The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

Funding Guidelines 2024-26

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# Overview of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program

## Purpose of document

Sets out the eligibility and assessment criteria that should be considered in determining whether to fund initiatives under the Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Program.

## Funding Sources

### Memorandum of Understanding

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (the department) and the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC), QMHC is providing the department with $2 million (excluding GST) over two years to co-design initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## Program Objectives

The objective of the SEWB Program is to improve mental health and social and emotional wellbeing outcomes, reduce harm and increase safety associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, and reduce rates of suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland through initiatives that are co-designed with First Nations local leadership.

The Program will achieve or contribute to the following objectives:

* The objective of MoU Schedule A is to work with First Nations communities to progress actions focused on early intervention in AOD programs in alignment with *Achieving balance: The Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022-2027.*
* The objective of MoU Schedule B is to progress Action 42 of *Every life: The Queensland Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2029 Phase 2*, which commits to working with remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop community-led responses to local issues to reduce suicide.
* The objectives and principles of Closing the Gap are for local First Nations leaders to influence and co-design the delivery of services, ensure investment makes their communities stronger, and maximise opportunities from local service and industry partnerships.
* The objectives of the *Statement of Commitment* is to reframe the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government, by doing things with (and not to) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
* Aligned to the *Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration*, embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and concepts of social and emotional wellbeing in service design, delivery, and evaluation.
* The objectives of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* and Queensland’s implementation of priority reforms, specifically Priority Reform 2: Building the community Controlled Sector and Target 14: that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

## Governance

### Project approval

The Director-General, Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (the department) is the Accountable Officer responsible for the financial functions indicated under t*he Financial Accountability Act 2009 (Qld)* and Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019.

Project commencement approval for initiatives funded from the MoU rests with the Director-General, in accordance with financial delegations.

### Memorandum of Understanding - Specific governance arrangements

The MoU states that:

* The department and the QMHC are equal partners in the oversight of the initiative.
* The department will lead contract management of all funded initiatives.
* An overarching Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) has been established to ensure the successful delivery of the intent of the MoU and initiatives funded through its schedules.
* The SOG comprises departmental and interagency expertise, community leadership, and perspectives of lived experience.
* The SOG will provide advice to the department and the QMHC to guide the development, implementation and evaluation of initiatives funded under the MoU. This will enable the department to leverage cross-agency, community and cross-sectoral expertise, data, and perspectives of lived experience to deliver evidence-based, high-impact and sustainable projects that are culturally safe and achieve the mental health and wellbeing priorities identified by community.

# Funding Guidelines

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for MoU funding, an entity should comply with the following requirements:

1. Be a registered business and have an Australian Business Number;
2. Hold public liability insurance to the value of not less than $10 million, or provide evidence of plans to obtain insurance, or partner with an entity that holds insurance, to the value of not less than $10 million to cover the proposed project;
3. Be capable of delivering services in Queensland within stated timeframes;
4. Not duplicate existing funding for the same service or funding period; and
5. Be one of the following entity types:
	* 1. a company incorporated in Australia;
		2. a company incorporated by guarantee;
		3. an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust;
		4. an incorporated association;
			1. a partnership;
			2. an entity auspiced by an eligible organisation;
			3. a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation;
			4. local government body; or
			5. a consortium.

## Assessment Criteria

In assessing the appropriateness of funding an initiative under the MoU, consideration should be given to the criteria below. To be eligible for funding under Schedule A and B of the MoU, an initiative must also comply with the terms set out under the MoU, as identified below.

