



Australian Government

Attorney-General's Department

**Indigenous Justice and
Legal Assistance Division**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2008-09

Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation And Restorative Justice Program

Purpose of Funding

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) provides funding through the Prevention, Diversion, Rehabilitation and Restorative Justice Program (PDRR) to develop and undertake projects that will divert Indigenous Australians away from adverse contact with the legal system. The program is also intended to facilitate projects that will rehabilitate and support Indigenous Australians who have been incarcerated or are in custody.

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 AGD 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 AGD relating to funding received, and/or applied for, from other sources. Potential applicants should also be aware of the AGD National Community Crime Prevention Program.

In addition, as a supplementary funding arrangement, all projects that attract AGD funding under the PDRR program are expected to establish protocols 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 2008-09*, you will be required to meet the AGD terms and conditions, as well as program specific terms, conditions and schedule, which apply to all projects that receive funding under this program.

The AGD will measure performance of projects funded under this program. This will include a mix of quantitative (output) and qualitative (outcome) indicators and measures. It should be noted that

AGD may include additional project specific performance indicators and measures for any funded project, in consultation with service providers.

Service providers are 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 AGD is seeking to ensure that publicly funded organisations are accountable, provide the best service possible, make more effective use of available funds, and prioritise risk which will result in a fairer distribution of resources to those members of the Australian Indigenous community with the highest need.

There are four key components that may be funded under this program, however, innovative and/or multipurpose projects which are developed to undertake initiatives that will divert Indigenous Australians away from adverse contact with the legal system and which fall outside of these key areas, may be considered.

(1) YOUTH PROJECTS

The AGD funds youth projects, especially where youth are at risk, to divert young people from adverse contact with the criminal justice systems. The objective is to develop and implement projects that address current and future youth issues and are culturally appropriate for young people at risk.

Projects which may be eligible for funding support from this program component include:

- Cultural Camps
- Night Outreach Programs
- Programs to develop self confidence and self
- Young offenders counseling
- Programs to enhance cultural knowledge and identity.

(2) NIGHT PATROLS

The AGD funds night patrols to assist people at risk, including intoxicated people, juveniles, victims of violence and the homeless, and to reduce Indigenous people's adverse contact with the criminal justice system. The objective of this program component is to patrol the streets and/or local community areas, where it is expected that people may be at risk of coming into adverse contact with the criminal justice system, and to get them to a place where their immediate needs may be addressed.

Projects which may be eligible for funding support from this program component include:

- Community Patrols
- Day Patrols
- Night Patrols

(3) PRISONER SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Under the Prisoner Support and Rehabilitation Services program component, AGD may fund prisoner support schemes. The objective is to reduce recidivism and to assist in the rehabilitation of incarcerated Indigenous Australians into the community.

Projects which may be eligible for funding support from this program component include:

- Visitor schemes
- Counseling services
- Cultural programs
- Prisoner return home schemes, and
- Recidivism reduction schemes.

(4) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECTS

The AGD funds restorative justice projects. These projects will involve, or promote the involvement of, families, communities, victims and offenders in developing mechanisms for early dispute resolution, including appropriate alternatives to conventional sentencing procedures.

Projects which may be eligible for funding support from this program component include:

- Mediation and justice groups
- Conferencing & circle sentencing
- Development of community safety plans
- Community grievance resolution education and promotion projects.