



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

**Indigenous Justice and
Legal Assistance Division**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2009-10

Law and Justice Advocacy Development

(Justice Advocacy)

Purpose of Funding

The Attorney-General's Department (the Department) provides funding through the Law and Justice Advocacy Development Program (the Program) to advocate for the advancement of the legal rights of Indigenous Australians.

The Program is run in conjunction with other Indigenous law and justice programs, and seeks to support law reform and policy development, and the delivery of community legal education. The Department encourages partnerships between Indigenous organisations and tertiary and research institutions, and government and non-government agencies, which assist in the development of clearly articulated and evidence based policy and law reform, including relevant research.

The Program does not fund legal case work or test cases.

Funding Guidelines

Under the Australian Government *Submission for Funding Indigenous Programmes 2009-10*, service providers will be required to meet the Department's general terms and conditions, as well as any program specific terms and conditions that apply to all projects receiving funding under the Program.

Service providers will also 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.

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 two sub-programs: Law Reform and Community Legal Education. Funding applications will be considered that target these 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 fall outside of the priority areas may be considered for funding.

(1) LAW REFORM

The Law Reform sub-program funds projects and legal service activities that support the advancement of the legal rights of Indigenous Australian and their increased access and equity to services. This can include policy development that identifies laws, policies and practices—particularly in relation to incarceration, policing, family violence and the needs of youth—that impact adversely and disproportionately on Indigenous people. It can also include promoting reforms to laws, policies and practices that will lessen the adverse impact.

The Law Reform sub-program also funds projects that report on State and Territory implementation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommendations.

Sub-program performance measures

Mandatory indicators are:

Quantitative (output)

- a report detailing the number of meetings and projects conducted, number of attendees and organisations represented for each project, and
- the number of submissions and representations made to government or other agencies (copies to be provided to the Department).

Qualitative (outcome)

An evaluation report, assessing the results of the activities conducted against stated objectives and planned outcomes for the project. Depending on the nature of the project, this could include a description of:

- how the project has enhanced the rights and/or contributed to improved accessibility and equity in services provided to Indigenous Australians.

(2) COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

The Community Legal Education sub-program funds community legal education activities, that provide information and education to advance and protect the rights of Indigenous Australians under Australian law.

Sub-program performance measures

Mandatory indicators are:

Output (quantitative)

- the number and type of community legal education projects undertaken.

Outcome (Qualitative)

- a description of how the project advanced and protected the rights of Indigenous Australians through the provision of information and education.