Are you an individual or making a submission on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Organisation name

Greater Dandenong Libraries

Position

Team Leader Faily Literacy Project

Is your organisation….?

- A provider currently funded under one or more of the 5 programs in scope for this consultation
- Commonwealth, state or territory or local government agency or body

What type of service or support do you mostly provide?

- Prevention or early intervention services

What state or territory does your organisation deliver services and supports in?

- Victoria

Where does your organisation deliver most of their services and supports?

Regional area

1. Does the new vision reflect what we all want for children and families?

100%

2. Are the two main outcomes what we should be working towards for children and families? Why/Why not? - Outcome 1: Parents and caregivers are empowered to raise healthy, resilient children - Outcome 2: Children are supported to grow into healthy, resilient adults.

- Outcome 1: Parents and caregivers are empowered to raise healthy, resilient children

Well informed, confident parent/carer provide basis for empowering and supporting their children

- Outcome 2: Children are supported to grow into healthy, resilient adults.

As above = empowering and building strong foundation and tools to participate and contribute to society

3. Will a single national program provide more flexibility for your organisation?

Unclear, information regarding the national program is quite broad and general and does not provide sufficient details to determine the flexibility

4. Does the service or activity you deliver fit within one of the three funding streams? Do these streams reflect what children and families in your community need now – and what they might need in the future?

Yes, Steam 2 - prevention and early intervention stream

5. Are there other changes we could make to the program to help your organisation or community overcome current challenges?

Currently unclear what impact the streamlines would have as it's quite general still. If there was more information, or examples then we'd be able to determine what changes we could make and commit to

Being clear about available funding timelines

Cost of living pressure, limited English and housing insecurity impacts our community and the ability to access support. How will the funding address these needs?

6. Do you agree that the four priorities listed on Page 4 are right areas for investment to improve outcomes for children and families?

All four priorities are incredibly important however it is unclear where the following challenges are addressed: Cost of living pressure, limited English and housing insecurity impacts our community and the ability to access support. We also need

to ensure that ACCO organisations are consulted across the entire journey.

Priority 1 - Invest early to improve family wellbeing, break cycles of disadvantage, and reduce the need for later interventions – like child protection. Yes, however priority needs to be across a person's whole life, when support is needed; not just 0-5 years.

Priority 2 - Prioritise connected, co-located, and integrated services that work together to meet family needs. Yes

Priority 3 - Ensure services are informed by, and respond to, community needs. Yes

Priority 4 - Improve outcomes for First Nations children and families by increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations (also called ACCOs) delivering supports in locations with high First Nations populations. Yes, as long as community member choice to access ACCO or mainstream services is not removed. ACCO organisations should be consulted around how the funding structure works best for their work and community.

7. Are there any other priorities or issues you think the department should be focusing on?

Ensuring focus encompasses school aged children that may require additional support to build foundations for life. Examples – new arrived migrant/refugee children, children experiencing disadvantage

8. Do the proposed focus areas – like supporting families at risk of child protection involvement and young parents match the needs or priorities of your service?

Yes, by supporting the children that are in the system or are at risk

9. Are there other groups in your community, or different approaches, that you think the department should consider to better support family wellbeing?

Yes. Need to support the CALD community, middle primary years; early intervention supports are needed across the life stages, not just 0-5 years.

10. What are other effective ways, beyond co-location, that you've seen work well to connect and coordinate services for families?

Networks and relationships between different services within the community. Be actively involved with local events, activities and forums

11. What would you highlight in a grant application to demonstrate a service is connected to the community it serves? What should applicants be assessed on?

Your ability to work with other services in the area that enhances support for the community

Having established networks that understand each of the segments the community and how they interact and overlap

Evidence – community consultation, community needs, outcomes

Local knowledge and reputation

Child safe commitment and practices

12. Beyond locational disadvantage, what other factors should the department consider to make sure funding reflects the needs of communities?

Children at risk of homelessness,

Food insecurity

Cultural and Linguistically Diverse population

Trauma

13. What's the best way for organisations to show in grant applications, that their service is genuinely meeting the needs of the community?

Reporting evidence of what has already been done, past outcomes

Testimonials

Case studies

14. How could the grant process be designed to support and increase the number of ACCOs delivering services to children and families?

ACCOs inclusion from the very beginning in all aspects

Support throughout process – guided by individual ACCO needs

15. What else should be built into the program design to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families?

ACCOs inclusion from the very beginning in all aspects

Support throughout process – guided by individual ACCO needs

Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children can decide which service they would like to access, whether that be through an ACCO or a mainstream community service organisation.

16. What types of data would help your organisation better understand its impact and continuously improve its services?

More weight given to testimonials and case studies

Qualitative given importance similar to quantitative data

Identify service gaps

humanitarian settlement figures, number of children/families engaged or at risk of engagement with child protection

17. What kinds of data or information would be most valuable for you to share, to show how your service is positively impacting children and families?

Qualitative

18. If your organisation currently reports in the Data Exchange (DEX), what SCORE Circumstances domain is most relevant to the service you deliver?

Age appropriate development

19. What kinds of templates or guidance would help you prepare strong case studies that show the impact of your service?

Clear, easy to access, save and share

20. What does a relational contracting approach mean to you in practice? What criteria would you like to see included in a relational contract?

We only do relational contracting; it is what our program is based on working together in an open, honest and supportive way to achieve the best outcomes for the community.

21. What's the best way for the department to decide which organisations should be offered a relational contract?

Judged according to need, assessment criteria and proven capacity to succeed

22. Is your organisation interested in a relational contracting approach? Why/why not?

Unclear what the question is. Would require clarification on who the relational contracting would involve...is it the funding body with organisation?

23. Is there anything else you think the department should understand or consider about this proposed approach?

It's important for this approach to be community driven and address the needs of the area rather than a broad consistent approach (cookie cutter)

Important part the facilitating partners play ... quite often act as glue. They have a strong role to play as quite often have an in depth understanding of gaps and what is happening with the community, as well as what each supported service is delivering. They act as a conduit between services in the community.