families with children who are at risk of separating or have separated. Children's Contact Services (CCS) are delivered as part of the Department of Social Services (DSS) Family Law Services Activity, under the Families and Children Program within Outcome 2.1: Families and Communities.

This grant opportunity is intended for the provision of funding to deliver a CCS in Melbourne Inner Statistical Area Level 4 through a five-year grant agreement from 1 July 2019 through to 30 June 2024. A CCS is currently delivered in Melbourne Inner Statistical Area Level 4 by another service provider under a grant agreement that will expire on 30 June 2019. The current service provider has chosen not to provide CCS services in this area from 1 July 2019. This grant opportunity is for a new service provider to deliver a CCS in this area, including the transitioning of existing clients from the previous provider.

The application period opened on 4 April 2019 and closed on 17 April 2019. Up to \$2,228,955 (GST exclusive) over five years was available for this grant opportunity (including establishment funding and base funding), starting from July 2019 and finishing June 2024. Three applications were received, all of which were deemed eligible, making the selection of a successful grant recipient competitive. After assessment, one application was selected for funding of \$2,228,955.

The feedback provided below on behalf of the Attorney-General's Department is to help grant applicants understand what generally comprised stronger and weaker responses to the assessment criteria for this grant round, and how to strengthen future applications.

Selection process

A closed competitive selection process was undertaken, where nine organisations were invited to apply. As noted above, only three organisations chose to apply.

Applications were first screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. All eligible and compliant applications were then assessed and moderated by the Community Grants Hub (the Hub) against the single weighted assessment criterion.



A Selection Advisory Panel independent of the Hub, with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise, from the Attorney-General’s Department and the Department of Social Services, then made a funding recommendation to the Delegate. The recommendation was based on the strength of response to the assessment criteria and the applicant’s ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. The Deputy Secretary, Legal Services and Families Group made the decision to approve the funding to the successful applicant. This included redistributing the total funding of \$2,228,955 across six financial years, from 2018-19 to 2023-24 to enable the establishment funding to be paid in 2018-19 ahead of the commencement of service delivery in July 2019.

The successful applicant was identified to be best able to meet the grant objectives. The proposed activities were eligible, appropriate and considered to be effective for achieving the program outcomes. The successful applicant demonstrated their suitability for public funding, value for money and met all of the eligibility requirements in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Criterion 1

Describe how your organisation will deliver the CCS in accordance with the requirements of the grant opportunity.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- describe the services you will provide, including an outline of the service delivery model that your organisation will use to deliver the activity
- explain how the proposed service model will meet the needs of clients, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, individuals with a disability or those experiencing family violence.

Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
Describe the services you will provide, including an outline of the service delivery model that your organisation will use to deliver the activity.	A stronger response clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The services that would be provided as part of the Children’s Contact Service, including intake, risk screening, and assessment processes, case planning and periodic review.• How clients of the existing CCS service would be transitioned to the new service.• How clients would be provided with appropriate support and referrals to address other presenting issues and to help them move to self-management where it is considered safe to do so.• A service delivery model that prioritises the child’s best interests, safety and accessibility.



Sub-criterion	Sub-criterion feedback
	<p>A weaker response did not clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate how the proposal would achieve the grant objectives.• Outline how the proposal would provide accessibility to a range of families with various needs.• Outline whether clients of the existing service would be transitioned to the new service, and if so, how this would be done.• Describe existing or proposed community based networks that would support the organisation to refer clients for a range of needs.
<p>Explain how the proposed service model will meet the needs of clients, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, individuals with a disability or those experiencing family violence.</p>	<p>A stronger response clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the services provided would reflect the unique needs of the families being serviced.• How clients requiring more intensive support would be assisted, for example, through referrals to other programs and services.• Training and professional development provided to staff to ensure they can meet the unique needs of clients. <p>A weaker response did not clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articulate how staff would have the capacity to provide quality support for clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.• Demonstrate how clients experiencing family violence or those with a disability would receive the necessary support.