

# **Lowitja Institute**

## **Alcohol and Drug Research**

### **Innovation Agenda (ADRIA) Grant**

#### **Literature Review**

#### **Project Brief**

## **Background**

In 2020 the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contracted the Lowitja Institute to administer the ADRIA research grant funds for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in Victoria.

The ADRIA research grant aims to support innovative and responsive Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) research to improve social and health outcomes for Victorians by informing program design, service excellence and policy development. The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are proposing to implement the grant as follows:

1. General ADRIA grants program, and
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ADRIA grants program. Took out the below as this is a public document and the contract is commercial in confidence.

## **Purpose**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ADRIA grants program aims to provide funding to Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to undertake Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) research that informs program design, service excellence and policy development and thereby improves social and health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Victoria.

The purpose of the literature review is to draw out key findings in best practice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD research, service excellence and policy to inform a round table discussion with key community stakeholders that will inform the development of a research agenda for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ADRIA grants program.

## **Scope**

The literature review will take a strength-based approach and touch on the social and cultural determinants of health, i.e., the holistic view of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and

the relationship between health, wellbeing and cultural factors to provide best practice culturally safe and respectful AOD services and policy reform that are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples residing in Victoria.

The broad rapid literature review question is:

*What are the gaps and priorities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD research that require further exploration to inform program design, service excellence and policy development, and thereby improve cultural and social and health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria?*

The use of rapid review guidance is encouraged to rationalise searching and synthesis for the broad scope of this review. For example,

- [https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356\(20\)31146-X/pdf](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)31146-X/pdf)
- <https://www.mcmasterforum.org/networks/covid-end/resources-to-support-decision-makers/additional-supports/evidence-support-models>
- <https://www.nccmt.ca/tools/rapid-review-guidebook>

To address the broad question above, it is anticipated the rapid literature review will include consideration of relevant aspects of:

- The Victorian policy framework and aspirations relating to Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing. This includes the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health with analysis of key recommendations, where they are being implemented and emerging themes.
- Critical components of effective AOD program design, drawing on international and national systematic reviews, and focussing on relevant aspects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Victorian AOD programs (and effectiveness of), including multi-disciplinary teams with ACCHO's relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD, early intervention for young people aged 0-25 years relating to health and justice system involvement, Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing teams' provision of culturally safe mental health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for AOD prevention.
- Emerging local and promising evidence, for example from the Integrated service trials (ie social & emotional wellbeing, mental health & AOD) – core offerings in AOD, substance & addiction relating to mental health in acute and non-acute settings.

The consultant will conduct a rapid literature review to outline evidence, research gaps, & needs for AOD services across Victoria for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including young people aged 0-25 years.

It is anticipated that the literature review will include:

1. An overview of AOD polices and services across Victoria.
2. Clarification of social and emotional wellbeing and linkages to AOD, and Mental Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples residing in Victoria.
3. Description of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues relating to AOD
4. Key developments, emerging themes and or interventions that benefit health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to AOD treatments and services within Victoria.
5. Clear recommendations for discussion at the ACCHO stakeholder roundtable to set the research agenda for the ADRIA grants program.

Broad structure of the paper:

- Introduction
- Background and context (including policy framework)
- Critical components of AOD programs, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Description and effectiveness of AOD programs in Victoria
- Analysis of current research gaps and future challenges
- Key developments and questions
- Concluding recommendations to inform round table discussions
- Links to further research and references

As a guide, the literature review should be 20,000 to 30,000 words in length, preferably no longer than 30 pages (including references images, etc.). You may also be required to attend the roundtable discussion. A draft publication agreement will be forwarded for your review and consideration.

Lowitja Institute is offering up to \$30K for the completion of the literature review upon delivery of the below listed milestones and timeframes.

## Requirements

Please send an Expression of Interest (EOI) briefly listing relevant background skills and experience, particularly in the Victorian AOD context, in a cover letter with attached CV. The proposal should address how you plan to meet the delivery of the project and milestones within the required timeframes (listed below) including your anticipated start date.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, academics and thought leaders are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please send your EOI to Anthea Burns – [anthea.burns@lowitja.org.au](mailto:anthea.burns@lowitja.org.au) by **23nd July 2021**. All applicants will be notified of the outcome by **30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.

The successful applicant will be expected to commence the project ASAP **with Final Draft paper due by 17th September 2021**

## Milestones

Milestone	Deliverable(s)	Costs	Timing
Milestone 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project initiation and planning</li> </ul>	\$15,000	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Milestone 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and submit a draft outline</li> </ul>	-	6 August 2021
Milestone 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate feedback and submit a draftpaper</li> </ul>	-	27 August 2021
Milestone 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate Feedback, Complete and submit a Final Draft Paper for the Roundtable</li> </ul>	\$15,000	17 September 2021