

Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund – Round 2

Guidelines

September 2017



Women
NSW

1. Purpose of this document

These guidelines have been updated to reflect the changes from the first round of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund.

The purpose of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund Round 2 Guidelines document is to:

- Articulate the objectives of the Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund Round 2
- Outline the eligibility criteria and other expectations for applications to the Innovation Fund
- Describe the Innovation Fund application process and timeframes
- Provide detail regarding the selection criteria that will be used to appraise applications.

2. About the Innovation Fund

In 2016 the NSW Government launched the *NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children*. The Blueprint identified the need for an increased focus on prevention and early intervention activities to achieve a significant and sustained reduction in the rate of domestic and family violence.

To achieve this, the NSW Government announced a \$20 million Domestic and Family Violence Innovation Fund.

The Innovation Fund Round 2 provides a financial investment for initiatives in the following areas:

- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Crisis responses to domestic and family violence.

Round 1 of the Innovation Fund was finalised in June 2017. Information on the successful projects from Round 1 can be found at

www.women.nsw.gov.au/violence_prevention/innovation-fund

3. Goals and objectives for the Innovation Fund Round 2

The Innovation Fund seeks to deliver outcomes that break the intergenerational cycle of domestic and family violence and improve the safety of women, men and children in NSW.

Objectives

The Innovation Fund Round 2 aims to:

- Increase focus on preventing domestic and family violence
- Target primary prevention efforts to high priority communities across NSW.
- Increase early intervention efforts to reach individuals and communities at higher risk of experiencing domestic and family violence
- Improve outcomes and improve effectiveness of service delivery
- Improve integration of the domestic and family violence service system through stronger coordination, collaboration, and information sharing
- Test new initiatives which can be scaled if effective and if they deliver positive outcomes.

Definitions

Prevention	Early Intervention	Crisis Response
<p>Approaches aiming to reduce or prevent new instances of violence across whole populations before they occur, by addressing underlying causes.</p> <p>Prevention approaches address the underlying causes of domestic and family violence by increasing knowledge, awareness and understanding of the nature and causes of domestic and family violence and influencing attitudes to bring about behavioural change.</p>	<p>Approaches aiming to keep people safe and change attitudes and behaviours or build skills of individuals or groups who are at risk, or exhibiting early signs, of using or experiencing domestic and family violence.</p> <p>Early intervention approaches seek to prevent escalation and address issues arising from the experience of domestic and family violence. They include prevention programs and early interventions for victims, perpetrators and their children in relation to newly identified or disclosed incidences of domestic and family violence.</p>	<p>Approaches that focus on responses to violence, such as provision of support and services to lessen trauma and re-empower victim/survivors, or to reduce longer-term recurrence of violence by changing perpetrator behaviour.</p> <p>Crisis approaches focus on victims and perpetrators of domestic and family violence and their children and require a clear action response from an appropriately skilled worker or workers.</p>

To reflect community needs, the Innovation Fund Round 2 has a greater focus on prevention and early intervention.

While projects delivering crisis responses are eligible to apply and will be considered, priority will be given to prevention and early intervention projects. Further information on the prioritisation of projects is outlined in *Section 6. What funding is available?*

Benefits and outcomes

The Innovation Fund Round 2 seeks to support projects that will deliver human, social and economic benefits and real outcomes to improve people's lives. Applications must detail how a project will address each of the three benefits.

Human Benefits	Social Benefits	Economic Benefits
<p>The effects of domestic and family violence at the individual human rights level are profound and long lasting, causing significant impacts on individuals' health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Human benefits include avoiding human suffering and reducing people's need for support services. Further, alleviating the fear and trauma associated with violence will have a substantial impact on a person's ability to recover from their experience of violence.</p>	<p>Domestic and family violence puts major strain on society, and the networks of relationships that connect people and communities.</p> <p>Social benefits include making communities safer and enable them to function better, whilst also interrupting generational patterns of trauma and disadvantage.</p>	<p>The economic cost of domestic and family violence each year in NSW is estimated at around \$5.6 billion. The majority of these costs are borne by individuals, with substantial costs to governments, employers, and the community. This does not take into account the enormous emotional and psychological costs to victims and families.</p> <p>Economic benefits include a reduction of costs to individuals, business, the government and the community, as well as increased economic opportunities for victims and their children.</p>

Target groups

The Innovation Fund Round 2 aims to support projects that are delivered in high priority areas and that target high-risk cohorts.

