

Children and Parenting Support

Service delivery areas

1. How will Children and Parenting Support Component funding be distributed?

There is \$140 million in funding available under the Children and Parenting Support Component from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018. Disadvantage exists throughout Australia, but there are some areas that have higher concentration of disadvantage, as such, funding will be distributed using a mixed approach.

Approximately 50 per cent of the available funding will go to priority service areas to support children and families experiencing disadvantage in these areas of concentration.

However, people need support across Australia not just in high need areas, so approximately 50 per cent of funding will be allocated to services that provide support to children and families through a state-wide or national approach or in other locations outside the priority areas.

2. Where are the priority service areas?

The Department has identified 139 priority service areas across Australia. They represent communities with a significant number of children at risk of poor outcomes that are outside existing Communities for Children Facilitating Partner service areas.

Each priority service area contains one or more Statistical Area 2's (SA2's) as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A list of priority service areas is [here](#).

If you would like to deliver in a priority service area, please select all Statistical Area 2's in that priority area at section 6 of the application form. For example if you propose to deliver a service in the Tableland East priority site in Queensland, you would need to select the Atherton, Herberton and Mareeba SA2's in the application form and note in Section 7 which priority service areas you are applying for.

You can choose to service multiple priority service areas but you need to ensure that you have selected all associated Statistical Area 2s at section 6 of the application form.

3. Do service delivery proposals need to be delivered to all areas of a priority service area?

Yes, service delivery proposals should demonstrate how support services will be made available to all children and families within the priority service area being applied for. Applications for serving only partial areas of a priority service area will not be accepted.

You are able to apply for one or more priority service area, and/ or priority service areas and services outside priority service areas.

4. How do I apply to deliver services outside of a priority service area?

You may wish to provide support to children and families across broader areas of Australia. Services may have a national footprint (having a presence in each state and territory) or national reach (such as a website); or to other locations which are outside the priority sites outlined above.

If your service delivery proposal is for state-wide or national coverage, you should include all the relevant states in the list of chosen community areas at section 7 of the application form. You do not need to include SA2 information for these types of proposals. For example, if you proposed providing

community playgroups on a state-wide basis to the eastern mainland states, you would need to select Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria as your chosen community areas.

If you propose to deliver to other locations but not across an entire state or nationally, please select which Statistical Area 2s, at section 7 of the application form, you will deliver services to.

5. My organisation delivers services to target groups which need assistance but they live in higher socioeconomic areas. Will you still consider my application if it demonstrates target group need?

Yes. While the priority service areas target communities with identified disadvantage, there are families throughout Australia who also need services. Approximately 50 per cent of available funding will be allocated to areas outside of the priority services areas, which may include higher socioeconomic areas, or particular target groups.

6. How will services outside of priority service areas be distributed around the country?

The geographic spread of services will be taken into account when assessing applications to deliver services outside of priority service areas.

7. Can I only submit one service delivery proposal?

Applicants are encouraged to provide one proposal to the Department with information on what you propose to deliver in each chosen community area. However, if your service delivery proposals are significantly different for different service areas, you may wish to submit separate applications.

8. Can I deliver services in a Communities for Children Facilitating Partner (CfC FP) service area, Family and Relationship Services location or in an area where there are similar state and territory government services?

The geographic spread of services across the country will be taken into account when assessing applications. If applying for a locational specific service (that is, not within a priority service area or not providing services available state wide or nationally) preference will be given to proposals which are outside current CfC FP service areas and to those which do not duplicate existing services in the area, which could include those provided by Family and Relationship Service providers or state and territory governments. Applicants must demonstrate a need for services when addressing the selection criteria.

A full list of CfC FP service areas is available at the DSS website for your information.

The Department may also consult with state and territory governments regarding the location of service proposals.

9. Do I need to be a former Family Support Program or Support for Carers Program service provider to apply?

No. Applications are welcome from providers who were funded under the former Family Support Program and Support for Carers Program as well as new providers who meet eligibility requirements.

10. What former Family Support Program and Support for Carers Program activities will cease on 30 June 2014?

The Children and Parenting Support sub-activity will replace a number of activities funded under the former Family Support Program and Support for Carers Program, including:

- Communities for Children Direct;
- Community Playgroups;
- Kids in Focus;
- Specialised Family Violence Services;
- Family and Relationship Services for Humanitarian Entrants (FRESHE); and

- MyTime Peer Support Groups for Parents and Carers of Children with a Disability or Chronic Medical Condition.

FRESHE providers may wish to consider applying under the Settlement Services Activity, which delivers core settlement support for humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants in their first five years of life in Australia.

