



**Australian Government**

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**Department of Social Services**

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**Families and Communities Programme**

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**National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women  
and their Children – Building Safe Communities for  
Women  
Funding Round Summary**

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July 2015

### **National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children**

The *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* (the National Plan) is a long-term partnership between the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory governments and civil society to deliver a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children in Australia.

The first of the National Priorities of the Second National Action Plan 2013-2016 of the National Plan, is to drive whole of community action to prevent violence. One of the agreed actions is to “Support communities to prevent, respond to and speak out against violence, through local government, business, community and sporting groups, schools and key institutions.”

#### **Building Safe Communities for Women**

The Building Safe Communities for Women (BSCW) component of the National Plan aims to improve engagement between non-government organisations, local government, local business, government agencies including schools, police and health services, and the broader community to create sustainable practices to help reduce violence against women and to effectively respond to and support women and their children who are experiencing violence.

#### **Selection type**

This selection is an open process.

#### **Eligibility**

To satisfy eligibility requirements, applicants to BSCW must fall into one of the following categories:

- Incorporated Associations (incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc.' in their legal name)
- Incorporated Cooperatives (also incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- Companies (incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (may be a proprietary company (limited by shares or by guarantee) or a public company)
- Aboriginal Corporations (incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*)
- Organisations established through a specific piece of Commonwealth or state/territory legislation (public benevolent institutions, churches, universities, unions etc.)
- Partnerships;
- Trustees on behalf of a Trust
- State and Territory Governments
- Local Governments.

Not-for-profit entity types specified above meet the eligibility requirements, this could include service clubs, faith groups, sporting bodies, community organisations and youth

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organisations, as well as local government authorities, government schools and universities and colleges of higher education.

### **How much?**

Total funding of up to \$4 million is available from 1 October 2015 to 30 June 2017. Applications will be considered for one-off time limited proposal of up to \$150,000 over this period.

### **Closing Date and Time**

Applications should be submitted by 2pm, Thursday, 27 August, 2015.

### **Who to contact?**

Please email your enquiries to: [grants@dss.gov.au](mailto:grants@dss.gov.au)

### **Grant objectives**

Funding for this grant is intended to support organisations to improve engagement between non-government organisations, local government, local business, government agencies including schools, police and health services, and the broader community to create sustainable practices to help reduce violence against women and to effectively respond to and support women and their children who are experiencing violence. The overarching aim is to support communities to develop and implement practical solutions for dealing with issues of violence against women and their children in their community. It is not intended for ongoing service provision or projects.

The grants provide one-off funding to organisations to assist them to work with other organisations and the broader community to:

- increase knowledge and awareness in the community of the issue of violence against women and their children, how to support victims and where they can get support
- create or increase sustainable inter-connection across community organisations and government agencies which contribute to supporting women and children experiencing violence
- promote existing support available within the community
- improve the responsiveness and integration of local community services meeting the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
- build opportunities and skills to make communities more self-reliant and sustainable, including the development of partnerships with the corporate/business sector; and
- participate in action research on the processes and practices used to engage with other community organisations and share research learnings with other communities.

Communities may be a geographic area and/or a community of interest. It may take in a region within a broader geographic area. Alternatively the community may consist of a target group whether or not they are in a defined geographic location.

Specialist support services play a critical role across Australian communities in assisting women who are experiencing violence, or who may have experienced violence in the past. However if its prevalence is to be significantly reduced it is vital the broader community, through its various organisations, as individuals or the community as a whole, understands

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and recognises violence against women and its impacts, and is prepared to act. These grants are intended to help support the development of broad partnerships within communities to create an environment where women are safe. To this end, projects may include partnerships with organisations which may not have traditionally been viewed as having a role with this issue.

### **Statement of Requirement**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is seeking applications from eligible organisations to establish and/or implement new processes and practices to improve engagement between non-government organisations, local government, local business, government agencies including schools, police and health services, and the broader community to create sustainable practices to help reduce violence against women and to effectively respond to and support women and their children who are experiencing violence.