59 high priority local government areas (LGAs) have been identified, on the basis that they are areas with a high volume of domestic and family violence incidents and/or are areas where domestic and family violence incidents are growing at a faster than average rate. The 59 LGAs are listed at *Appendix A: High priority local government areas*.

The Innovation Fund also seeks to support initiatives that work with groups at higher risk of experiencing domestic and family violence, including Aboriginal communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) communities and older people. The Innovation Fund will also seek to support initiatives that intervene to prevent re-victimisation or reoffending.

Projects that deliver benefits in these areas, and to these groups, will be prioritised for funding.

Integrated services

The Innovation Fund Round 2 aims to improve the integration within the domestic and family violence service system, as well as integration with other mainstream services outside the specialist domestic and family violence sector. Better integration will improve the experiences of clients of the domestic and family violence service system, whilst also reducing inefficiencies in service delivery.

Improved integration can be delivered through better collaboration and information sharing, as well as through a reduction of service duplication and fragmentation.

Projects that deliver improved integration will be prioritized for funding.

4. What is innovation?

For the purposes of the Innovation Fund Round 2, innovation refers to projects that are:

New and groundbreaking

Service models or programs that have not yet been tested in NSW, or have never been done before and have an appropriate evidence-base.

Involve new forms of collaboration

Partnerships between private and non-government sectors, or between different services or sectors.

Utilise new technologies and system enablers

Use of enablers such as data, information sharing platforms or coordination to improve service delivery and integration across the domestic and family violence service system.

Make significant improvements to existing ways of working

Changes that significantly improve the effectiveness of existing programs, services, or modes of service delivery to improve client outcomes and people's lives.

Apply new approaches to implementation

Adapting existing service models or programs to be appropriate for new target groups, or using alternative mechanisms to deliver existing service models or programs.



5. Innovation is not...

The Innovation Fund Round 2 is designed to generate new ideas, not replicate or duplicate existing services or programs already operating in NSW. It will not support projects that aim to deliver an already well-established program, service model or product (e.g. case management models, refuges/shelters, existing therapeutic interventions, phone applications) with no evidence of adaptation or innovation.

The Innovation Fund will also not support projects that address service gaps (i.e. due to geographic location, cultural factors, accessibility issues) with a well-established model, without detail as to how the service model has been adapted.

Further, the Innovation Fund is not intended to finance 'business as usual' activities, including:

- organisational costs for the delivery of ongoing services
- increased capacity or staffing
- capital investments
- training for ongoing service delivery.

6. Evidence requirements

Projects must be evidence-based. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the evidence for the specific problem (i.e. the need for the intervention), as well as the evidence that the specific intervention is fit for purpose and will address the identified problem.

The evidence for both the problem and intervention should be:

- **Relevant:** the evidence is directly related to the problem and intervention.
- **Reliable:** the evidence is from a source or person that has knowledge and/or experience related to the problem and intervention. The reliability of evidence is strengthened when it can be supported through different information-gathering methods.
- **Current:** the evidence is up to date (to provide a baseline against which change can be measured).
- **Adequate:** there is enough evidence to verify the existence and size of the problem, as well as the rigour and effectiveness of the intervention or service model.

The specific problem should be articulated in terms of extent, demographics and location. Evidence of the problem can be demonstrated through published data (i.e. from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the Australian Bureau of Statistics) or from peer-reviewed published research or independent program evaluations. It is recognised that some innovative solutions may lack a strong evidence base, however this can be overcome through a combination of relevant experience, practice wisdom, and the extrapolation of evidence from other areas.

