



**Australian Government**

**Attorney-General's Department**

**Indigenous Justice and  
Legal Assistance Division**

## **PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2007-08**

### **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 2007-08*, 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. Mandatory indicators are outlined for each program component, and 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 projects 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.

### **Performance Measures**

Mandatory indicators are:

#### *Quantitative (output)*

- number of children/juveniles assisted, and
- number of diversionary projects undertaken.

#### *Qualitative (outcome)*

- describe the diversionary projects and the ways in which they have contributed to a reduction in the rate at which Indigenous Australians have adverse contact with the criminal justice systems
- describe the ways in which the projects have promoted early resolution of legal and related problems, and
- outline any protocols, partnership arrangements or memorandums of understanding between the service provider and relevant government and non-government bodies, which have been developed and implemented, including an assessment of their effectiveness.

## **(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.

### **Performance Measures**

Mandatory indicators are:

#### *Quantitative (output)*

- number of persons assisted
- number of youth/children (under 24 years of age) assisted, and
- number of nights when patrols are conducted.

#### *Qualitative (outcome)*

- report on the ways in which the project has contributed to a reduction in the rate at which Indigenous Australians have adverse contact with the criminal justice system
- describe the services provided to the agreed target communities/groups and nature of achievement/accomplishment in reducing adverse contact with the legal system, and
- outline any protocols, partnership arrangements or memorandums of understanding between the service provider and relevant government and non-government bodies, which have been developed and implemented, including an assessment of their effectiveness.

## **(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.

## **Performance Measures**

Mandatory indicators are:

### *Quantitative (output)*

- number of persons assisted for each of the funded projects/services provided, and
- number of Indigenous prisoners and family members provided with direct support.

### *Qualitative (outcome)*

- report on the ways in which the projects have contributed to a reduction in the rate of adverse contact and recidivism for Indigenous Australians
- describe the ways in which the projects have promoted early resolution of legal and parole related problems
- outline any protocols, partnership arrangements or memorandums of understanding between the service provider and relevant government and non-government bodies, which have been developed and implemented, including an assessment of their effectiveness, and
- undertake client satisfaction surveys which evaluates the performance of the service provider and delivery of services, and provide a report of the outcomes.

## **(4) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROJECTS**

The AGD may fund 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 such as conferencing and circle sentencing.

## **Performance Measures**

Mandatory indicators are:

### *Quantitative (output)*

- number of restorative justice projects
- number of offenders, victims, family and community members participating, and
- number of offenders re-offending within six months.

### *Qualitative (outcome)*

- report on the ways in which the projects have contributed to the early resolution of disputes and the reduction in the adverse contact of Indigenous Australians with the criminal justice system

- outline any protocols, partnership arrangements or memorandums of understanding between the service provider and relevant government and non-government bodies, which have been developed and implemented, including an assessment of their effectiveness, and
- undertake stakeholder (e.g. police, offenders, victims and/or their families) satisfaction surveys which evaluate the performance of the service provider and delivery of services, and provide a report of the outcomes.