



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Indigenous Justice and
Legal Assistance Division**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2009-10

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services

Purpose of Funding

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) provides funding for the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS). The FVPLS assist Indigenous adults and children who are victims-survivors of family violence, including sexual assault/abuse, or who are at immediate risk of such violence. The FVPLS also provides a law reform and advocacy function, community legal education and family violence prevention activities.

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

The program complements other Indigenous Law and Justice Programs.

Funding Guidelines

State and Territory agencies have the prime responsibility for family violence services in Indigenous communities. The funding for this area should be regarded as supplementary rather than primary and the AGD encourages applicants to seek funding from other funding sources. All applicants will be required to provide information to the AGD relating to funding received, and/or applied for, from other sources.

Under the Australian Government *Submission for Funding Indigenous Programmes 2009-10*, you will be required to meet the AGD terms and conditions, as well as any program specific terms, conditions and the schedule, which applies to all projects funded under this program.

The AGD will measure performance of projects under this program. This will include a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators and measures. Mandatory indicators are included for each program component. It should be noted that the AGD may include additional project specific performance indicators and measures for any funded project, in consultation with service providers.

The AGD is seeking to ensure that publicly funded organisations are accountable, provide the best service possible, make efficient and effective use of available funds, and prioritise risk so that a fairer distribution of resources to those most vulnerable members of the Indigenous community can be achieved.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services

FVPLS units are expected to ensure that the services offered are culturally inclusive and accessible to Indigenous adults and children, in the specified service region, regardless of gender, sexual preference, family relationship, location, disability, literacy or language. Units must comply with the program specific terms, conditions, the schedule and the *Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Operational Framework, July 2006* and *Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Policy Manual, June 2007*.

FVPLS delivers the following services in a safe and culturally sensitive environment:

- legal advice and casework assistance
- court support
- counselling to victims of family violence and sexual assault
- assistance and support to victims of sexual assault
- child protection and support
- information, support and referral services
- community promotion initiatives
- referrals
- early intervention and prevention
- community legal education, and
- law reform and advocacy.

Established FVPLS units are required to apply annually for funding under this program. Service providers will be invited to make submission to provide service delivery in specified high need service areas in rural and remote locations.

Performance Measures

The AGD will measure performance of projects funded under this program. This will include a mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators and measures. Mandatory indicators are outlined below. It should be noted that the AGD may include additional project specific performance indicators and measures for any funded project, in consultation with service providers.

The mandatory performance measures are contained within the *Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Operational Framework, July 2006* and include:

- number of clients by sex and age
- number of legal assistance ie advice, casework
- number of legal applications provided by law type
- number of clients counselled
- number of community promotion projects

- number of preventative, community legal education and law reform activities
- submit a quarterly report detailing workload data
- provide detailed description of community promotion projects conducted, including legal education, preventative activities and law reform
- undertake annual client surveys/evaluation of the service delivery performance, and
- undertake self-evaluation audit of the unit's performance against service standards listed in the *Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Operational Framework, July 2006*.