



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Safe Places

Our emergency accommodation program

We want to know what you think

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) wrote this paper.

When you see the word 'we', it means DSS.



We wrote this paper in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

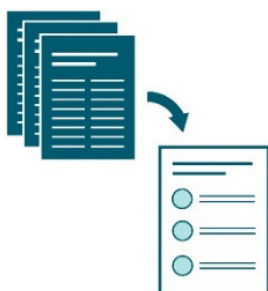
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 44.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another paper.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information on our website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this paper.
A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.



This paper is quite long.
You can take a break and come back later.



We recognise First Nations peoples as the
traditional owners of our land – Australia.

They were the first people to live on and use the:



- land



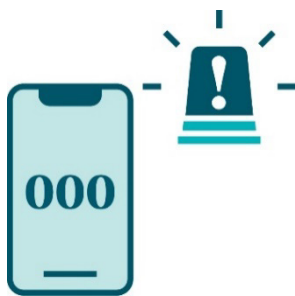
- waters.

Help and support



If something in this paper makes you upset or worried, you can talk to someone.

You can also get support if you experience violence.



If you or someone you know is in danger, call Triple Zero.

000



1800RESPECT can support you if you are experiencing violence.



You can call them any time.

1800 737 732



You can visit their website.

www.1800respect.org.au

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What is this paper about?



We have a program that provides **grants** to create safe places for women and children who experience violence at home.

We call it our Safe Places program.



A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



We call these safe places **emergency accommodation**.

Emergency accommodation is for people who don't have anywhere to live at the moment.



We want to create a new round of grants in the Safe Places program.

We call it the Inclusion Round.



Before we start using this grant round, we want to know what the community thinks.



We want your help to make sure Inclusion Round grants will work well.

What is the Inclusion Round?



Safe places can help protect people from harm.



They can also help people:

- get support to heal
- find and use the services they need.



But safe places don't always work well for everyone.



The Inclusion Round will focus on creating more safe places that work well for all women and children who experience violence.



These safe places need to focus on supporting some groups of people.

But they should help any woman or child who experiences violence.

Who do we want to support?

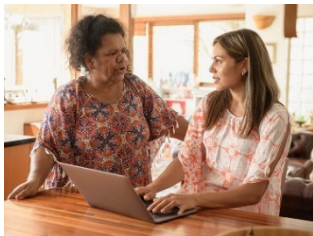


We want safe places to work well for First Nations women and children.



First Nations women and children need safe places in their community.

This includes places very far away from cities and towns.



If First Nations women and children have safe places in their community, they don't have to leave the people who support them.



We want safe places to be **accessible** for women and children with disability.

When a safe place is accessible, it is easy to:



- find and use services



- move around the safe place.



If more safe places are accessible, women and children with disability have more choices about what support they want.



We also want safe places to support **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** women and children.



CALD women and children:

- come from different backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



Safe places need to support CALD women and children to find and use support.



This includes CALD people who are visiting Australia for a short time.



If more safe places offer support in different languages, CALD women and children can get the support they need.

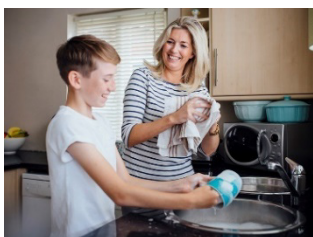
Why is the Safe Places program important?



Violence is one of the main reasons women and children become homeless.



Safe places can help women and children have a safe place to stay if they need to leave their home.



It's also important for safe places to work well with long-term housing services.

This means women and children have support when they are ready to leave safe places.



The Inclusion Round will support other work we are doing.

It's all part of our National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 (the National Plan).



You can find out more about the National Plan on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/ending-violence

What do we want to know?

720



We want to create up to **720** new safe places in the Inclusion Round.



Organisations can apply for these grants in 2023.



But before that happens, we want to make sure the Inclusion Round will work well.



We want to know what you think about the Inclusion Round.



