



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Safe Places

Our emergency accommodation program

What we heard from the community

Easy Read report



How to use this report



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this report.

When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

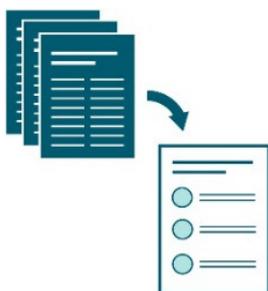
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 48.



This is an Easy Read summary of another report.

This means it only includes some ideas.



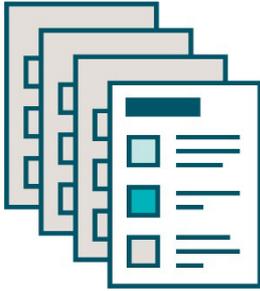
You can find more information on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/housing-support/programmes-services/homelessness/domestic-and-family-violence



You can ask for help to read this report.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.



This report is quite long.

You can take a break and come back later.



This document includes photos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It may contain images of people who have passed away.



We recognise First Nations peoples as the traditional owners of the land we live on – Australia.



They were the first people to live on and use the:

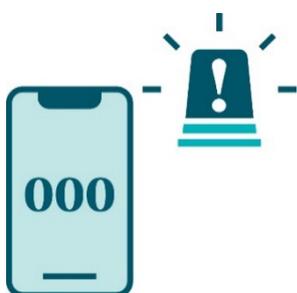
- land
- waters.

Help and support



If something in this report makes you upset or worried, you can talk to someone.

You can also get support if you experience violence.



If you or someone you know is in danger, call Triple Zero.

000



1800RESPECT can support you if you are experiencing violence.



You can call them any time.

1800 737 732



You can visit their website.

www.1800respect.org.au

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About this report



We have a program that provides **grants** to create safe places for women and children who experience violence at home.

We call it our Safe Places program.



A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



We call these safe places **emergency accommodation**.

Emergency accommodation is for people experiencing violence who don't have anywhere to live at the moment.

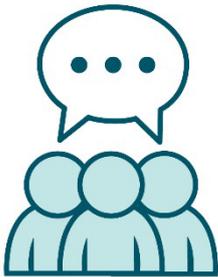


We will create a new round of grants in the Safe Places program.

We call it the Inclusion Round.



We heard from the community about how to make sure the Inclusion Round grants work well.



In this report, we explain what the community shared.



Organisations can take part in the Inclusion Round through the GrantConnect website.

www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=bbb481e9-a57e-4f9d-96b2-4e0bc5f2266d

Why the Safe Places program is important



Violence is one of the main reasons women and children become homeless.



Safe places can help women and children have a safe place to stay if they need to leave their home.



It's also important for safe places to work well with long-term housing services.

This means women and children have support when they are ready to leave safe places.



The Inclusion Round will support other work we are doing.

It's all part of our National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 (the National Plan).



You can find out more about the National Plan on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence

Who we want to support



Safe places can help protect people from harm.



They can also help people:

- get support to heal
- find and use the services they need.



The Inclusion Round will focus on creating more safe places that work well for all women and children who experience violence.



Safe places should help any woman or child who experiences violence.

But these safe places need to know how to support different groups of people.



We want safe places to work well for First Nations women and children.



First Nations women and children need safe places in their community.

This includes when they live very far away from cities and towns.



We also want safe places to be **accessible** for women and children with disability.

When a safe place is accessible, it is easy to:



- find and use services



- move around the safe place.



If more safe places are accessible, women and children with disability have more choices about what support they want.



We also want safe places to support **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** women and children.



CALD women and children:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Safe places need to support CALD women and children to find and use support.



This includes CALD people who are visiting Australia for a short time.



If more safe places offer support in different languages, CALD women and children can get the support they need.

How the grant will work



When organisations get a grant, we give them **funding**.

Funding is the money someone receives when they get a grant.



We have **\$90.9 million** that we can use for the Inclusion Round.



For each grant we will give funding between:

- **\$500,000**
- and
- **\$8 million**.



Grants can be for small projects.

For example, just to build one safe place.



Or grants can be for part of a bigger project.

For example, a safe place where there is also long-term housing.

Who we heard from



We heard from **145** people and organisations about how the Inclusion Round could work.

We heard from people who have experienced:



- violence



- emergency accommodation.

We also heard from:



- community organisations



- state and territory organisations.



You can find out more information about what we heard on the Department of Social Services website.

www.dss.gov.au/housing-support/programmes-services/homelessness/domestic-and-family-violence

Important ideas from the community



The community shared some important ideas.



We heard there should be areas in safe places where people can take part in activities together.

For example, a garden or a room to play games in.



We also heard that organisations should connect with the communities of the people who live there.

