



Evaluation Information Session

Pre-reading material for Partners | 18 February

Nous Group is evaluating the collective impact of the Strengthening Family-Centred Collaborations (SFCC) grant round.

The evaluation aims to build a shared understanding of progress toward the SFCC's intended outcomes, support ongoing learning and improvement and generate evidence to inform future policy and funding decisions.

Nous is taking a developmental and collaborative approach, recognising that change takes time, contexts differ and learning is strongest when Partners are actively involved in shaping, interpreting and using the evidence.

The evaluation will be guided by four key evaluation questions. The domains of appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability are well-established areas of focus in evaluations, used to understand how programs work and where they make a difference.

1. **Appropriateness:** How well does the Grant Round design and approach address the identified needs?
2. **Effectiveness:** To what extent is the Grant Round achieving its intended outcomes?
3. **Efficiency:** Are we using the Grant Round resources in the best way to maximise impact?
4. **Sustainability and future opportunities:** What is required to sustain collaboration beyond the Grant Program (noting that the Grant Program has not committed to provide further funding beyond the initial three years)?

The following outlines the scope of the evaluation and how information shared by Partners will be used:

What the evaluation will do

- ✓ Focus on the SFCC at the grant round level.
- ✓ Seek to understand overall progress towards shared outcomes.
- ✓ Explore collective patterns, learnings and emerging insights across regions, cohorts and contexts.
- ✓ Gather evidence and learning to share across collaborations and improve practice and PRF supports.
- ✓ Supporting shared reflection and sense-making among Partners, PRF and Learning Partners over time.

What the evaluation will *not* do

- × Evaluate or assess individual collaborations or organisations.
- × An audit or performance review of Partners' activities and use of funding.
- × Rank or compare Partners against each other.
- × Replace existing grant reporting requirements.
- × Inform funding decisions based on evaluation findings.

The evaluation has developed Grant Program-level outcomes to understand progress on effectiveness at a collective level.

The evaluation has developed the following Grant program-level outcomes informed by your individual grant outcomes and the three SFCC grant round goals.

Grant program-level outcomes	Example indicators
<p>Improved outcomes for families experiencing DFV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and individuals from priority cohorts are identified and engaged earlier in their DFV trajectory. Families and individual family members receive coordinated, wrap-around support that addresses safety, housing, health, legal and wellbeing needs through integrated responses. First Nations and CALD families receive support that reflects their cultural, spiritual and community identities, reducing barriers to disclosure and engagement. Children, caregivers and families experience improved safety, stability, wellbeing and functioning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of clients who received joint support through the grant round that addressed needs across two or more domains (e.g., safety, legal, housing, therapeutic). Partners report improved access to culturally and/or religiously safe support for First Nations or CALD families.
<p>Increased capacity of collaborations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborations expand their reach and service offerings through pooled resources and shared infrastructure. Collaborations coordinate more effectively across systems to deliver timely, cohesive responses. Collaborations strengthen collaborative mechanisms, enhancing efficacy and resilience in their objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners report improved ways of working and role clarity across organisations. Partners report improved trust and joint decision-making.
<p>Improved capability and evidence sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborations document and share learnings, challenges and adaptations to deliver more effective responses. Collaborations strengthen workforce capability to deliver evidence-based, trauma-informed and culturally safe practice. Children, families, and people with lived experience contribute directly to the design of service models leading to more responsive supports. Practice guides, frameworks and models of care are co-created and shared to inform broader systems change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners report regular sharing of evidence, tools or learnings within the cohort or broader sector. Number of practice guides or tools developed and shared through the program.
<p>Sustain and scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence generated informs advocacy and policy reform to sustain and scale up effective service models. Collaborations continue to use data, feedback, and learning to improve service delivery and outcomes over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners report sharing evidence generated by their collaboration to inform policy and advocacy. Partners report ongoing use of evaluation, data and feedback to improve practice.

? *Are there any key outcomes missing?*

? *What indicators would be most important to consider across the different outcomes?*

The evaluation will collect some data directly from Partners to help understand progress towards outcomes and support shared learning over time.

The evaluation will collect data through two main activities described below.