Appendix B contains a non-exhaustive list of sources of evidence.

All Innovation Fund projects will be required to be independently evaluated in order to contribute towards building the evidence base for effective domestic and family violence interventions. Project budgets should include a line item for evaluation.

7. Round 2 funding available

There is \$10 million available for the Innovation Fund Round 2, across two streams.

- Projects can be funded for anywhere from 1 to 3 years
- Funding for projects lasting more than 12 months will be released in stages and will be conditional on successful reviews of project performance, learning, and outcomes at agreed milestones

Stream one: General funding stream

The general funding stream is open to applications in the areas of prevention, early intervention and crisis response. Priority will be given to projects that:

- are in the area of prevention and early intervention
- target high-risk cohorts, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal communities, people with disability, the LGBTIQ community, older people, and people at risk of re-victimisation or reoffending.
- improve the integration of services within the domestic and family violence service system, and/or well as with other service sectors.

Stream two: Prevention funding stream

The prevention funding stream will support whole-of-community prevention projects that:

- will be delivered in at least one of the 59 high priority LGAs listed in Appendix A
- bring communities together to develop and deliver a multi-faceted prevention campaign
- include a whole-of-community or whole-of-school component.

Whole-of-community prevention projects that include initiatives to engage high-risk cohorts, including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal communities, people with disability, the LGBTIQ community and older people will also be viewed favourably.

8. Who can apply?

1. **Non-profit organisations.** As per the [NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet's definition](#), a non-profit organisation is:

“One which is not operating for the profit or gain of its individual members, whether these gains would have been direct or indirect. A non-profit organisation can still make a profit, but this profit must be used to carry out its purposes and must not be distributed to owners, members or other private people.”

2. **Other (i.e. not non-profit) organisations, individuals or government agencies** may also apply by formally partnering or being sponsored by a non-profit organisation.

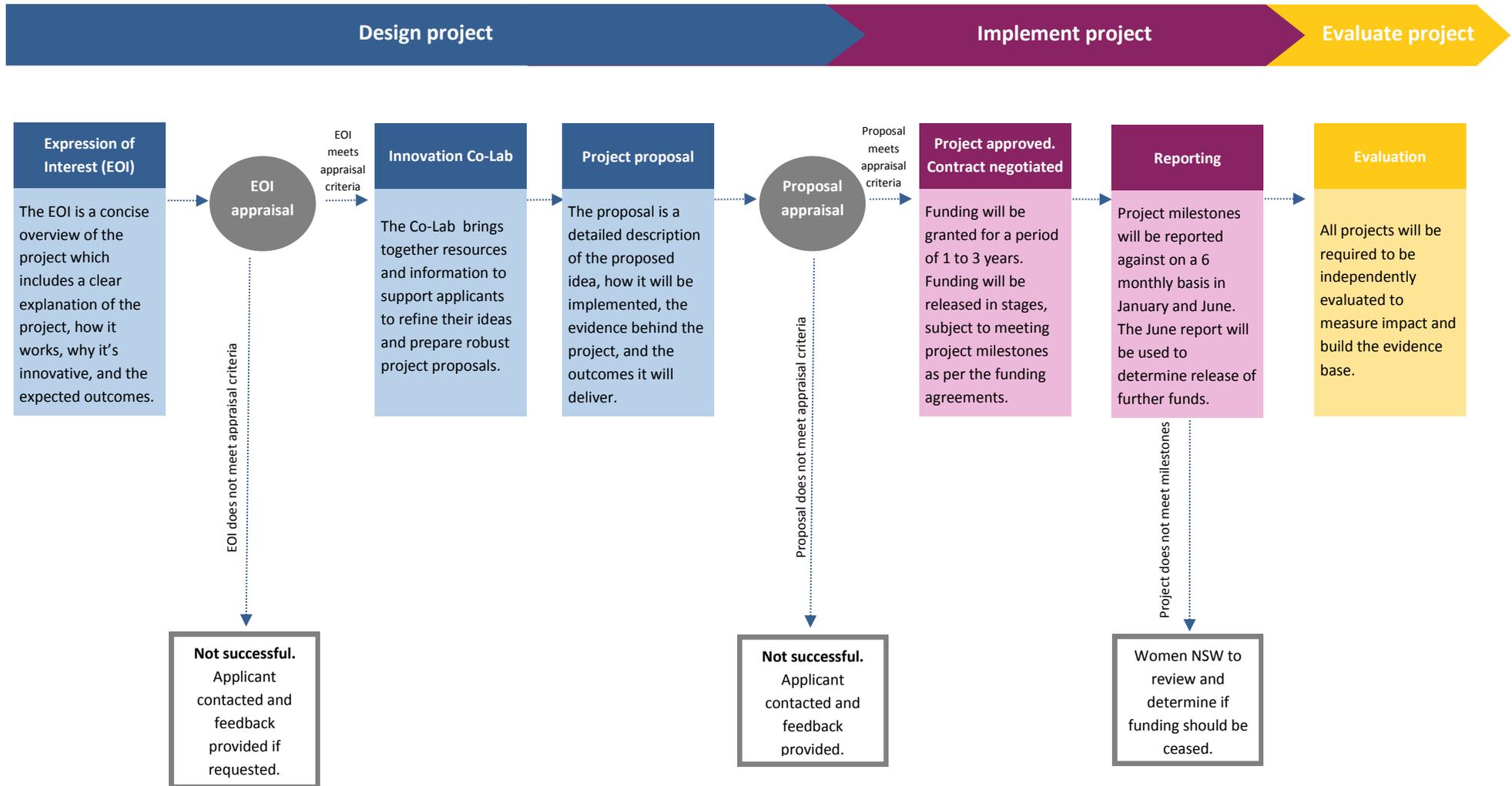
Applications which involve formal partnerships and/or consortia will be considered favourably, as will applications with matched funding commitments. Formal partnerships will be required to demonstrate that:

- The partnership works for the benefit of all partners
- There are clear synergies and complementary skills and capabilities
- Smaller organisations have a well-defined role and ability to influence decisions
- There is a commitment to collective learning and collaborative development of the initial solution and subsequent evolutions
- Each partner takes collective accountability for the outcomes
- The partnership is grounded in a well-defined legal framework, with clear governance arrangements.

9. How to apply

<p>STEP 1 Expressions of Interest</p>	<p>An Expression of Interest (EOI) is an initial short application that provides a high level description of the project. EOIs are to be submitted via the online form at https://womenssw.smartygrants.com.au/. Appendix C contains a non-exhaustive list of sources of guidance and information to assist in developing ideas for the Innovation Fund, and preparing EOIs.</p>
<p>STEP 2 Review of EOIs</p>	<p>EOIs will be appraised by a panel that has relevant expertise. EOIs will be appraised using the criteria outlined in <i>Section 11: What criteria will be used to appraise project proposals?</i></p>
<p>STEP 3 Co-lab process</p>	<p>EOIs that are appraised as meeting the criteria will be invited to participate in a collaborative design process to refine the idea, and prepare a robust project proposal. The co-lab will provide applicants with resources and information to support them in developing their project further.</p>
<p>STEP 4 Proposal</p>	<p>Following the co-lab process, applicants will be invited to submit a proposal. A strong proposal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulate a solution which clearly demonstrates how it is intended to work, as well as its expected benefit • provide a clear and credible program logic about how the project will be delivered • explain how you will learn during the project and continue to improve the solution • provide an explanation of anticipated outcomes and how they will be measured • provide specific information about your budget, partnership relationships, governance arrangements and reporting mechanisms. <p>Proposals will be appraised using the criteria outlined in <i>Section 11: What criteria will be used to appraise project proposals?</i> Appendix C contains a non-exhaustive list of sources of guidance and information to assist in developing ideas for the Innovation Fund, and preparing proposals.</p>
<p>STEP 5 Appraisal of Proposals</p>	<p>Proposals will be appraised by a panel that has relevant expertise, and will apply appraisal criteria outlined in <i>Section 11</i>.</p>
<p>STEP 6 Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Sharing</p>	<p>Successful projects will require a robust monitoring and evaluation plan, with each project required to be externally evaluated. Project teams will also be encouraged to share their learning with other recipients of the Innovation Fund to develop the knowledge base. A focus for the Innovation Fund is 'teaching, trying and learning', with a view to identifying the potential for scalability of ideas.</p>
<p>STEP 7 Reporting, Project Reviews & Extensions</p>	<p>Organisations that receive funding will be required to submit six-monthly progress reports to Women NSW. Organisations will also be required to submit annual performance reports, including progress against key milestones, the learning that has occurred, and the plans for implementing the next phase of the project. Outcomes of the annual reports could include the release of funding for the next stage, as per the original funding agreement.</p>

