



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Indigenous Justice and
Legal Assistance Division

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2009-10

Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice

(Indigenous Justice)

Purpose of Funding

The Attorney-General's Department (the Department) provides funding through the Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice Program (the Program) to develop and undertake projects that will help reduce Indigenous Australians' adverse contact with the justice system.

The objective of the Program is to develop and implement culturally appropriate projects, especially where youth (both female and male) are at risk. The Program is also intended to facilitate projects that will support Indigenous Australians who have been incarcerated or are in custody and that provide throughcare support to assist in their successful reintegration back into the community.

The Program complements the other Indigenous law and justice programs and seeks to fund projects that will lessen the need for legal aid. Early resolution of disputes, including through restorative justice practices, with greater involvement of agencies, the victims, offenders, and Indigenous communities is encouraged.

Funding Guidelines

State and Territory agencies have the prime responsibility for prevention, diversion, rehabilitation and restorative justice services. The Department's funding for this area should be regarded as **complementary** and applicants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources. All applicants will be required to provide information about funding received, and/or applied for, from other sources.

In addition, all projects that attract the Department's 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/or organisations. These parties should agree on powers, duties, cooperation arrangements and standards of service. Protocols should be documented in the form of partnership agreements or memorandums of understanding.

Under the Australian Government *Submission for Funding for Indigenous Programmes 2009-10*, 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 will be expected to ensure that they 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. The Program also seeks to enhance cultural knowledge and identity.

Performance Measures

The Department will measure the performance of all projects utilising a common set of mandatory project performance indicators. In relation to each funded project the Department will assess how much has been done, how well it has been done, and whether the project has achieved what was expected. Applicants should frame their applications using these criteria to ensure clarity about what the project will deliver and that it is measurable against those criteria. A mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators will be used to assess the performance of projects. In addition, the Department may negotiate with funded applicants to include additional performance indicators for individual projects where appropriate.

Funding priorities

The Department is seeking to invest in an efficient and effective manner in Australian Indigenous communities with the highest need. The Department will seek to 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 ensuring that publicly funded organisations:

- are accountable
- provide the best service possible
- make more effective use of available funds, and
- prioritise and manage risk effectively.

There are three sub-programs: Prevention and Justice Support, Restorative Justice, and Community Patrols. 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 involved. However, innovative and/or multipurpose projects that are developed to help reduce Indigenous Australians' adverse contact with the justice system and which fall outside of the priority areas, may be considered for funding.

(1) PREVENTION AND JUSTICE SUPPORT

Under the Prevention and Justice Support sub-program, the Department funds prevention, diversion and rehabilitation schemes for prisoners and people at risk of incarceration. The objective is to reduce recidivism and to assist in the rehabilitation of incarcerated Indigenous Australians, particularly youth, and their return and reintegration into the community.

Projects that may be eligible for funding support from this sub-program include:

- prisoner support and return home schemes
- residential and non-residential recidivism reduction programs, and
- youth at risk intensive prevention and rehabilitative services.

(2) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice sub-program funds projects that will involve, or promote the involvement of families, communities, victims and offenders in developing criminal justice mechanisms for dispute resolution. The focus is on culturally appropriate alternatives to conventional sentencing procedures that recognise and strengthen community driven justice responses, and projects that explore areas of restorative justice such as reintegration into the community and resolving pay back issues.

Projects that may be eligible for funding support from this sub-program include:

- Indigenous conferencing and alternative sentencing schemes
- community grievance resolution education, and
- community safety plans integrated with restorative justice projects.

(3) COMMUNITY PATROLS

The Community Patrols sub-program funds community patrols to assist Indigenous Australians at risk, including intoxicated people, juveniles, victims of violence and the homeless, and to reduce their adverse contact of with the criminal justice system. The purpose of this sub-program is to support community safety by patrolling the streets, and/or local community areas, and to provide transport to a place of safety or where the immediate needs may be addressed.

Projects that may be eligible for funding support from this sub-program include:

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