Your ideas will make safe places better for women and children across Australia.

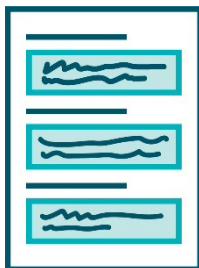
How to tell us what you think



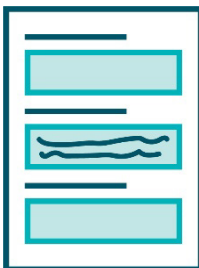
In this paper, we:

- explain some parts of the Inclusion Round
- ask some questions.

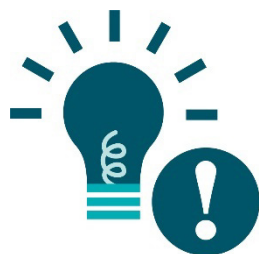
You can answer:



- all of our questions



- some of our questions.



You can also share other ideas you think are important.



You can share your ideas on our website.

www.engage.dss.gov.au



You can also send us a letter.

Housing and Homelessness Program

Delivery Branch

GPO Box 9820

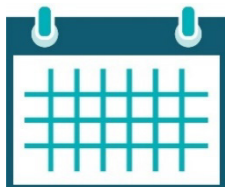
Department of Social Services

Canberra ACT 2601



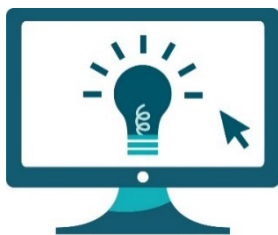
If you have any questions about this paper,
you can email us.

SafePlaces@dss.gov.au



Please share your ideas by
10 March 2023.

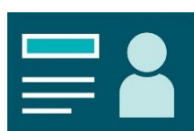
Can we publish your ideas?



After we receive everyone's ideas, we want to publish them on our website.



We will ask if you want us to share your ideas on our website.



When you share what you think, we will ask you to give us your:

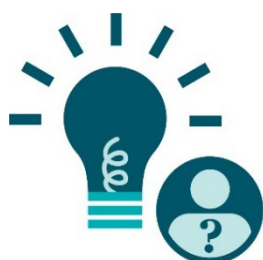


- name
- email address.



You don't have to share your real name if you don't want to.

You can also leave these parts blank.



We will try to make sure no one knows who shared which ideas.

And we won't share your name or email address.

Other groups we are working with



We are working with people who speak up for:

- First Nations women and children
- CALD women and children
- women and children with disability.



We also want to hear from people who have experienced emergency accommodation.



If you have experience with emergency accommodation, you can share what you think about this paper.

You can also contact our research team to take part in more research.



They are not part of the government.

You can email them if you are interested.

lana@circaresearch.com.au

Words we use



We want to make sure we are clear when we explain what the grant is for.



So we want to explain some important words.

Safe place



A safe place is a home for a single person or family.

They don't have to share living spaces with other people or families.

It is safe and private.

A safe place has at least one:



- bedroom



- bathroom



- kitchenette



- laundry.



2 people can share one bedroom in a safe place.

That means a family of 4 people can live in a 2 bedroom home.

Emergency accommodation



Emergency accommodation is a place someone can use when they have nowhere else to live.



We think they should be able to use it for up to 12 months.

Specialist service



Specialist services support women and children who experience violence.

These services put women and children first.



They understand how:

- violence can affect people
- to work with different groups of people.

Questions for you



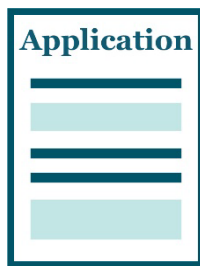
Do you think we have explained these words in the right way?



Should we say that people can stay in emergency accommodation for longer than 12 months?



Parts of the application

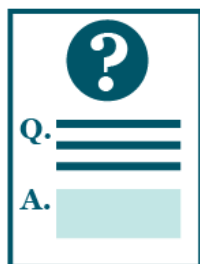


When organisations apply for a grant, we call it an **application**.

