Youth Justice Programs Framework 2016–2019 ‘Fact Sheet C’

Program Review Panel Endorsement of Youth Justice Programs

The Programs Endorsement Criteria are provided below in broad terms and identifies only the core requirements guiding Youth Justice Program design and review. This is due to the expectation that program developers will demonstrate the details of supporting evidence through the prior field testing of their program components, in the presentation of the program itself, the associated manual(s) and training, and in the program endorsement submission.

Responsibility for the fulfillment of these criteria lies with the program developer.

It is expected that all programs will meet all of the Program Endorsement Criteria.

**Program Endorsement Criteria**

1. The program has clearly defined and stated goals and expected outcomes.
2. The program contains processes to maximise cultural integrity for all clients and communities.
3. The program demonstrates that sufficient consultation with cultural community leaders has taken place during development.
4. The program is based on theoretical models or innovative practice conducive to culturally-proficient values (discussed in more detail in Fact Sheet B).
5. Program content is appropriate for the stated program aims, expected outcomes and target audience including consideration of specific learning methodologies and communication styles.
6. Program participant selection is based on a standardised referral and assessment process or identified cultural need.
7. The program has an explicitly stated program audience.
8. The program employs appropriate and effective methods that are supported by research evidence or evaluates the program utilising action learning methodologies.
9. The program has a clear format with appropriate intensity.
10. The program has a process to maximise program integrity and has a clear understanding of cultural protocols and roles to ensure culturally proficient delivery.
11. The program submission outlines the skills, qualifications and cultural competency required by the program facilitators.
12. The program demonstrates proficiency in addressing individual characteristics of participants, including cultural diversity, sex, gender, motivation levels, disability status, intellectual ability and literacy.
13. The program demonstrates responsivity to the individual participants’ disability status and demonstrates an understanding of optimal learning styles (e.g., visual, verbal, kinaesthetic) for each.
14. Resource requirements for effective implementation are clear.
15. The program has a built in process for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.
16. Commitment to program improvement/refinement is demonstrated.
17. There is a plan for and a commitment to the development of a training mechanism specific to the program.
18. The program has inbuilt mechanisms to gain meaningful feedback from participants and incorporate changes accordingly.

Note: The purpose of the Program Endorsement Criteria is to provide a benchmark standard for review of proposed and existing Youth Justice programs based on:

1. Research-based best practice standards for the development of rehabilitation programs.
2. Alignment to youth justice key outcome areas - justice (community safety, reducing recidivism, compliance with justice orders) and social / developmental (health & wellbeing, education, behavioural, family, cultural etc.) domains.

If insufficient evidence is available, the panel may request further information and/or a presentation from the program developer / provider to support their submission.

**Programs that address a unique need or solution**

In cases where a program developer proposes to trial a new or innovative program that is unique in addressing a need or solution, there is opportunity to undertake developmental work in partnership with Youth Justice to support program design and development.

The Program Review Panel provides a mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of new and innovative programs that do not demonstrate an evidence base.

**Program Endorsement Process**

1. Program identified

Or

Program provider approaches Youth Justice with proposed program

1. Principal Programs Officer liaises with program provider regarding program content, intended audience and the Program Review Panel processes and expectations
2. Provider completes and submits Program Review Panel submission forms to the Principal Programs Officer
3. Principal Programs Officer disseminates submission form to the Program Review Panel members prior to next scheduled PRP meeting. (Meetings are bi-monthly)

If submission is not immediately endorsed by PRP:

1. Feedback is submitted to providers including a detailed request for clarification on points or further information required. Feedback will also outline need for re-submission of further information to the PRP.
2. PRP members provide feedback in meeting and discuss submission in detail

If submission is endorsed by PRP:

1. Feedback is provided to program provider and arrangements made to implement program
2. Re-submission is considered by PRP members. Representatives from provider organisation may be invited to PRP meeting to discuss program in more detail.

Process will follow steps 4-6 until program approved or withdrawn.

Program endorsement involves the review of programs against the key evaluation criteria outlined above, by a panel with specific skills, knowledge and who hold positions with relevant responsibility within Youth Justice.

Expertise on the panel will include:

* Clinical and therapeutic service provision to vulnerable and at-risk young people.
* Academic and research knowledge related to evidence based or innovative program practice.
* Child and adolescent development.
* An understanding of the needs of specific groups i.e. Aboriginal, cultural, gender, disability, mental health etc. specific to children and young people.
* Experience in the development / delivery of criminogenic or developmental / life skill programs.
* Individuals with senior management responsibility for Youth Justice Business Units.
* An ability to engage participants for program feedback to inform decision making as required.

Membership of the Program Review Panel includes:

* Principal Psychologist, Youth Justice (Chairperson)
* Principal Programs Officer (Executive Officer)
* Manager; Strategy, Policy and Reporting; Youth Justice
* Senior Aboriginal Advisor, Youth Justice
* Principal Practitioner, Community Youth Justice
* Senior Programs Coordinator, Adelaide Youth Training Centre
* Assistant General Manager, Adelaide Youth Training Centre
* Manager, Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services

The Program Review Panel is governed by a Terms of Reference.

Information, resources and guidance on the program endorsement process is made available to external stakeholders through the implementation of a Youth Justice programs-related website.

In the instance of a program proposed to address a particular cultural need which cannot be appropriately assessed and / or endorsed by the standing panel members alone, consultation will take place between the Program Review Panel and appropriate cultural communities as part of the endorsement process. For example, the Program Review Panel may seek input from the Youth Justice Aboriginal Advisory Committee (YJAAC) to collaborate in the endorsement process for an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander-specific cultural program.

For any assistance or further information related to the Program Review Panel process contact:

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