In designing these activities, the approach will be guided by the following principles:

- **Low burden and non-duplicative** – building on existing reporting and minimising additional effort wherever possible.
- **Learning-oriented, not compliance-driven** – focused on reflection, improvement and shared insight rather than assessment or judgement.
- **Culturally safe and trauma-informed** – with particular attention to First Nations governance, Indigenous data sovereignty, and the sensitivities of DFV-related work.
- **Flexible and context-responsive** – recognising that Partners operate in different environments and at different stages of development.

1. ANNUAL PARTNER SURVEY

Each year Partners will be invited to complete a short opt-in survey.

This will be in addition to your annual grant reports to PRF.

What the survey is for

- To understand progress towards program outcomes each year, including how Partners are collaborating.
- To capture insights on learning, collaboration dynamics and Partners' experience with the program.

What it will cover

- Questions aligned to program outcomes and indicators.
- Reflections on collaboration, coordination and Partner experience.
- Space for qualitative insights and story telling of impact.

2. DEEP DIVE ENGAGEMENTS

The evaluation team hope to speak to two Partners each year at one of the in-person regional sessions. These will be on an opt-in basis.

What the deep dive engagements are for

- To better understand how collaboration works in different contexts and explore factors influencing outcomes, adaptation and sustainability.
- To capture rich, qualitative insights that can't be collected through surveys alone.

How they will work

- Deep dives are opt-in and selective, reflecting different regions, cohorts and collaboration types.
- Findings will be shared back and used to support cross-collaboration learning, not comparisons between Partners.

A simplified version of the survey is included overleaf.



Does this approach to data collection feel appropriate and reasonable?

Example questions from the annual Partner survey

Below is a simplified example of the annual Partner survey, included to show the types of questions that may be asked. This is not the final version of the survey, and questions will be tested and refined based on your feedback.

Question	Indicative response format
<p>1 Rate the extent to which your collaboration achieved the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified individuals or families experiencing DFV at earlier touchpoints (i.e., non-crisis settings). Provided joint support to families experiencing DFV that addressed needs across two or more domains (e.g., safety, housing, legal, therapeutic etc). Improved access to culturally and/or religiously safe support for First Nations or CALD families and individuals. Provided supports to children and/or caregivers aimed at improving child wellbeing and family functioning. Strengthened service responsiveness by embedding lived experience in service design, governance or practice products. Strengthened the staff capability to deliver more effective responses to DFV either within your collaboration or across the sector. 	Likert scale rating of 1-4 from 'Not at all' to 'A large extent'
<p>3 Please provide a short case study, linked to one of the outcomes rated above.</p>	Free text (max 200 words)
<p>4 Rate how frequently your collaboration has engaged in the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used evaluation, data, feedback and learning to adjust service or program delivery. Shared evidence, learnings or resources (e.g., practice frameworks, protocols, tools, models) with other collaborations from the Grant Round or with organisations across the sector. Shared evidence generated from your collaboration to inform policy decision-making and advocacy. 	Likert scale rating of 1-5 from 'Not at all' to 'Once a month'
<p>6 Rate the extent to which your collaboration experienced the following outcomes as a result of participating in this Grant Round:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded reach to new cohorts or regions. Reduced duplication of processes across organisations. Improved clarity of roles and responsibilities across organisations. Increased consistency in responses to DFV. Improved information sharing practices. Increased trust and reciprocity across organisations. Improved joint problem-solving and adaptation. Stronger governance and decision-making. 	Likert scale rating of 1-4 from 'Not at all' to 'A large extent'
<p>7 Overall, what enablers have helped your collaboration work towards your intended outcomes? What could be improved or changed to support your collaboration moving forward?</p>	Free text (max 200 words)
<p>8 Rate your satisfaction with the following Grant Round elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cohort sessions Regional meetups Sense-making workshops Grant reporting requirements Communication from PRF (clarity and timeliness) 	Likert scale rating of 1-5 from 'Very dissatisfied' to 'Very satisfied'
<p>9 Is there any other feedback you'd like to provide about the Grant Round (what worked well? or what could improve?)</p>	Free text (optional)



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Nous Group is an international management consultancy working with clients across Australasia, the United Kingdom and North America.

We are inspired and determined to improve people's lives in significant ways. When our strengths complement yours and we think big together, we can transform businesses, governments, and communities. We realise a bigger idea of success.

750

PEOPLE

75

PRINCIPALS

9

OFFICES