In their application, organisations have to:



- show they follow our rules



- answer questions about how their project will work.



Organisations must show they can provide specialist services at the safe place they create.



Or they must work with an organisation who will do this.



They must also agree to send us reports about how well the safe place is working.



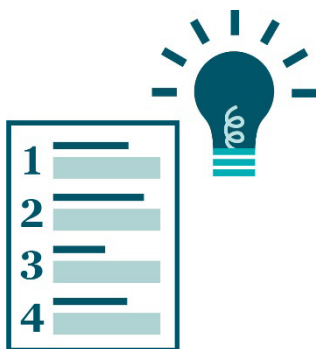
Organisations must also answer 4 questions about how their project will work.

We call these Assessment Criteria.



Strong applications share **evidence** when they answer these questions.

Evidence is proof that something is true.



We have some ideas about what the Assessment Criteria should include.



1. We think organisations should show they are creating the safe place in the right area.

And show the safe place is where women and children need them most.



We will share a list of places when we open this grant round.

But the safe place can be somewhere else if they can show it will help women and children there.



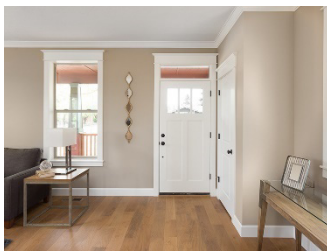
We think they should show the safe place is close to local services, such as:

- public transport
- schools
- health care services.

2. We think organisations should show how they will make the building:



- safe and private



- a nice place to live.



They could also show they:

- can protect women and children who experience violence
- focus on what each person needs.



We think they should show that women and children will be able to find and use services they need.

For example, legal or government services.

3. We think organisations should show that their project is good **value for money**.



When a project is good value for money, it:

- doesn't cost too much money
- meets the needs of the community.



They could show how much the project will cost.

For example, how much each safe place will cost.

This includes how much:



- it costs to make the building good quality



- **funding** they are getting from other places.

Funding is the money someone receives when they get a grant.



We think they should also show that the building will be good quality.



This includes showing the building will meet the Livable Housing Australia (LHA) **standards**.



Standards are rules about how to do things well.

You can:



- meet standards



- go above standards.



We think buildings should be at least silver standard.



But there are also gold and platinum standards that work better for women and children with disability.



4. We think organisations should show they have the skills to deliver their project.

They should show they have:



- built similar projects in the past



- the money to keep the safe place going for 15 years.



We think they should also agree to help any woman or child who experiences violence.

Unless they have no room in the safe place.

They should also show their emergency accommodation will be accessible for:



- First Nations women and children



- CALD women and children

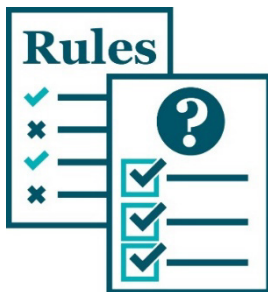


- women and children with disability.

Questions for you



Do you think these are the right things to focus on when we choose who gets a grant?



Should we include any other rules or questions?





How should we work out if a project will meet the needs of First Nations women and children?



How should we work out if a project will meet the needs of CALD women and children?





How should we work out if a project will meet the needs of women and children with disability?

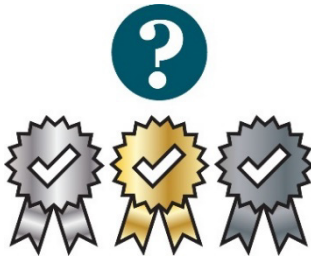
A large, empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for taking notes or providing an answer to the question above.

What is the best way to know that a project will support women and children over the 15 years?

A large, empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for taking notes or providing an answer to the question above.



What LHA standard should safe places meet so they work well for the groups we want to support?



For example, silver, gold or platinum standard.



