



Grants for Services Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Children who have Displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviours

Feedback for applicants

The Attorney-General's Department (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Grants for Services Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Children who have Displayed Harmful Sexual Behaviours grant opportunity.

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

Overview

The application submission period opened on 17 June 2025 and closed on 28 July 2025.

This targeted grant program will provide one-off grants to enable specialist and community support services to expand the capacity and enhance the capability of their services, and to continue providing critical social, therapeutic, legal and other support services to children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviours and victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

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 Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through a restricted competitive grant process. Applications which underwent preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (panel) for deliberation.

The panel was established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

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

- meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
- meeting the eligibility requirements outline in the guidelines
- how well the responses met each of the assessment criteria
- the volume of applications received and the extent to which applications compared against other applications
- the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
- whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
- how the project proposed to support clients, including clients in priority groups under the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030*

- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the department and the Commonwealth.

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria.

The 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 comprised a strong application and what was considered a quality response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion 1

To what extent will you expand capacity to support more clients/enhance support to existing clients?

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Described how current services will be expanded to provide more no-fee or low-fee support to clients, or support to additional clients. Examples included the establishment of new supports for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and/or children who have displayed concerning or harmful sexual behaviours, expansion of current services to support a new age group, and establishment of a new therapeutic service offering alongside existing services. This included an explanation of how unmet demand will be addressed with grant funds accompanied by clear supporting information such as projected wait-list reductions, new service types offered and/or increases to client numbers and/or occasions of service.
- Described how the services will be trauma informed.
- Described how the grant funds will be used to create sustained improvements beyond the grant activity period. This included, for example, reasonable staff time coordinating with other relevant organisations to streamline referral pathways and options for clients.

Strong applications:

- Clearly described current services, and identified, how the grant funds will be used to expand or support additional clients or occasions of service. Strong applicants included reference to the cost of proposed services (including where services would be free and how clients will benefit from grant funds as well as how the funding would support organisations to meet unmet demand.
- Provided a clear description of trauma-informed service considerations and provided details of training and professional supports provided to key staff delivering the services. Explained how services are trauma-informed, and client focused.
- Described how improvements will be sustained beyond the grant period, including providing details of referral pathways, and demonstrating how the grant funding would be used to ensure the organisation and staff were equipped with new skills or resources to continue enhancing their capability or capacity into the future.

Criterion 2

To what extent will you enhance your service capability and align with better practice?

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Described how current services align with the evidence base and better practice relevant to their service such as the Minimum Practice Standards for specialist and community support services responding to child sexual abuse and/or better practice relating to responding to children who have displayed concerning or harmful sexual behaviours.
- Described how current services would be improved to further align with better practice. This included, for example, training, clinical supervision, or clinical practice guidance development.
- Described how the safety of service clients, their families, carers, kin, and others including service staff would be prioritised and protected (including physical, emotional, and psychological safety).

Strong applications:

- Provided evidence of alignment with the Minimum Practice Standards and other evidence-based principles, models, and therapies. Strong applications also explained how they currently embed best practice in existing procedures and processes.
- Clearly identified a goal for achieving better practice and expanded on their commitment to further improve alignment with better practice through proposed education training and development initiatives.
- Provided details of potential safety concerns that may affect both organisational staff and service users and demonstrated a credible plan to address potential safety concerns, including culturally safe and age-appropriate policies and procedures in place to prioritise the safety of all stakeholders involved in delivering the services.

Criterion 3

To what extent will you ensure your service is appropriate for the clients you support?

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants:

- Described the community of clients the service is likely to support, including specifying whether it would include adult and/or child victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and/or children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviours, or if they anticipated using grant funds to primarily support culturally and linguistically diverse communities, or First Nations people.
- Described how the service would meet the particular needs of the client community safely and appropriately, for example, with regards to age and developmental appropriateness. Strong applicants demonstrated cultural competency, cultural responsiveness, and cultural safety, including where relevant an understanding of historical and contemporary issues and their relevance to the community.
- Described how the service would address any challenges specific to the location and geographic characteristics of the client community, for example, how they anticipated managing recruitment challenges in rural and remote locations.

Strong applications:

- Clearly identified the target cohort/s as well provided details of specific needs of their community, including statistical data. Strong applications also included details of existing community relationships, and internal policies and procedures to ensure the services are culturally safe and responsive.
- Clearly identified the challenges specific to the relevant geographic location with supporting statistical data or study/research and explained the ways in which grant funding could be used to overcome the identified challenges.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback may be requested for this grant opportunity. To request individual feedback please follow the instructions as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, section 9.1.