

HACC GROWTH FUNDING ROUND 2002 - 2003

INFORMATION SHEET 2: SUBMISSIONS FOCUSING ON PEOPLE FROM ABORIGINAL BACKGROUNDS

The following information is to assist services to develop applications that address the needs of people from Aboriginal backgrounds. It describes the target group, suggests some appropriate models of practice and sets out key issues to consider when developing an application for funding for HACC services for this client group.

1. TARGET GROUP

The target group includes all people in the HACC target group who are from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) background and can include non-Aboriginal partners of people from ATSI backgrounds. Age should not be a barrier to service access given the high incidence of premature ageing and disability in the community and the negative impact of economic disadvantage and dispersal of families on health. Presently in Victoria half the ATSI population is located in metropolitan regions and half in rural regions.

2. MODELS OF PRACTICE RELEVANT TO THIS TARGET GROUP

In the delivery of services, a holistic approach, which takes into consideration all aspects of the service recipient's needs including family circumstances, social and emotional issues, financial and accommodation arrangements, is preferred by both ATSI service providers and consumers. Wherever possible, consumers should be able to choose to have services delivered by Aboriginal workers or agencies. Where particular services cannot be provided by Aboriginal agencies, appropriate service models could include partnership arrangements that build on the cultural knowledge of an Aboriginal agency and the specialist knowledge of a mainstream agency. Partnership models enable agencies to learn from each other and thus enhance the capacity of the service system as a whole to deliver services to ATSI communities. In addition to direct service provision by Aboriginal agencies, appropriate local arrangements for service delivery might include:

- Employment of Aboriginal workers by mainstream agencies;
- Purchasing of services from Aboriginal agencies by mainstream agencies.

In developing service models for the delivery of services to ATSI communities, it is important that Aboriginal agencies delivering HACC services are consulted and involved in all stages of planning, service development and, where appropriate, service delivery. The statewide forum for these agencies is the Victorian Indigenous Committee for Aged Care and Disability (VICACD) which has representation from regional networks of Aboriginal HACC providers.

Aboriginal agencies are funded through the HACC Program to provide services including home care, property maintenance, personal care, delivered meals, respite, social support and some allied health.

At statewide and regional consultations with Aboriginal agencies, all HACC activity types were identified as relevant to ATSI people, however there were two key activities that were identified as important in building the capacity of agencies to respond to the needs of the ATSI community.

2.1 Assessment and Care Management

HACC-funded Aboriginal agencies are often the first point of contact for ATSI people to a whole range of services including aged care, mental health, disability, alcohol and drug treatment and dental health. It is important that ATSI people can then be referred to appropriate Aboriginal and mainstream services and that processes and protocols are in place for these referrals to facilitate access to culturally responsive services.

2.2 Flexible Service Response

Funding under Flexible Service Response would enable service providers to respond to particular needs that are complex or unclear in culturally appropriate ways and enable a variety of services to be provided that do not fit into particular categories of service activities.

3. KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN YOUR SUBMISSION

To support you to respond to the questions in the Funding Submission, it is important that you address the following issues outlined below. The relevant question numbers relating to the Recurrent and Fixed Term Recurrent Submission Form have been identified in italics:

- What knowledge and experience does the agency have in providing services to this target group? (*include in Question 5.2*)
- How has the need been identified? (*include in Question 5.2*)
- Have appropriate assessment and referral processes and protocols been developed? (*include in Question 5.3*)
- If the aim is to extend the reach of a “mainstream” service, how will the issues of worker recruitment and training be tackled? (*include in Question 5.3*)
- If there is a partnership arrangement, is it designed in a way that makes best use of the knowledge and experience of the partners? (*include in Question 5.4*)
- What consultation has taken place with (other) ATSI organisations (Regional HACC Koori Network) and communities? (*include in Question 5.4*)
- Describe the accountability measures that the agency will use to ensure the proposed services are allocated to the intended target group (*include in Question 5.6*)