The overarching aim is to support communities to develop and implement practical solutions for dealing with issues of violence against women and their children in their community.

Funding will focus on building community networks and/or engagements to:

- enable family violence issues to be identified, addressed and to support the local community to take ownership of the issue
- develop whole of community strategies to increase awareness of the issue of violence against women, its causes and impacts, and enhance understanding within the community of how they can help reduce violence against women and their children and how they can support victims
- facilitate partnerships and develop new approaches to support better services and service integration
- develop whole of community strategies to increase awareness of access to services, and
- support organisations to develop the capacity to better integrate responses, including services, to women and their children who are experiencing family violence.

Successful organisations will be required to share their processes and outcomes with other communities through publishing information during the funding period. To assist with this, successful organisations will be required to use an action research approach to continuously reflect on and improve their project to help ensure outcomes are achieved. An action research approach will involve:

- a commitment to include other organisations in the processes surrounding the building of community networks or engagements. Other organisations' views should be taken into account when planning improvements
- using cyclic phases a maximum of 3 cycles over a grant funding period made up of planning, acting, collecting and reflecting
- refining processes in response to the understanding gained; and
- sharing experiences and understanding with other communities, including through publishing information about processes and outcomes over the life of the project.

Successful organisations will be provided with assistance and support in designing their research, undertaking action research and documenting/publishing information about the project and its outcomes. The Department will engage a specialist research organisation to

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provide assistance and support to grant recipients. This support will help ensure the rigour of the research design and processes without over-burdening grant recipient organisation or other participants. As part of the action research support arrangements successful organisations will likely be required to participate in up to 3 face to face workshops and would need to meet the cost of attendance of these from their grant funding.

Funding is not intended for ongoing service provision or projects. The funding is intended to assist communities to develop the capacity and capability to establish sustainable inter-connection across community organisations and government agencies which contribute to helping reduce violence against women within their community and to support women and their children experiencing violence.

Selection assessments will consider the:

- location of projects being proposed (preference may be given to projects in areas with significant prevalence of family and domestic violence)
- aim and purpose of each project in a location
- participation in action research and sharing of research learnings, and
- number of projects proposed in each State and Territory.

This will help ensure a mix of projects across different locations and communities as well as a mix of different approaches across the successful projects. It is intended there will be projects in all States and Territories.

Grants may only be used for:

- development and implementation of sustainable community engagement and/or networks including staff salaries and establishment costs for project implementation
- materials and equipment directly related to the implementation of the project
- designing and undertaking action research and documenting/publishing the research learnings
- travel within Australia directly and specifically related to the project, including any action research workshops

Grants are not provided for:

- the development of new services
- expansion of or ongoing delivery of existing services
- delivery of new processes or practices for inter-organisation co-operation, for example cross agency case management forums
- on-going cost of maintaining the community engagement and/or networks
- development of new toolkits or resources except where this is a by-product of the project
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- major construction/capital works
- purchase of land
- overseas travel, or
- activities for which other Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility

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## Selection Criteria

The equally weighted selection criteria are:

1. Demonstrate your understanding of the need for your project in the specified community and/or specified target group.

Responses to this criterion could include but not limited to:

- detail the community need and the extent of violence against women and their children within the target community
- the extent, or otherwise, of engagement on issues of, and responses to, violence against women and their children by organisations within the community and/or the community more broadly
- understanding of the causes of violence against women and the ways it may manifest in relationships

2. Describe how the implementation of your project will achieve the grant objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money.

Responses to this criterion could include but not limited to:

- description of the intended project and how it will be implemented
- the commitment of other organisations within the community to work together to form partnerships to deliver the project
- how the work and outcomes of this project will be sustained after the funding period

3. Demonstrate your experience in effectively developing, delivering, managing and monitoring projects to achieve grant objectives for all stakeholders.

Responses to this criterion could include but not limited to:

- experience in community development activities including whole of community engagement and awareness raising
- governance arrangements for the project, including partnerships with other agencies
- experience in participating in research activities

4. Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the grant objectives in the nominated community and/or target group.

