

## Information Guide

**Expressions of Interest (EOI) for partners who want to co-design and implement a 'Leading Community' Demonstration Site**

**EOI Applications Close: 31<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Strong Family, Strong Communities is the Aboriginal Housing Office's ten-year plan to support improvements to the health and well-being of Aboriginal families and communities in NSW. It will focus on:

### Putting Families First:

- Improving housing services with a focus on families
- Partnerships with other human services (health, justice, education and employment) so families thrive in their homes and their communities

### Strengthening the Aboriginal Housing Sector:

- Working with Aboriginal community housing providers so they are well-regulated
- Supporting providers to build their capacity and capability to provide better services for the future

### Better Understanding:

- Improving data collection, analysis and evaluation to better understand needs for the future and improve services and client experience

## 2. THE LEADING COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION SITE (LCDS)

### What is it?

The LCDS will deliver a new service model for Aboriginal families who need support with housing. The new service model will also address at least one other big social matter nominated by the Aboriginal Organisations as representative of their community.

**The LCDS will run for 2 years, with the first being a setup year will be funded up to \$250K and additional \$150K each year for the following two years.**

It will be Aboriginal led co-designed approach, the Aboriginal Organisation as the representative of their community with the AHO and working with other relevant Government Agency, and non-government organisations including Aboriginal service providers.

Aboriginal Cultural Competency will be a key selection criteria in the nomination of the NSW Government Agency partner.

We want to learn more about how to design new services with you in the future. The Leading Community Demonstration Site will teach us important lessons about co-designing Aboriginal services for Aboriginal families.

The LCDS funding is a competitive grant, as only one site will be chosen as the successful applicant for the year 2024/25. As we learn more, we may expand to more sites in the future.

### How could my community get involved?

The AHO invites Aboriginal communities to express their interest to host the site.

We want Aboriginal Organisations to respond to the EOI.

Tell us why you would like to host the site and how your community could benefit.

We want to know about your experience working in partnerships with Government and non-government providers to deliver services in your community.

Please note, you must be able to show evidence of how your organisation is currently working and / or have worked in community in the past, as well as evidence which includes locations, community cohorts, partnered stakeholders / providers your organisation has worked with in the past to support the community in the form of support letters and the like

#### Who is eligible to apply?

Any Aboriginal Organisation, who is committed to achieving positive outcomes to the Aboriginal community, is currently or previously worked in community and is located in NSW is eligible to apply.

#### Who else is involved?

AHO has committed to work with the community, peak bodies and key government organisations to co-design a culturally appropriate service model for the LCDS initiative.

Once a site has been selected, we will work with your community and local providers to support you with the design of the new service. We will help your community make connections with providers and the other Government agencies; we will support you along the way to make your new service a success.

### **3. CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Healthy, safe and stable housing is vital for the wellbeing of Aboriginal families, it is a great starting point, but it takes more than a home to have a strong family and community.

As part of Strong Family, Strong Communities, the Aboriginal Housing Office wants to work with a community keen to design a new service to support their mob.

The idea for the new service is to improve your housing solutions and support you with another social matter impacting your community to make life better for you and your mob into the future.

We want to work with your community, peak bodies and key NSW Government organisations using an Aboriginal led co-design approach to help develop a culturally appropriate services that are right for your local community.

We're calling for Expressions of Interest from communities and Aboriginal Organisations who would like to host a LCDS pilot.

We would like to co-design services with a selected community / Aboriginal Organisation, so the initiative is delivered in a way that works for your community.

By expressing your interest to host the site, you can decide who the service is for, what it does, how and where it is delivered, and who you will work with in partnership with the AHO and NSW Government.

We would like to hear from Aboriginal Organisations interested and experienced in working in partnership to achieving positive outcomes for Aboriginal families.

You must be able to show evidence of how your organisation is currently working and / or have worked in community in the past. If your organisation does not have previous

experience, then you must be able to outline how your organisation intends to work with community with this initiative, for example supporting letters from other organisation, community surveys etc.

The AHO is committed to taking a flexible, local, Aboriginal led co-design approach which promotes self-determination to achieve positive outcomes for Aboriginal families and communities.

#### 4. EOI CRITERIA

The suggested questions below can be used as a guide when filling out the EOI form on SmartyGrants.