10. Process of applying



11. What criteria will be used to appraise project proposals?

The following criteria will be applied to both EOIs and project proposals. Note that for prevention projects, they must fall within the scope of prevention as per the definition in Section 3: Goals and objectives for the Innovation Fund, and be proposed for implementation in one of the 59 high priority LGAs listed at Appendix A.

Innovative	<p>The Innovation Fund will support projects that demonstrate new thinking and ways of working. To meet the innovative criteria, project proposals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articulate how the project is innovative, as per the types of innovation outlined in <i>Section 4: What is innovation?</i> • not fall within any of the categories outlined in <i>Section 5: Innovation is not....</i> This includes established programs or service models (with no evidence of adaptation), and 'business as usual' (i.e. day-to-day activities that are already being delivered).
Relevant	<p>Projects must demonstrate that they provide a solution to a defined community need, and that they are consistent with the objectives of the Innovation Fund. To be considered relevant, EOIs and project proposals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a clear and well-refined problem statement, that identifies the specific need in the community that will be resolved through the project (NB priority will be given to projects that address a specific need within high-risk cohorts, including Aboriginal communities, people with disability, LGBTIQ communities, CALD communities) • fall within the scope of prevention, early intervention or crisis response (as defined in <i>Section 3: Goals and objectives for the Innovation Fund</i>) (NB: priority will be given to projects that fall within the scope of prevention and/or early intervention) • align with and deliver on the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform, the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy, the Premier's Priorities and/or the State Priorities • demonstrate that the organisation has the appropriate skills and expertise to deliver the project • demonstrate that the project is integrated within the existing service system, and delivery of the project involves collaboration and partnership with other service providers.
Evidence-based	<p>Projects must be evidence-based. To meet the evidence-based criteria, EOIs and project proposals must clearly articulate the evidence for the specific problem as well as the proposed solution, in line with the guidance outlined in <i>Section 6: Evidence requirements</i>.</p>
Effective	<p>Projects must deliver tangible and clearly articulated benefits. These benefits should be demonstrated at the human, social and economic levels, as outlined in <i>Section 3: Goals and objectives for the Innovation Fund Round 2</i>. To meet the effective criteria, EOIs and project proposals must include a clear and credible program logic to demonstrate how the solution will achieve measurable and achievable benefits. How the project will deliver on these benefits should be able to be easily understood based on the program logic, and without requiring significant subject matter expertise or prior knowledge of your organisation or programs.</p>
Efficient	<p>Projects must represent value-for-money in terms of both overall costs, and the value of the outcomes and benefits that will be delivered. To be considered efficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOIs should demonstrate that the project represents value for money. • project proposals should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ demonstrate how the project represents value for money ○ create confidence that the resources requested will be used optimally ○ articulate how the project does not replicate or duplicate existing initiatives in NSW ○ be able to be scaled efficiently if the project demonstrates effectiveness and positive outcomes.
Scalable and Sustainable	<p><i>NB: This criterion does not apply for EOIs.</i></p> <p>Project proposals should consider how the project will continue to deliver an ongoing contribution to the community once funding from the Innovation Fund is expended, as well as how the project could be scaled. To be considered scalable and sustainable, project proposals should outline strategies for increasing or extending funding through collaboration with other partners or funding opportunities, as well as options for the project to be scaled up.</p>

12. Next steps and key milestones

Please submit your Expression of Interest via the Women NSW Smarty Grants portal at <https://womensw.smartygrants.com.au/> by 5:00pm 20 October 2017.

