

Funding Application Process for SA Health Investment in Aboriginal Health (SAHIAH)

Purpose

The purpose of this funding process is to support projects and initiatives that align with the **National Closing the Gap Priority Reforms** and contribute to improved Aboriginal health outcomes. This funding will specifically support initiatives that align with the **SA Implementation Plan**, ensuring that investments directly contribute to achieving state-wide priorities and commitments. The process prioritises collaboration with health service providers and stakeholders.

Objectives

1. **Improve Aboriginal Health Outcomes:** Support programs that directly address health disparities, seek positive outcomes for present and future generations, challenge or disrupt the health system with purpose, and have longevity.
2. **Promote Collaboration:** Aboriginal voices are at the centre of the project, encourages partnerships between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), mainstream health services, and relevant stakeholders.
3. **Strengthen Capacity:** Build the capacity of health services to deliver culturally safe, responsive care, where cultural safety is determined by the Aboriginal individual, family and community.
4. **Alignment with Priority Reforms:** Ensure funded projects align with the **National Closing the Gap Priority Reforms**.
 - > **Priority Reform 1** – Formal Partnership and shared decision making
 - > **Priority Reform 2** – Building the community-controlled sector
 - > **Priority Reform 3** – Transforming government organisations
 - > **Priority Reform 4** – Shared access to data and information at a regional level
5. **Alignment with Priority Health Areas:** Ensure funded projects aligns with at least one of the Priority Health Areas below:
 - > **Chronic disease**
 - > **Child and maternal health**
 - > **Social and Emotional wellbeing**
5. **Demonstrate** Longevity and a sustainable impact.

Funding Criteria

To be eligible for grant funding, projects must:

1. Demonstrate alignment with **Priority Reforms**, as listed above.
2. Be collaborative in nature, holding Aboriginal voices at the centre of the project and involving ACCHOs and other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).
3. Be able to demonstrate that they do not duplicate a service already established, are not or should be part of business as usual.
4. Include measurable outcomes in alignment with the objectives above, deliverables, key performance indicators (KPIs), and a plan for transitioning the project to business as usual (BAU) to ensure sustainability beyond the funding period.
5. Have a detailed risk plan, identifying any risks and controls.
6. Have a detailed budget not exceeding \$500,000 per year with the option to apply for multi-year funding (up to three years), subject to annual performance review and demonstrated outcomes. Funding will be paid out yearly over the period of grant, as per Treasurers Instructions. Finance Costing Sheet to be provided (applicable to SA Government applications only)

7. Demonstrate capacity to deliver within the proposed funding period (up to three years).

Grant Application Process

1. Application Submission

- Applications will outline detailed project proposal, objectives, timeline, risks, partners, budget, and alignment with Closing the Gap Priority Reforms.
- Applications will include responses to **The Rubric**.
- Applications should
 - include co-design and engagement plan
 - identify health gaps and improve service delivery
- Applications should include letters of support from collaborating organisations.
- Applications must be sent to Health.InvestmentintoAboriginalHealth@sa.gov.au for consideration.

2. Assessment and Selection

- Applications will be reviewed by a **Grant Assessment Panel**, considering both single-year and multi-year project proposals.
- Assessment will align with the **SA Health Investment in Aboriginal Health (SAHIAH) Workshop** outcomes and the **Grant Assessment Rubric**.
- Grant Assessment Panel will produce a one-page summary with recommendation for funding.
- Recommended applications will be submitted through SA Health Aboriginal Health Accountability and Governance Framework for approval.

3. Funding Agreement

- Successful applicants will enter into a formal funding agreement detailing responsibilities, reporting requirements, and payment schedules.

Grant Assessment Rubric (Total Points: 120)

1. Public Health Impact (25 points)
2. Scalability & Sustainability (15 points)
3. Feasibility & Implementation Plan (25 points)
4. Evidence-Based Approach (10 points)
5. Evaluation & Measurable Outcomes (10 points)
6. Budget & Cost-Effectiveness (20 points)
7. Partnerships & Community Engagement (15 points)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Grantees are required to submit **quarterly progress reports**, including financial reporting and outcome evaluations.
- The final report must outline lessons learned, impacts achieved, transition to BAU and future recommendations.
- Site visits and consultations may be conducted to support implementation and ensure compliance.

Evaluation

Ongoing evaluation of the SAHIAH process will be conducted to measure the effectiveness of funded projects against agreed KPIs and Closing the Gap objectives. This evaluation will include an assessment of how well the SAHIAH process has prepared projects for transitioning to business as usual (BAU) to maintain long-term impact. Lessons learned will inform future

funding rounds. A formal evaluation of this process will be conducted annually.

Contact Information

For further information or assistance or Submitting of an Application, please contact the **Aboriginal Health Investment, Performance and Evidence Team** at SA Health.

Health.InvestmentintoAboriginalHealth@sa.gov.au

1. Public Health Impact (25 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Alignment with Priority Reforms 1-4 Two needed at minimum	Formal Partnership and shared decision making	10
	Building the community-controlled sector	
	Transforming government organisations	
	Shared access to data and information at a regional level	
Alignment with Priority Areas:	Does the project align with Priority Health Areas': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic disease, • Child and maternal health • Social and Emotional wellbeing 	5
Potential Health Outcomes	Will the project lead to measurable improvements in health and well-being for Aboriginal communities?	5
Holistic Approach	Does the project include a holistic approach to physical and mental wellbeing	5
2. Sustainability (15 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Long-Term Community Benefit	Does the project build lasting health improvements for Aboriginal communities, providing sustainability beyond the grant period? Does it align with long-term community aspirations?	5
Workforce Development & Knowledge Transfer	Does the project create opportunities for Aboriginal employment, leadership, and skills development? Does it strengthen the capacity and abilities of Aboriginal health workers?	5
Sustainability of Funding & Resources	Does the project have a plan to maintain services through future funding, partnerships, or community-driven solutions?	5
3. Feasibility & Implementation Plan (25 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Clear Objectives & Work Plan	Are the goals, methods, and timeline well-defined and achievable?	5
Community Co-design	Are Aboriginal voices central to the planning, decision-making, and implementation of the project?	5
Risk Management	Have potential challenges been identified, including cultural risks, and proposed appropriate mitigation strategies?	10
Operational Capacity & Cultural safety	Does the organisation have the expertise, staff, and infrastructure to execute the project? Does the cultural safety meet the needs of the community?	5

4. Evidence-Based Approach (10 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Innovation & Strengths-Based Approach	Does the project utilise community strengths and provide innovative solutions tailored to Aboriginal health challenges?	5
Evidence based	Are these solutions based on scientific or anecdotal evidence	5
5. Evaluation & Measurable Outcomes (10 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Monitoring & Evaluation Plan	Are there clear, culturally appropriate methods for assessing project success?	5
Data Collection & Reporting	Does the project have strong mechanisms for tracking progress and reporting results?	5
6. Budget & Cost-Effectiveness (20 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Budget Justification	Is the budget well-structured, realistic, and transparent?	10
Cost-Effectiveness	Does the project provide value for money while ensuring community benefits?	5
Funding	What funding sources are being used for this project?	5
7. Partnerships & Community Engagement (15 points)		
Criterion	Description	Points
Genuine Partnerships with Aboriginal Organisations	Does the project actively collaborate with Aboriginal-led organisations, Elders, or community groups? Does the project engage in genuine Co-Design principles	5
Commitment to Cultural Competency & Respect	Does the project embed cultural competency training, Aboriginal governance structures, and long-term relationship-building?	5
Cultural Safety	Is the project culturally safe for both participants and workforce	5
Total		120
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