For example, local:



- CALD communities



- First Nations communities.



People also shared it's important for the Inclusion Round to support smaller organisations.



These organisations sometimes have more experience with the groups we want to support.



And we heard that organisations should support women and children to be safe in their own home.

Long-term housing services



We heard people often have to wait a long time to use long-term housing services.



Especially in places that are far away from cities and towns.



The Inclusion Round will support organisations that show they will support people to move into long-term housing.



People shared that we could create a program to increase long-term housing services for women and children.

The program could be like the Inclusion Round.

Words we use



The community shared their ideas about the meaning of the words we use in the Inclusion Round.

Emergency accommodation

We heard that emergency accommodation should mean a safe place that a person can stay in:



- for up to 12 months



- longer if they need to.



This can give women and children enough time to:

- find support
- begin to heal.

Safe place



A safe place is a home for a single person or family.

They don't have to share living spaces with other people or families.

It is safe and private.

A safe place has at least one:



- bedroom



- bathroom



- kitchenette



- laundry.



2 people can share one bedroom in a safe place.

That means a family of 4 people can live in a 2 bedroom home.



And the home would be 4 safe places.

This is because 4 people could live there.



We heard that some families might need more people to stay in a safe place.



For example, if a grandparent:

- gets sick
- needs to stay in one of the bedrooms.



We won't force organisations to make sure only 2 people stay in one bedroom.

Creating emergency accommodation



The community shared their ideas about how organisations should create emergency accommodation.

Emergency accommodation should:



- be clean



- feel like home.

For example, it should include:



- new bedding



- room to store things.

Emergency accommodation shouldn't be too:



- noisy



- bright.

The community shared that being able to use the internet is important to:



- stay in contact with friends and family



- use online services.

Safe emergency accommodation

When organisations build emergency accommodation, they should think about:



- the experiences of women and children



- how to make them feel safe.



Emergency accommodation should have good security.

For example, alarms and cameras.



And it should be hard for people to find out if a person lives there.

For example, it could:



- have parking spaces that aren't in the open



- not have house numbers on the home.

Standards



People told us that new buildings should meet the Livable Housing Australia (LHA) **standards**.



Standards are rules about how to do things well.

You can:



- meet standards



- go above standards.



People said new buildings should be at least silver standard.

But buildings that organisations upgrade shouldn't need to be.



Gold and platinum standards work better for women and children with disability.



People shared that new buildings should include at least one gold or platinum standard home.

But only if there will be more than one home on a piece of land.

For example, an apartment building.

Challenges



The community told us about challenges that can come up when organisations build emergency accommodation.

We heard that the Inclusion Round should think how it might cost organisations more if:



- they can't build safe places as fast as they planned to



- it becomes more expensive to build homes.



Organisations should show us what they will do if they run out of funding while they build their project.



We created a template that organisations can use to work out how they will spend their funding.

We call it the Capital Works Project Plan and Budget template.



We also want organisations to ask for funding that will cover any extra costs.

The groups we want to support

People shared lots of ideas about how we can best support:



- First Nations women and children



- CALD women and children



- women and children with disability.



We heard that staff from organisations should understand how to support women and children:

- from these groups
- who have experienced violence.

We also heard that the Inclusion Round should support organisations that show they:



- connect with these groups in the community



- hire staff who are part of these groups



- can connect women and children from these groups with the services they need.



And organisations should have plans for how to support women and children from these groups.

This includes ways to check these plans work well.

First Nations women and children



The community shared ideas about how safe places can support First Nations women and children who experience violence.

This includes ways to support them to:



- be healthy in their mind and body



- connect to Country and spirit



- stay connected to their **culture**.

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.

People also shared that it's important for First Nations women and children to be able to:



- get support from other First Nations people



- find and use services at night, in places far away from cities and towns.

CALD women and children



The community shared ideas about how safe places can support CALD women and children who experience violence.



We heard it's important for safe places to have:

- translation services
- staff who can use more than one language.



People shared that it's important for safe places to support people's religion and culture.

For example, by having:



- spaces where people can do the activities of their religion



- food and equipment from people's culture in the kitchen.

Women and children with disability



The community shared that safe places should be accessible for women and children with different types of disability.



And safe places should support women and children to:

- do things on their own
- make their own decisions.



People also said that safe places should hire staff who understand:

- what women and children with disability need
- how to make things accessible.

Parts of the application

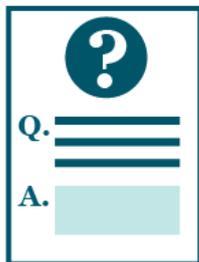


When organisations apply for a grant, we call it an **application**.