- how partnerships with other community organisations or agencies will be developed and sustained
- engagement with the wider community
- if new staff are to be engaged to undertake the project, the type of staff and how this will be progressed in order for the project to commence in a timely manner

## Multicultural Access and Equity policy

Australia's *Multicultural Access and Equity Policy: Respecting diversity. Improving responsiveness* obliges Australian government agencies to ensure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people engaging with government and accessing services to which they are entitled, for example, by providing access to language services where appropriate. Grant applicants should consider whether services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to

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communicate with non-English speakers. If your Application Form states that a budget is required, costs for translating and interpreting services should be included in your application.

### **Assessment**

The Assessment Team will be led by Department of Social Services (DSS) officers. Teams will undertake training to ensure consistent assessment for all applications received. The Assessment Team will be bound by the APS Code of Conduct and the Department's Secretary's Instructions.

### **Probity**

The selection of funding recipients for the Activity must be fair, open and demonstrate the highest level of integrity.

The following probity principles will be applied through all stages of the selection process:

- a. fairness and impartiality
- b. consistency, accountability and transparency of process
- c. security and confidentiality of information
- d. identification and resolution of conflicts of interest
- e. compliance with legislative obligations and government policy

These principles are intended to achieve an equitable, justifiable and sound process.

Adherence to the probity principles means that everyone involved with the selection process will act:

- a. impartially, and
- b. with integrity, including avoiding actual or perceived conflicts of interest

A Probity Advisor may be appointed for the Activity. If appointed, the role of the Probity Advisor will be to assist DSS meet its probity obligations in relation to the Activity by ensuring that the selection processes are defensible and will withstand external and internal scrutiny.

The Probity Advisor may independently monitor procedural aspects of the selection process to ensure compliance with the published relevant Programme Guidelines Overview and to advise DSS in relation to such matters. The Probity Advisor plays no part in the assessment of applications.

### **Programme Guidelines Overview**

The Programme Guidelines Overview provides the key starting point for parties considering whether to participate in the activity and forms the basis for the business relationship between the Department and the funding recipient. Applicants are strongly advised to read the Programme Guidelines Overview prior to completing an Application Form. The Programme Guidelines suite comprises of the following documents:

- Programme Guidelines Overview
- Funding Round Summary - this document

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- Application Form
- DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement template - General Grant Conditions
- Questions and Answers

### How to Apply

Please read and complete the declaration part of the Application Form carefully. Ensure all responses are true and accurate. Click the [Submit Application](#) button and follow the instructions provided. All questions will be verified. Any incorrect or unanswered responses will be displayed for your correction. The Application Form will not submit until all responses have been verified.

Upon successful submission you will be issued with a confirmation receipt and email. Submission may take several minutes. Please be patient and do not close the Application Form before receiving confirmation. Do not attempt to submit the application more than once. If you do not receive confirmation or you experience difficulties submitting the application Form, please call 1800 020 283.

### Grant Agreement Information

The type of grant agreement you are asked to enter into will be influenced by the nature of the Activity, the assessed Activity risk level, the length of the Activity and the value of the Activity.

The grant agreement is a performance-based, legally enforceable agreement between the Commonwealth (represented by DSS) and the successful applicant that sets out the terms and conditions governing the funding to be provided.

Your executed grant agreement represents the Department's and your entire agreement in relation to each grant provided within it and the relevant Activity and supersedes all prior representations, communications, agreements, statements and understandings, whether oral or in writing.

### Questions

Questions can be submitted via email to: [grants@dss.gov.au](mailto:grants@dss.gov.au)

Details of Q&As facilities will be provided on the DSS website at the Activity Information page. Unless already answered in the documents that comprise the Application Pack, responses to emailed questions will be published on the [funding round page](#) within five working days of their receipt. DSS will only respond to requests for information that seek clarification of issues to allow applicants a better understanding of the requirements of the Application Form and Programme Guidelines.

DSS will not accept or respond to any applicant's questions, requests for information or correspondence about the status or progress of their application from **21 August 2015** to the closure of the application period and during the assessment phase.