

# Evaluation Open Grant Round:

## Grant guidelines

Paul Ramsay Foundation (**PRF**) is working for a future where people and places have what they need to thrive. With organisations and communities, we invest in, build, and influence the conditions needed to stop disadvantage in Australia. In our work we seek to support innovation, are evidence-informed, and measure what matters.

PRF expects to fund up to seven evaluations of initiatives that include an ethical experimental component, each valued up to \$300,000 (ex. GST). Each evaluation is expected to show demonstrable effect sizes within 3 years. There are 3 main stages to this Evaluation Open Grant Round:

### 1. Expressions of Interest

**Open:** 17 June

**Information session:** 25 June

**Close:** 23 July

**Decision:** 20 August

### 2. Full Applications

**Open:** 27 August

**Information session:**  
3 September

**Close:** 15 October

**Decision:** 29 October

PRF will provide all applicants with an Evaluation Advisor to ensure applications address all relevant requirements.

### 3. Evaluation

**Commence:** December 2024

**Roundtable for successful applicants:** December/January

All successful applicants will be expected to collaborate, share learning, and peer-review each other's work.

## Expressions of Interest

We are now seeking Expressions of Interest (**EOI**) from not-for-profit entities with a social impact mission or relevant charitable purposes who are implementing, or are intending to implement, social impact initiatives that can be evaluated through a hybrid evaluation design that includes ethical experimental evaluation as its main component. **The grant will fund the evaluation; it cannot be used to fund the initiative itself.**

In addition to supporting organisations and communities to better understand their impact and in doing so better support people and communities to thrive, this grant round will help us understand how experimental designs:

- Can be used to ethically evaluate areas of social impact.
- Can be used to evaluate social impact at a relatively low cost and quickly.
- Can complement quasi- and non-experimental evaluation designs.

## Organisation eligibility

Your organisation **MUST** meet ALL the requirements below to be eligible for funding.

1. Be an incorporated not-for-profit entity:
  - Registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (**ACNC**), with a relevant charitable purpose to those of PRF (advancing social or public welfare, advancing health or advancing education); or
  - With a social impact mission relevant to breaking cycles of disadvantage, set out in your governing document.
2. Be based in, and work with, a community or communities located in Australia.
3. If a majority of your initiative participants are First Nations people, your organisation must be First Nations-led (at least 51% of Board and/or ownership is First Nations, and at least 51% of management/ leadership team is First Nations).

We especially encourage EOs from smaller for-purpose organisations, or organisations working with First Nations communities.

Organisations do not need to have their own evaluation team or have an existing relationship with experts in experimental evaluation; PRF can help connect applicants with evaluation experts they can partner with, and the funds can also be used to build their own capability.

## Initiative eligibility

Your initiative **MUST** meet ALL these requirements to be eligible for funding:

1. Be able to describe measurable initiative outcomes.
2. Expect to show demonstrable effect sizes within 3 years of the evaluation starting.
3. Have secured funding for the initiative for its duration.
4. Have some existing evidence to show that the initiative has a likelihood of success.

Priority will be given to initiatives that relate to the following questions or issues:

### Children and early years:

- Initiatives that involve both the primary caregiver and the child during the antenatal/post-birth period to reduce caregiver stress and improve skill development.
- Initiatives that try to get children, particularly in regional and remote communities, into high quality Early Childhood Education and Care settings.
- Initiatives that support cohorts with complex out-of-school challenges to stay connected to education.
- Initiatives that improve education outcomes for young people with disabilities.
- Do school meal initiatives have an impact on student engagement, attendance, and achievement?

### Economic opportunity:

- What is the relative effectiveness for unemployed people across a range of outcomes between non-traditional pathways, such as social enterprise, versus mainstream employment pathways?
- What is the effect on employment outcomes and incentives from income supports to unemployed people?
- What are the employment outcomes for initiatives that are an alternative to the disability employment sector?

### Young people and families:

- How effective are 'diversion and post-release through care' models for reducing young people/young parents contact with the justice system?
- How effective are community-led youth-focused initiatives in reducing youth contact with the justice system?
- What Domestic and Family Violence service models might work to support two members of a family (at any point across the prevention-crisis continuum) to strengthen family cohesion?

### Use of funds

Funding can be used for (but is not restricted to):

- Contracting third-party evaluators (PRF can help you find these evaluators)
- Capability building of internal staff to manage and conduct experimental evaluations
- Improving data collection and reporting systems
- Purchasing data
- Compensating participants in evaluation research
- Research and analysis software tools

Funding CANNOT be used for:

- Initiative delivery costs that would need to be incurred irrespective of the evaluation
- Initiatives that support or oppose political parties or candidates
- Initiatives already funded through a PRF grant

### Key dates

#### 1. Expressions of interest:

- a. Open: 17 June
- b. Information session: 25 June
- c. Close: 23 July
- d. Decision: 20 August

#### 2. Applications:

- a. Open: 27 August
- b. Information session: 3 September
- c. Close: 15 October
- d. Decision: 29 October

#### 3. Evaluation grant partnership:

- a. Commence: First week of December
- b. Roundtable for all successful applicants: December/January

### How to apply

Complete an Expression of Interest via our online form.

**Apply now**

### More info

Join our online information session on 25 June to learn more.

**Register now**