In their application, organisations have to:



- show they follow our rules



- answer questions about how their project will work.



Organisations must answer 4 questions about how their project will work.

We call these Assessment Criteria.

1. Creating safe places in the right areas



Organisations should show they are creating the safe place in the right area.

And show the safe place is where women and children need them most.



We created fact sheets that explain where we need safe places in each state and territory.



But safe places can be somewhere else if an organisation can show it will help women and children there.

2. Specialist services



Organisations should show they can provide **specialist services** at safe places.



Specialist services support women and children who experience violence.

These services put women and children first.

They understand:



- how violence can affect people



- how to work with different groups of people.

Specialist services should follow the ways that we know work best.



This includes support that:

- works with what each person needs
- gives people choice and control.

The community told us that organisations should show us they can:



- use specialist services at the safe place to make sure everyone gets support



- connect women and children with the specialist services they need.

For example, women and children should be able to find and use:



- mental health support



- services that speak up for them.



State and territory governments will help to check that specialist services work well.



We will also check that specialist services work well.

3. Value for money



Organisations should show that their project is good **value for money**.

When a project is good value for money, it:

- doesn't cost too much money
- meets the needs of the community.

We will look at how much:



- it costs to make the building have good standards



- funding they are getting from other places.



We created a tool that helps us check how much a project will cost.

Our tool will show how much it costs to:



- build a project in that area



- make the building have good standards



- build extra parts to the building to suit what different groups need.



The community shared that smaller organisations may not be able to get funding from other places.



States and territory governments provide funding for similar projects.

This means organisations might be able to get grants from their state or territory.

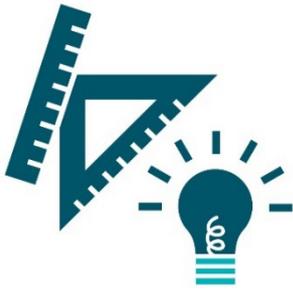


We created resources for organisations to learn how they can get funding from other places.

We call it our Application Pack.

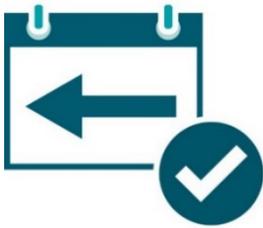
You can learn more about it on page 46.

4. Skills to deliver the project



Organisations should show they have the skills to deliver their project.

They should show they:



- have built similar projects in the past



- will work with other organisations that have built similar projects.



We also want organisations to show they're working with their local community to create the safe places.

This includes what their community thinks about the project.



We created a Community Engagement Plan that can help organisations with this.

You can find this plan on the GrantConnect website.



You can create a new account.

Or you can log in if you already have an account.

www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoUu id=bbb481e9-a57e-4f9d-96b2-4e0bc5f2266d

How we support organisations to apply



We want to support organisations to create good applications.

Good applications show us that a safe place will work well.



We might invite organisations to apply for **\$50,000** of funding to write a good application.



This is for smaller organisations that might need extra help to write a good application.



We will also support organisations that First Nations peoples run.

Support to apply in time



We might let some organisations have up to 12 months to write their application.



We might invite organisations to apply for this.

They must meet certain rules in the Inclusion Round Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

You can find these guidelines on the GrantConnect website.



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[www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoU
uid=bbb481e9-a57e-4f9d-96b2-4e0bc5f2266d](http://www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoU
uid=bbb481e9-a57e-4f9d-96b2-4e0bc5f2266d)

Where we need safe places



We also wrote fact sheets with a list of areas:

- that need safe places
- for each state and territory.

You can find these fact sheets on the GrantConnect website.



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[www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoU
uid=bbb481e9-a57e-4f9d-96b2-4e0bc5f2266d](http://www.grants.gov.au/Go/ViewDocuments?GoU
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Creating a good application



We created a plan that organisations can follow to write a good application.

We call it the Capital Works Project Plan and Budget template.

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We will run information sessions about the Inclusion Round Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

You can sign up for an information session on the Eventbrite website.



www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-places-inclusion-round-information-session-tickets-707628214037



If you have any other questions about the Inclusion Round, you can email us.

SafePlaces@dss.gov.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When a safe place is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use services
- move around the safe place.



Application

When organisations apply for a grant, we call it an application.



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD women and children:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.

Culture

Your culture is:



- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- your beliefs
- what is important to you.



Emergency accommodation

Emergency accommodation is for people experiencing violence who don't have anywhere to live at the moment.



Funding

Funding is the money someone receives when they get a grant.



Grant

A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



Specialist services

Specialist services support women and children who experience violence.

These services put women and children first.



Standards

Standards are rules about how to do things well.



Value for money

When a project is good value for money, it:

- doesn't cost too much money
- meets the needs of the community.



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