11. Do I need to be operating a service in the priority service area already?

No. Service delivery proposals will be assessed on the merit of the application.

12. How do I find out which statistical area I'm in or more information about statistical areas?

The ABS website can help you determine where you are in relation to statistical areas. It can also be used to display statistical areas and local government areas on a map of Australia.

13. What should service delivery proposals aim to deliver?

Service delivery proposals are being sought from eligible organisations to deliver a range of evidence-based services and resources which provide support for children aged 0-12 (up to 18 in some instances) and improve the capacity of those in a parenting role using an early intervention and prevention approach. This component may also fund organisations that develop resources that provide information about children's development and parenting skills.

14. What service types align with the Children and Parenting Support component?

Consideration will be given to a broad range of service types, including, but not limited to the following priority service types:

- Parenting skills and support;
- Home visiting services;
- Community Playgroups;
- Supported Playgroups;
- Peer Support Groups;
- Web-based services and resources; and
- School readiness programmes.

15. Do I need to provide multiple or all service types to my community?

No. Your service delivery proposal should aim to provide service types that are in line with the program guidelines and are appropriate to your community's needs.

Addressing Selection criteria (Part 6 of the application form)

16. What should I provide to support my application?

Provide evidence to support your claims against the criteria. For example, a claim that your organisation delivers strong outcomes for clients would be strengthened by quantifying with a statement such as 'as demonstrated by surveys administered to clients at the cessation of services which found that X% of clients had improved their housing situation'.

The Department will not examine additional external information, such as links to websites or published reports, referred to in the application.

17. What does ‘Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded Activity in the chosen community/communities and/or target group/s’ mean?

This criterion requires the applicant to demonstrate an understanding of the need for the service delivery proposal in the relevant community.

Applicants may demonstrate the need for the service delivery proposal through a variety of methods including data analysis, surveys and community engagement.

Applicants should outline how the service delivery proposal does not duplicate existing Commonwealth, state and territory services.

18. What does ‘Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding’ mean?

This criterion seeks to understand how the service delivery proposal will achieve positive outcomes for all stakeholders.

Applicants should describe the service delivery proposal’s evidence-based practices and/or evidence-based programmes along with early intervention or prevention approaches that will be used to meet objectives for stakeholders. Applicants should also outline the how their proposal will link with other services and organisations to support the diverse needs of clients.

Service delivery proposals should describe how client outcomes will be monitored and strategies for continuous improvement and priority target group engagement.

19. What is evidence-based practice and programmes?

Many providers in the family services space currently use evidence-based practice or provide evidence-based programmes.

Evidence-based practice is the approach, framework or concepts, which are based on rigorous research, that provide strategies for services design, implementation and improvement. It is the tested ideas behind service delivery that have been shown to achieve their intended outcomes.

Evidence-based programmes use a number of evidence-based practices and consist of a set of coordinated services that demonstrate effectiveness based on research. Evidence-based programs have undergone a rigorous evaluation and have been shown to be effective at providing positive outcomes for children and families.

20. My program has not been evaluated or is currently being evaluated. Can I still apply?

Yes. Applicants should outline the evidence-based practices that inform their proposal and/or describe the evidence-based programme that they propose to use. Details of programme evaluations should also be included in the proposal.

21. What does early intervention and prevention mean?

Services should actively seek to identify issues that are or could affect child or family outcomes and provide interventions or appropriate referrals before these issues escalate.

Early intervention and prevention strategies aim to influence children’s and families’ behaviours to reduce the risks of an emerging issue. A key component of early intervention and prevention is to increase protective factors to enable children and families to be resilient when issues arise.

Early intervention and prevention is intended not only to prevent the development of future problems but also to promote the necessary conditions for a child’s healthy development in all areas.

22. What does ‘Demonstrate your experience in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring activities to achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders’ mean?

This criterion asks applicants to demonstrate their previous experience in providing services that have achieved positive outcomes for stakeholders.

Applicants should demonstrate previous experience using evidence-based practices and/or evidence-based programmes along with early intervention or prevention approaches. Service delivery proposals should also include previous strategies for engaging the community or target group and provide details on past service delivery evaluations.

23. What does ‘Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Activity objectives in the chosen community/communities and/or target group/s’ mean?

This criterion seeks to understand how applicants will be able to adjust organisational arrangements and staffing to deliver their service delivery proposal.

Applicants should indicate their organisations capacity to commence delivering their proposal and how they will ensure that appropriately qualified staff are available.

Applicants may also demonstrate their experience in engaging and supporting their proposed target group and outline the training, supervision and support practices for staff.