You can find out more about the LHA standards on their website.

[www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au/
design-guidelines](http://www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au/design-guidelines)





Is 15 years the right amount of time for a safe place to run?



Are there other types of housing that we should:

- include in this grant round?
- not include in this grant round?



How the grant will work



When organisations get a grant, we give them funding.



We have **\$100 million** that we can use for the Inclusion Round.



We think each grant will give funding between:

- **\$500,000**
- and
- **\$8 million.**



The funding is to create new safe places.

This includes:

- building new ones
- fixing or buying older buildings.



The funding isn't for:

- running the safe place
- taking care of the building in the future.



Grants can be for small projects.

For example, just to build one safe place.



Or grants can be for part of a bigger project.

For example, a safe place where there is also long-term housing.

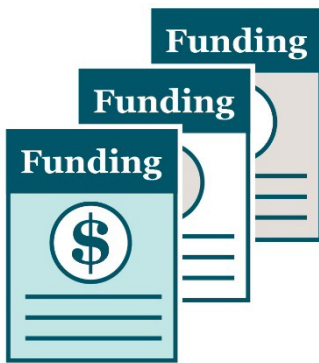


Organisations need to pay for the rest of the project in different ways.



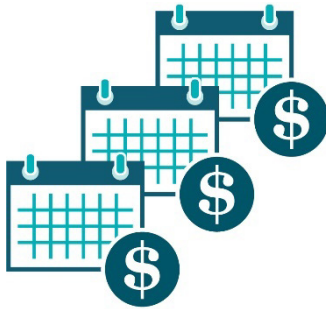
For example, they might get another grant.

Or they might pay for the rest of the project themselves.



We also want to give organisations funding in parts.

We won't give all of it at the start.



For example, we want to give smaller projects funding:

- when the project starts
- in the middle of the project
- when the project ends.

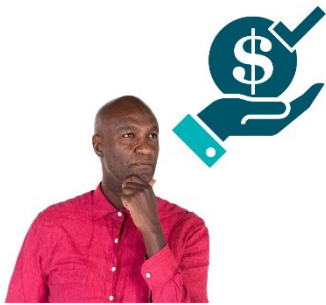


But bigger projects might work in different ways.

Questions for you



Do you think this is the right amount of funding to pay for creating safe places?

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When organisations apply as part of a bigger project, should they need to get the other funding first?

A large, empty rectangular box with a dark teal border, intended for the user to write their answer to the question above.



Do you think we have the right plan for when to give organisations funding?



How we support organisations to apply



We want to support organisations to create good applications.



We will share information about what:

- good projects should include
- information they need to share with us.



We will also share a guide about how to apply.



And we will hold information sessions where people can ask us questions.



This information will help a lot of organisations.

But some organisations might not have enough time to apply.



We can give some organisations 6 months to finish their applications.



For example, they might need the local council to agree for them to build in a certain place.



We will look at finished applications first.

But we might have funding left that we can give to these applications.

Questions for you

What information will help organisations:



- plan good projects?



- apply for our grants?



This could include:

- advice
- information.





Do you think 6 months is the right amount of time for organisations to finish their application?



Are there other ways we can support organisations to apply?



Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Accessible

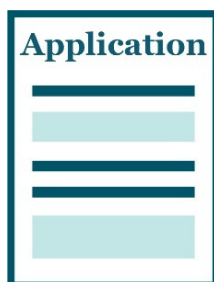
When a safe place is accessible, it is easy to:



- find and use services



- move around the safe place.



Application

When organisations apply for a grant, we call it an application.

Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD people:



- come from different backgrounds



- speak languages other than English.



Emergency accommodation

Emergency accommodation is for people who don't have anywhere to live at the moment.



Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is true.



Funding

Funding is the money someone receives when they get a grant.



Grant

A grant is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



Standards

Standards are rules about how to do things well.



Value for money

When a project is good value for money, it:

- doesn't cost too much money
- meets the needs of the community.



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