



# Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program – Round 1

## Feedback for applicants

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The Attorney-General's Department (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program – Round 1 grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

### Overview

The application submission period for Assessment cycle 1 opened on 14 September 2023 and closed on 12 October 2023.

The application submission period for Assessment cycle 2 opened 12 October 2023 and closed on 5 January 2024.

Justice reinvestment aims to prevent and reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples contact with the criminal justice system. Justice reinvestment is a long term, community led and place-based approach which enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and leaders to come together to identify local solutions to local issues, using strengths of community, cultural knowledge, and stories to measure progress over time. It offers a way for communities to drive local solutions through improved collaboration and partnership with governments and service providers.

The intended outcomes of this grant opportunity were:


- To reduce contact with the criminal justice system and incarceration rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and young people, in line with Closing the Gap Targets 10 and 11.
- To contribute to systemic reform of government systems which intersect with the justice system.
- To contribute to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.

### Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's Grant Opportunity Delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The department assessed and considered all applications through an open non-competitive grant process. The selection advisory panel (panel) established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

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When assessing applications the panel took into consideration several factors including the inclusion and exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received, meeting the identified requirements outlined in the guidelines and the available funding envelope.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- compliance with the guidelines
- suitability against the eligibility criteria in the guidelines
- how well the applications' responses met the assessment criterion
- whether it provided value with relevant money
- whether the applicant was an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Operated and Controlled organisation or other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation which intended to or could demonstrate a plan to become a Community Controlled organisation in the future
- the extent to which evidence contained in the application demonstrated the project would contribute to meeting its proposed outcomes and or objectives.

## Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity, but on this occasion, there were no successful applications. Compliant applications did not demonstrate an ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines.

The Community Grants Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprises a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criterion.



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## Criterion 1

### Why do you think Justice Reinvestment is a good fit for your community?

Applicants told us about some of the challenges in their community impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth justice outcomes and the need for change.

In the application applicants:

- described some of the factors driving contact with the criminal justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth, and included information about crime prevention challenges, and/or issues with alcohol and drug use affecting their community
- provided examples of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members would come together to gather information, and build support for community-led change to improve outcomes
- defined the primary areas where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members were looking to lead and drive solutions, centred in local culture, knowledge, and voices.

Strong applications needed to demonstrate:

- an understanding of what justice reinvestment is and how it works
- how the application was place-based (in the Central Australia region of the Northern Territory)
- how the initiative would be implemented by people in the location of the program, and will be designed specifically for that location
- how the approach would address the systems of justice, and not just implement a program.



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## Criterion 2

### What will you do with think justice reinvestment funding if successful?

Applicants described their proposed project, plan, or strategy and discussed how it would:

- prevent and reduce crime and contact with the criminal justice system among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and/or youth in their area, or
- provide community led treatment for drug and alcohol addiction, or diversionary supports for illegal drug use.

In their applications, applicants:

- described how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members have been involved in leading its design
- defined the connection between their proposed project, plan or strategy and the prevention of crime in their community, or addressing issues with alcohol and other drug use affecting their community
- addressed how their project, plan or strategy would continue to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and centred around a shared connection to place
- outlined whether they planned to collaborate with relevant services, stakeholders or organisations to achieve their projects aims. If so, who and why?

Strong applications needed to demonstrate:

- how the initiative would be community led and/or had community buy in. This would be demonstrated within the responses in the application or through the letters of support from community members and/or organisations
- how the initiative would contribute to strengthened community supports, treatments and diversionary measures for drug and alcohol use and addiction in the Central Australia region of the Northern Territory
- how the program was primarily connected to crime prevention and/or treatment of illegal drug use.



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## Criterion 3

### How will you do it?

Applicants described how their organisation would deliver the project including:

- who would run the day to day operation of the project (for example, staff, budgets) and how major decisions would be made (for example, a decision-making structure) over time
- information provided through the activity work plans or draft budgets, where appropriate
- how they would measure and evaluate progress over the course of the project (what data would they use, and what does success look like in their local context)
- if their organisation would seek financial, in-kind or logistical support from other organisations to maximise impact or strengthen the financial sustainability of the project over the long time (for example, non-government-organisations, philanthropic funders, service providers, local/state/territory governments).

Strong applications needed to demonstrate:

- value for money, particularly that the budget is appropriate to the scale of the initiative. If an initiative involved organisations in a consortium, a larger budget may have been appropriate
- data partnerships within their community to best evaluate the impact of their initiative.

## Individual feedback

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. To request individual feedback please follow the instructions as set out in section 9.1 of the guidelines.