Compliance and Mandatory Criteria:

Mandatory Criteria Assessment		
1	The applicant must be an Aboriginal Organisation who is driven to deliver positive outcomes for the Community. The Aboriginal business / organisation must be at least 50 percent Aboriginal ownership and recognised through an appropriate organisation, such as Supply Nation or NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce or the like. Must be able to show evidence of this.	Yes / No
2	Must show evidence of how your organisation is currently working and / or have worked within the community in the past	Yes / No
3	Must be able to show evidence which includes locations, community cohorts, partnered stakeholders / providers your organisation has worked with in the past to support the community in the form of support letters and the like	Yes / No
4	Located in NSW	Yes / No

##### 1. Initiative:

- What housing matters are affecting your community? What suggestions do you have to improve the situation? How might you work with Government and providers to make it happen?
- What other social matters are impacting your community? What suggestions do you have to improve the situation? How might you work with Government agencies and providers to make it happen?
- How are you currently addressing these topics? What is getting in the way?
- What services are working well in your community?
  - Or have you seen services in other communities that work well?
  - Describe what makes a service appealing to your mob?
- How important is Aboriginal culture in the delivery of services to your community?

2. Benefits and Measures of Success:

- What does success look like for your initiative? Can your organisation clearly outline how the initiative will benefit and have positive outcomes for your Aboriginal community.
- What are the desired outcomes from the initiative and how will your organisation measure this success? Please indicate your data collection methods.

3. Capacity and Capability:

- Can your organisation deliver an Aboriginal family-centered service for housing and/or other social impacts such as health, education, justice or employment? What help would you need to make this happen?
- What experience does your organisation have in delivering culturally inclusive practices? Can you provide evidence from previous relevant initiatives.
- Who are you currently partnering with? Please list all government, non-government and Aboriginal organisation partners you currently have a formal or informal relationship with. Provide letters of support from at least three (3) of these partners
- What skills does your community have to run focus groups, workshops, key stakeholder groups?
- Where does your organisation operate? In your community or many communities across the region?
- What does your organisation do and explain how it improves the lives of Aboriginal clients and their families?
- Tells us how do you think partnering with the AHO and the NSW Government would assist in making life better in your community?

4. Budget:

- The LCDS will run for 3 years, with the first being a setup year will be funded up to \$250K and additional \$150K each year for the following two years.
- What will your initiative cost to set up and run? Is your initiative within the allocated budget?
- Will your initiative be sustainable?
- Please outline a costing and timeline of your initiative and show value for money on the budget template provided.

5. Risk and Mitigation:

- Please show that you have considered **all risk** that may arise in with your initiative and how your organisation will mitigate them.
- Does your organisation have the capability to address risks that may arise from your initiative?
- Clearly identify potential risks with strategies for mitigation on the risk register provided.

**5. KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

We want the leading community site to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal families and the community – by partnering with the NSW Government, Aboriginal organisations and co-designing services, training and work opportunities for the local community.

Applicants should consider:

- Which services or programs currently running in your community are working for your mob?
- What makes these services or programs so successful?
- What are the biggest challenges faced by Aboriginal families and/or social housing tenants in your community?
- How does your community like the services to be delivered? Who would you partner with to deliver the services?
- How do you see your organisation working with the community, NSW Government and other providers to design the new service? Who would you involve and when?
- What could your proposed service, developed with the community and NSW Government do to help Aboriginal families' housing stability and other social impacts in your community?
- What role do you see the AHO and/or other government partners playing in this model?
- On going sustainability of the program after 3 year funding has ended

## **6. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

An indicative timetable for the EOI process is as follows:

Expressions of Interest close: **31<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Evaluation completed: **21<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

Successful applicants notified: **by the end of September 2024**

## **7. DISCLAIMER**

The Principal is not committed contractually in any way to those applicants whose applications are accepted. The issue of this Request for EOI does not commit or otherwise oblige the Principal to proceed with any part or steps of the process.

Whilst the information contained in this Request for EOI has been formulated with all due care, the Principal does not warrant or represent that the information is free from errors or omissions. The information is made available on the understanding that the Principal and its respective employees and agents, shall have no liability (including liability by reason of negligence) for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on the information and whether caused by reason of any error, omission or misrepresentation in the information or otherwise. Furthermore, the Principal takes no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of any information included in this EOI.

## **8. NSW GOVERNMENT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PROCUREMENT**

Applicants must comply with the NSW Government Code of Practice for Procurement (Code) and Implementation Guidelines, which are available on the Procure Point website.

Lodgment of an EOI is evidence of an applicant's agreement to comply with the Code during the Request for EOI process and any subsequent tendering process. If an applicant fails to comply with the Code, its application may be passed over.

#### **9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Submitters are required to disclose any conflicts of interest to the Aboriginal Housing Office. This may relate to parties past and present. This can be in the EOI response by filling in the conflict of interest form and attaching it to your submission. Or you can contact the AHO Aboriginal project manager on the details below.

#### **10. CONTACT PERSON**

Refer all requests for information about this EOI process to the project manager who can be contacted on: [ClientOutcomes@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ClientOutcomes@aho.nsw.gov.au)

#### **11. SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Please refer to attachment called Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria.

#### **12. SUBMISSION PROCESS**

Expression of Interest must be submitted via SmartyGrants by 11:59pm 31<sup>th</sup> July 2024