



Building Safe Communities for Women

Feedback summary

Overview

Building Safe Communities for Women (BSCW) is an initiative that contributes to the first National Priority of “Driving whole of community action to prevent violence”, as stated in the *Second Action Plan 2013-2016 – Moving Ahead – of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*.

The aim of BSCW funding is to help communities develop and implement their own solutions to address issues of violence against women and children, and to support women and their children who are experiencing violence.

The grants provide one-off funding to assist organisations to collaborate to:

- increase knowledge and awareness in the community about violence against women and their children, how to support victims and where they can get support
- create or increase connections across the community organisations and the government agencies that contribute to supporting women and children experiencing violence
- promote the support that is available in the community
- improve the ways local community services respond and work together to meet the needs of women and their children experiencing violence
- build opportunities and skills to make communities more self-reliant and sustainable, including by developing partnerships with the corporate/business sector, and
- participate in research on the ways community organisations work together and share research learnings with other communities.

DSS recognises and supports the work of organisations in the community sector that offer projects to address issues of violence against women and their children. These organisations have experience in the sector and a strong commitment to promoting local community interests.

Selection results

The selected projects will improve engagement between non-government organisations, local government, local business, government agencies such as schools, police and health services, and the broader community, to build safe communities for women and their children.

Selection process

DSS received 663 applications with high quality proposals for the 2015-16 BSCW funding round.

Each proposal was assessed against four equally weighted selection criteria, which are listed below.

This is consistent with the published Funding Round Summary, which stated:

“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 on action research and sharing of research learnings, and
- number of projects 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.”

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

Strong responses to Criterion 1 demonstrated the following key strengths:

Strength	Example
The applicant identified and demonstrated a good understanding of the needs of the community.	The proposal provided detailed information about the specific needs of the local community and identified relevant supporting evidence for the extent of violence against women in the community.
The applicant demonstrated a good knowledge of organisations in the community working on the issue of violence against women.	The proposal identified relevant organisations in the community that are working on the issue of violence against women. It described any links between these organisations, and recognised the actual or potential role of organisations working across different sectors. The proposal provided detailed information about support that is available in the community, including service gaps or duplication of services. It also identified the importance of non-specialist family violence services.
The applicant provided comprehensive information about the causes of violence against women and the ways it may manifest in relationships.	The proposal provided statistical evidence for the causes of violence against women and the ways that it may manifest in relationships. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the gendered nature of family violence • control as a central cause of violence against women, which can manifest in multiple ways.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 1 by:

- demonstrating their understanding of the identified target community, service gap, and objectives of the funding round
- supporting their application with specific and relevant data (for example, census data, academic research and government publications)
- making sure that supporting evidence and data was specifically relevant to the local community rather than to, for example, the whole Australian population.

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

Strong responses to Criterion 2 demonstrated the following key strengths:

Strength	Example
The applicant provided a clear plan for the implementation of the project.	The proposal provided relevant and convincing information about project activities and how it will be implemented to meet the grant objectives.
The applicant explained how they will work together with other organisations to form partnerships to deliver the project.	The proposal provided relevant and convincing information to demonstrate relationships with other organisations within the community, and described how the organisations will work together in partnership to deliver the project.
The applicant described how the work and outcomes of the project will be sustained after the funding period.	The proposal provided details about how funding for the project will be spent and how the project will be sustained after the funding period.
The proposal represented value for money.	The proposal identified how the project would be delivered within a particular budget and detailed how the project could use other funding sources to efficiently deliver the activities.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 2 by:

- describing the connection between project activities and grant objectives
- demonstrating how the project activities could be sustained through the use of partnerships formed using the one-off, time-limited funding
- demonstrating value for money by detailing how the project would efficiently address the funding outcomes.

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

Strong responses to Criterion 3 demonstrated the following key strengths:

Strength	Example
The applicant demonstrated experience in community development activities, including whole-of-community engagement and raising awareness.	The proposal provided relevant and convincing information to demonstrate previous experience. It described how this experience will support successful community engagement and raise awareness of violence against women.
The applicant described the governance arrangement for the project, including partnerships with other agencies.	The proposal provided details of the governance arrangements for the project, including partnership arrangements with other agencies; for example, establishing a steering committee that includes members from different participating organisations.
The applicant demonstrated experience in participating in research activities.	The proposal provided relevant and convincing information about experience in participating in research activities. For example, the proposal may have referenced previous documented research activities.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 3 by:

- referring to outcomes of similar activities delivered to similar communities
- providing specific examples of governance arrangements for previous projects delivered by the applicant, including appropriate mechanisms to support the management of partnership arrangements with other agencies
- showing a strong commitment to action research and engaging skills, including a statement of value and how it will be incorporated into the overall project design. For example, reflecting on how the organisation and/or the other participating organisations do this now.

Criterion 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.

Strong responses to Criterion 4 demonstrated the following key strengths:

Strength	Example
The applicant described how partnerships with other community organisations or agencies will be developed and sustained.	The proposal provided relevant examples to demonstrate the applicant’s experience in developing and sustaining productive and effective partnerships.
The applicant provided information on the engagement of the wider community	The proposal provided convincing information to demonstrate how the organisation will engage the wider community.
The applicant provided relevant information on staff skills and experience.	The proposal provided relevant and convincing information about management experience, staffing experience, skills and qualifications required to support partnership arrangements with other organisations.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 4 by:

- building on existing partnership arrangements to involve new organisations
- providing information about how the project could link to other activities within the community in ways that could benefit the community beyond the life of the project
- explaining how additional staff will be engaged, and the fall-back position that could be used if the applicant is unable to recruit new staff.