



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Social Inclusion Division

Indigenous Justice Program

Program Guidelines 2011-12

Purpose

The Attorney-General's Department provides funding through the Indigenous Justice Program to help respond to the urgent challenge of the accelerating rate of Indigenous offending and incarceration, and to support the realisation of safer communities.

The objective of the Program is to facilitate the development and implementation of effective culturally relevant projects, especially where youth (both female and male) are at risk, and to support and seek to reduce the number of Indigenous Australians coming into adverse contact with the criminal justice system.

The Program complements the Department's other Indigenous law and justice programs—such as the Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Program and the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program—and seeks to fund projects that will lessen the need for legal aid. Early resolution of disputes, including through restorative justice practices, that contribute to prevention and to building safer family and community environments is encouraged.

Guidelines

The Program complements State and Territory initiatives. Funding from the Australian Government should be regarded as complementary and the Department encourages applicants to seek funding from other sources. All applicants must advise the Department what funding they have received or applied for from other sources.

In addition, all projects that attract funding under the Program are expected to establish protocols and partnerships with relevant government agencies and the non-government sector, outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of the service provider, other agencies and organisations. These parties should agree on powers, duties, cooperative arrangements and standards of service. Protocols should be documented in the form of partnership agreements or Memoranda of Understanding.

Under the Australian Government *Submission for Funding for Indigenous Programmes 2011-12*, service providers will be required to meet the Department's terms and conditions, as well as program specific terms, conditions and schedules, which apply to all projects that receive funding under the Program.

Service providers are expected to offer accessible and culturally appropriate services to Indigenous Australians in the specified service region, regardless of gender, sexual preference, family relationship, location, disability, literacy or language.

Performance

The Department will measure the performance of all projects using Service Delivery Standards and performance indicators. Further detail on the Service Delivery Standards is set out in a separate document available at <http://www.ag.gov.au/indigenousjusticeprogram>.

The Department will assess:

- how much has been done
- how well it has been done, and
- whether the project has achieved what was intended.

Applicants should frame their applications based on this criteria and ensure they provide a clear purpose of the project, an outline of the services to be delivered or developments, and how they will be measured.

A mix of standard quantitative and qualitative indicators will be used by the Department and additional performance indicators may also be negotiated with individual projects where appropriate.

Priorities

The Department is seeking to invest in an efficient and effective manner in Australian Indigenous communities with the highest need. Accordingly, the Department will identify financially sound and established State-based or regional Indigenous organisations that can deliver activities across regions, to a flexible target group.

Assessment and management of funding applications and program delivery will focus on:

- accountability to Government and members of the organisation
- providing the best service possible
- effective use of funds
- prioritising and managing risk effectively
- demonstration of elements of good practice, and
- alignment with the priorities of Government.

Funding applications will be considered that target priority areas by either the nature of the activities to be conducted, or through the client group that will be targeted. However, innovative or multipurpose projects that focus on helping to reduce Indigenous Australians' adverse contact with the criminal justice system and fall outside the priority areas may be considered for funding.

There are four program funding streams as follows:

1 Youth Prevention and Diversion

Scope: to fund projects that help reduce the number of at risk Indigenous youth and adults having adverse contact with the criminal justice system, and to seek to increase their motivation to identify and take opportunities to support a productive, crime-free life.

The priority is to fund prevention and diversion projects for Indigenous youth at risk of adverse contact with the criminal justice system, which may help to improve community safety and reduce the level of over-representation in the criminal justice system.

Projects that may be eligible for funding include:

- cultural knowledge / identity and motivational camps focusing on activities
- night outreach programs and activities
- early intervention programs that focus on evidence-based interventions, including assessment of key risks, monitoring of behaviour and some post program follow-up, to increase the chances of positive outcomes, and
- community patrols that provide activities for youth at risk.

2 Prisoner Through Care

Scope: to fund projects that motivate and support the rehabilitation of Indigenous detainees (juveniles) and prisoners (adults) while incarcerated, and provide positive pathways on release to support successful reintegration in the community as law abiding citizens, to help reduce recidivism and the realisation of safer communities.

The priority is to fund projects that develop strategies to motivate and change attitudes and behaviour of detainees / prisoners and provide ongoing support in the community for one to three months.

Projects that may be eligible for funding include:

- detainee / prisoner support return home schemes, that include:
 - targeted case management and referral services using a range of techniques including crisis intervention, family support, consultation, counselling, conflict resolution, negotiation, liaison, and advocacy
 - appropriate detention / prison-to-community transition plans that meet the key needs of targeted detainees / prisoners by involving the families, communities and other relevant persons / organisations, including raising family violence issues and victim protection strategies, if required
 - community transition planning to include timely referral to engage other practical support such as accommodation, finances, employment, dealing with addictions and social needs
- culturally relevant rehabilitation and healing programs (including intensive) and other cultural programs, to help at risk detainees / prisoners become strong through positive aspects of culture to help reduce recidivism, and
- regular visits to more marginalised communities to assist offenders in accessing community based programs, to provide education about such programs and to encourage the development of community based initiatives where none exist and are needed.

3 Community Patrols

Scope: to fund projects that provide locally driven, culturally relevant early intervention services to help prevent crime and victimisation in Indigenous communities, to help prevent adverse contact with the criminal justice system and to ensure the services are coordinated with other community support and law enforcement services.

The priority is to support community safety by patrolling the streets and / or local community area, intervening and providing transportation to a place of safety, or where the immediate needs may be addressed, of those at risk of potential domestic or family violence, and those at risk of adverse contact with the criminal justice system.

Projects that may be eligible for funding include:

- community safety patrols, and
- community safety plans integrated with community patrol services.

Note: Community patrols in the Northern Territory must comply with additional requirements, including the 'Night Patrol Services in the Northern Territory Operational Framework'. For further information see <http://www.ag.gov.au/ntnightpatrol>.

4 Restorative Justice

Scope: to fund projects that provide early intervention cultural justice alternatives to the mainstream criminal justice system for Indigenous people at risk of, and in contact with the criminal justice system, providing effective consequences and processes for healing, and restoration with their people.

The priority is to strengthen community driven justice responses by funding projects that involve, or promote the involvement of Indigenous communities, families, victims and offenders in developing effective alternative mechanisms of justice for their people.

Projects that may be eligible for funding support include:

- Indigenous conferencing circle sentencing, alternative sentencing schemes and mediation
- employment of restorative justice officers
- development of healing and 'growing strong' programs, and
- visits to more marginalised communities to assist offenders in accessing restorative justice programs, to provide education about such programs and to encourage the development of restorative justice initiatives where none exist and are needed,
 - such as supporting the return of detainees / prisoners to the community by resolving payback issues.