Once the period for submission of EOIs has closed, Women NSW will review all submissions and provide feedback and guidance on next steps. Please reference the key milestones and dates below for the full application process timeline.

If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please contact Women NSW at DFVinnovation@fac.s.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9248 0800.

ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
Expressions of Interest (EOIs) open	22 September 2017
EOIs close	20 October 2017
Eoi appraisal and feedback	By 17 November 2017
Co-lab process	November 2017 to January 2018
Proposals developed and submitted	By 9 February 2018
Proposal appraisal and feedback	By 30 March 2018
Negotiate funding agreements	By 30 April 2018
Round 2 six month report due	January 2019
Round 2 12 month progress report due	June 2019

NB: These are proposed dates only, and are subject to change. Applicants will be notified of any changes to timeframes and deadlines.

Appendix A: High priority local government areas

Women NSW has identified 59 LGAs in NSW that have a high volume of domestic and family violence incidents and/or where domestic and family violence incidents are growing at a faster than average rate.

Projects delivered in one or more of these LGAs will be prioritised for the General funding stream.

To be eligible for the Prevention funding stream, projects must be delivered in one or more of these LGAs.

- Auburn
- Albury
- Armidale Dumaresq
- Bankstown
- Bathurst Regional
- Bogan
- Blacktown
- Broken Hill
- Byron
- Campbelltown
- Cessnock
- Cobar
- Coffs Harbour
- Coonamble
- Dubbo
- Deniliquin
- Forbes
- Gilgandra
- Glen Innes Severn
- Greater Taree
- Griffith
- Gunnedah
- Guyra
- Hawkesbury
- Holroyd
- Inverell
- Kempsey
- Lachlan
- Leeton
- Liverpool
- Lismore
- Lithgow
- Maitland
- Moree Plains
- Muswellbrook
- Nambucca
- Narrabri
- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Newcastle
- Orange
- Parkes
- Parramatta
- Penrith
- Port Stephens
- Richmond Valley
- Shoalhaven
- Sydney
- Tamworth Regional
- Tenterfield
- Tumut Shire
- Tweed
- Walgett
- Wagga Wagga
- Warrumbungle Shire
- Wellington
- Wentworth
- Wyong
- Young

Appendix B: Sources of evidence

Below is a non-exhaustive list of state, national and international sources of which can be used as a starting point to gather evidence for specific problem (i.e. the need for the intervention), as well as the evidence that the specific intervention is fit for purpose and will address the identified problem. Further information regarding the evidence required for projects is outlined in *Section 6. Evidence requirements*.

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)

[BOCSAR](#) develops and maintains statistical databases on crime and criminal research, conducts research on crime and criminal justice issues and problems, monitors trends in crime and criminal justice and provides information and advice on crime and criminal justice in NSW.

BOCASR's [crime mapping tool](#) includes data on incidents, offenders and victims of domestic assault in NSW and at the LGA level.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey 2012

The ABS [Personal Safety Survey 2012](#) collected information about the nature and extent of violence experienced by men and women since the age of 15, including their experience of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. It also collected detailed information about men's and women's experience of current and previous partner violence, lifetime experience of stalking, physical and sexual abuse before the age of 15 and general feelings of safety.

ANROWS has conducted additional data analysis on the Personal Safety Survey 2012 in the [Violence against women: Additional analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Personal Safety Survey 2012](#).