1. Budget:
* The SEWB Program has sufficient budget to support the initiative.
1. Location
* The SEWB Program must be located in Queensland and the proposal must demonstrate identified community need (e.g., relevant health and wellbeing data) in the identified region.
1. Alignment with Closing the Gap Priority Reforms Areas
* The initiative furthers these objectives, which is evidenced by:
	+ - Initiatives co-designed with local First Nations leadership and a commitment to continue engagement with local leadership on delivery and monitoring.
		- Evidence of broad support from key stakeholders such as community representative group, community members, community organisations, and Council.
		- Support for capacity development.
		- Support to identify or uphold community aspirations and priorities.
		- A commitment to upholding these principles, such as mutual respect, high expectations relationships, local decision making and self-determination.
1. Alignment with MOU objectives
* Evidence based initiatives that will improve mental health and social and emotional wellbeing outcomes, reduce harm, and increase safety associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, and reduce rates of suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland.
* Improve early identification of vulnerability and provide targeted programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific initiatives, including initiatives for young people involved with the youth justice and out-of-home care systems.
* Improve shared understanding of alcohol and other drug related harm and protective factors from the early years through to older people.
* Strengthen alcohol and other drug literacy through sustained and integrated communication campaigns to improve community awareness, attitudes, and behaviours.
* Strengthen social, cultural, educational, and vocational engagement and responses for vulnerable young people.
* Prioritise programs incorporating connection to Country and culture with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and services co-designed in partnership with local communities.
* Develop community-led responses to local issues to reduce suicide.
1. Robust planning, design, and governance mechanisms
* The robust planning and design of the initiative is evidenced by:
	+ - A clearly articulated initiative and proposed outcomes.
		- Strong evidence of engagement with local leadership structure in community and lived experience in program design.
		- Strong evidence of support from local leadership.
		- An evidence-informed approach to identification and selection of the initiative.
		- Consideration of the sustainability, adaptability, and scalability of the initiative past the funding period.
		- Consideration of partnerships and service integration with other related activity, including across sectors, at the local and regional level.
		- Project leadership by a suitable community-based organisation and implementation by a majority community-based workforce will be well regarded. For fly-in-fly out organisations, demonstrated commitment to building local workforce capacity and transitioning to a local service provider will be well regarded.
		- Clear and defined governance arrangements that provide the capacity to monitor and report on the progress and achievement of deliverables; manage and mitigate risks; and be financially accountable.
		- Appropriate internal capacity and readiness to deliver the initiative and meet the deliverables under the MoU, evidenced by indicators such as appropriate staffing, governance, financial controls, data capture, previous work, and outcomes.
		- Compliance with Queensland Government legislation and departmental policies:
* [*Financial Accountability Act 2009*](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2009-009)
* [*Financial and Performance Management Standard 2019*](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/sl-2019-0182)*.*
* [*Grant Approval Process - Individual NGO/Recipient policy and procedure*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdsdsatsipintranet.root.internal%2Fresources%2Fdsdsatsipintranet%2Ffinance-procurement%2Fpolicies%2Ffmpm%2Fexpenses%2Fgrant-approval-process-individual.docx&data=05%7C02%7CAnesu.Mkushi%40dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au%7C7392e5fc7ee8445550d408dc31abdf4e%7C95b907c2752b485088ad86939ce522f0%7C0%7C0%7C638439861477130698%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eH%2B43JhSc0JjSz6SDEKkJQIGno%2FiI%2Fy1grZ%2FSZdGXJU%3D&reserved=0)
* [*Grants policy and procedure (D*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdsdsatsipintranet.root.internal%2Fresources%2Fdsdsatsipintranet%2Ffinance-procurement%2Fpolicies%2Ffmpm%2Fexpenses%2Fgrants.docx&data=05%7C02%7CAnesu.Mkushi%40dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au%7C7392e5fc7ee8445550d408dc31abdf4e%7C95b907c2752b485088ad86939ce522f0%7C0%7C0%7C638439861477138181%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GHiO05SRxOUsUOVmBKom3CEJCFeXkvfT%2FPupxhQ0zUU%3D&reserved=0)*)*
* [*Financial Delegations Policy and Financial Delegations Schedule*](https://dsdsatsipintranet.root.internal/search?q=%E2%80%A2%09Financial+Delegations+Policy+and+Financial+Delegations+Schedule&location=intranet)
* [*Execution of contracts service agreements and other documents*](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdsdsatsipintranet.root.internal%2Fresources%2Fdsdsatsipintranet%2Ffinance-procurement%2Fprocurement%2Fpolicies-procedures%2Fexecution-contracts-service-agreements-other-documents.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CAnesu.Mkushi%40dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au%7C7392e5fc7ee8445550d408dc31abdf4e%7C95b907c2752b485088ad86939ce522f0%7C0%7C0%7C638439861477145445%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HC%2FJ83ipZP3YH0yZ5QtSm7vPxZuqet1QIMSDPnknhAo%3D&reserved=0) *policy.*
1. Effective in strengthening social and emotional wellbeing
	* + The following factors may be considered when assessing whether an initiative demonstrates efficacy in strengthening social and emotional wellbeing. The initiative:
		+ upholds the principles of the Gayaa Dhuwi (‘Proud Spirit’) Declaration.
		+ is culturally safe and promotes culture as a protective factor to support SEWB.
		+ informed by the perspectives of people with a lived experience.
		+ adopts evidence-based, best practice approaches such as recommendations of the Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.
		+ helps address intergenerational trauma and/or adverse childhood experiences.
		+ demonstrates capacity to enable monitoring, continuous improvement, and evaluation.
2. Willingness to participate in formal evaluation process
	* + All applicants must be willing to participate in a formal evaluation to be coordinated by the QMHC and led by or developed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities using decolonising methodologies and the principles of data sovereignty. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify and measure the social and emotional wellbeing outcomes of funded initiatives.

**Please note: shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview (face-to-face or on-line).**