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS)

[ANROWS](#) was established under Australia's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. It aims to increase and improve knowledge about domestic and family violence and sexual assault, and about strategies, policies, programs and services that are effective in reducing these forms of violence and in assisting those women and their children who are affected by such violence.

ANROWS also hosts a [resource database](#) that provides access to resources relevant to reducing the incidences and impact of violence against women and their children.

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

[AIFS](#) is an Australian Government statutory agency that undertakes research into wellbeing of Australian families, including relating to domestic and family violence.

AIFS hosts the [Child Family Community Australia](#) information exchange, which publishes research and resources on a range of topics, including [family violence](#).

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)

For an international perspective on evidence in public policy and analysis, visit the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical, non-partisan research - at legislative direction - on issues of importance to Washington State.

WSIPP reviews research on “what works” (and what does not) in public policy. Its work has spanned many topic areas, including domestic and family violence, criminal justice, education, child welfare, behavioral health, health care, workforce development, public health, and prevention. In systematic reviews, WSIPP assesses the research evidence to identify public policies that improve statewide outcomes and then estimates the benefits, costs, and risks associated with different options.

More information is available at <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/>

Appendix C: Guidance for developing ideas and preparing EOIs and Proposals

Below is a non-exhaustive list of sources of guidance and information to assist in developing ideas for the Innovation Fund, and preparing EOIs and proposals.

Office for Social Impact Investment *Technical Guide: Outcomes Measurement for social impact investment proposals to the NSW Government*

[The Technical Guide](#) was created to support social impact investment proposals, however includes guidance relevant for applications to the Innovation Fund.

At a minimum, applicants should read:

- Section 2.2.1 Identifying the target population
- Section 2.2.2 Expected effect of the intervention
- Section 2.3.1 Defining program logic
- Section 2.3.2 Key principles of program logic
- Section 2.4 Outcomes

NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet *Evaluation Toolkit*

[The Evaluation Toolkit](#) provides advice and resources for planning and conducting a program evaluation.

NSW Government Program Evaluation Guidelines

[The Program Evaluation Guidelines](#) outline best practice principles to plan and conduct program evaluations. Evaluations of Innovation Fund projects should be conducted in accordance with these guidelines.

Appendix D: Definitions

For the Innovation Fund, the following definitions apply:

Program logic

Presents the logic of how an intervention will work. The links between activities, intended outcomes, and between outcomes are shown, to articulate the intended causal links for the program. There is no one way to represent program logic – the test is whether it is a logical representation of the intervention’s causal links. Synonyms include program theory, logic model, theory of change, causal model, outcomes hierarchy, results chain, and intervention logic¹.

Problem Statement

A precise statement that articulates the problem your project is trying to address in terms of what the problem is and why it exists. This should be supported by evidence where possible.

Inputs

Resources put into an intervention for its establishment and implementation. Examples are money, staff, time, facilities, equipment, etc.².

Activities

Actions taken or work performed through which inputs such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources are mobilized to produce specific outputs.

Output

The direct and measurable products of an intervention’s activities and services, often expressed in terms of volume or units delivered³.

Outcome

The changes that occur for individuals, groups, families, organisations, systems, or communities during or after an intervention. Changes can include attitudes, values, behaviours or conditions. Changes can be short term, intermediate or long term:

Short term outcomes: the most direct result of an intervention, typically not ends in themselves, but necessary steps toward desired ends (intermediate or long term outcomes).

Intermediate outcomes: link an intervention’s short term outcomes to long term outcomes; they necessarily precede other outcomes.

Long term outcomes: (sometimes called ultimate outcomes or impact) – result from achieving short term and intermediate outcomes, often beyond the timeframe of an intervention⁴.

Indicator

Measurable markers that show whether progress is being made on a certain condition or circumstance. Different indicators are needed to determine how much progress has been made toward a particular goal, output, or outcome⁵.

¹ <http://www.osii.nsw.gov.au/assets/office-of-social-impact-investment/files/Technical-guide-for-outcomes-measurement.pdf>

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid



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