## The AOD Family, Carers and Friends (Stream 2) funding opportunity

The Ministry of Health is seeking expressions of interest from selected Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to receive additional funding to enhance support for the family, carers and friends of people experiencing harm from alcohol and other drugs (AOD).

The ACCHS invited to submit a proposal are all in areas that the data and consultations have told us have a high level of need for extra support.

Total funding of $1 million per year is available, with a maximum of $250,000 per organisation per year. Funding is for an initial 3 years, with the possibility of extension.

This EOI is for ACCHS that already have an AOD or Social and Emotional Wellbeing program, with the aim being to enhance their ability to:

* work with people using AOD in more family-inclusive ways
* provide more services and supports for families/carers/friends of people using AOD and
* link families/carers/friends/kin with the services and supports they need to maintain their own health and wellbeing.

This is anticipated to improve outcomes for people using AOD as well as outcomes for their families, carers, friends and kin.

The Grant acknowledges that a broad definition of ‘family’ often applies in Aboriginal communities regarding what constitutes family and extended family. The grant process and decision-making will be supportive of that holistic approach.

Stream 1 of these grants is also currently open Note that Stream 1 of the AOD Family Carer and Friends Grant is also currently open.  If you wish, you may apply for either or both of these streams, however only one grant per organisation will be awarded.

The role of family, carers and friends of people using AOD

The Ice Inquiry recognised that supporting families to develop the resilience and skills they need to support their loved one results in better outcomes for both the person using AOD and their whole family. Family involvement in AOD treatment has been shown to improve treatment retention, increase rates of abstinence, reduce substance use, improve mental health symptoms and improve overall quality of life. Supporting a loved one who is using AOD can be very challenging at times. The families, carers and friends of people using AOD may require support for themselves as well.

Family, carers and friends often have limited access to the information, services and supports they need to help them while they are caring for a person using AOD. Family, carers and friends report being excluded from involvement in their loved one’s treatment and missing out on essential information about care planning, which may limit their capacity to assist in their loved one’s recovery.

The Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) commissioned a literature review to find out what evidence says about the best way to provide family-inclusive support for people using AOD. A copy can be found [here.](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Documents/aod-family-carers-rapid-review.pdf) Page 9 contains information and resources on family-inclusive practice and how to support staff capabilities in working with family, carers and friends of people using AOD.

Details of the funding opportunity

The funding will be provided to enhance ACCHS ability to deliver culturally responsive and evidence-informed supports to the families, carers and friends of people using alcohol and other drugs (AOD). The primary aim is to improve health and wellbeing outcomes of people using AOD, and their families, friends and carers.

The aim is that family members, carers and friends accessing the new or enhanced supports feel more empowered (i.e. more able to manage and cope), knowledgeable, capable and able to support the person in treatment, and themselves.

The following are the types of supports this funding can be used for:

* Individual supports
* Clinician-led/facilitated group sessions
* Psychoeducation - understanding dependency, relapse, comorbidity, how to maintain boundaries and provide helpful support to a person using AOD
* Social support - connecting with groups and community activities
* Mutual/peer support on an individual or group basis
* Case management supports for people with complex needs
* Counselling and therapeutic interventions[[1]](#footnote-2)
* Bereavement therapy where people have lost a loved one due to AOD use
* Brokerage funding (e.g. Opal Card to help people access family/carer/friend services)
* Supported referrals (e.g. to housing, Centrelink services, mental health supports, etc.)
* Youth support groups for siblings and others
* Program for children of parents using AOD
* Advocacy for family/carer needs
* Family therapy and/or family counselling services
* Other evidence-informed interventions and programs
* Employment of staff to undertake any of the above.

Family-inclusive practice activities funded through this opportunity will prioritise the family, carers and friends of people who are seeking or receiving AOD treatment. Those whose loved ones are not engaged in AOD treatment will still be eligible. Self-referrals and referrals from service providers should be accepted. Collaboration and referral pathways with LHDs/SHNs will be mandatory to facilitate this.

In addition to Aboriginal families, friends, carers and kin of people using AOD, the funding will also prioritise services for the following specific groups of Aboriginal people that have been identified as having needs that are not being well met currently:

* children and adolescents who have a caring role for a parent using AOD
* families with complex needs where multiple services are involved as a result of a person’s AOD use, such as child protection, OOHC providers, justice, corrections, police, mental health and education services
* parents/carers/kin of children/adolescents using AOD
* partners, siblings and ageing carers who provide support.

Finding out more

We will hold an industry briefing on 13 November 2024 at 1.30 pm.  To register to attend, please email  [**MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au​**](mailto:MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au) and a link will be sent to you.

Key contacts

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Role | Contact details |
| Email address for submitting AOD FCFS Grant applications | [MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au) |
| Email address for submitting questions about the AOD FCFS Grants\* | [MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au) |
| NSW Health webpage for updates on AOD FCFS Grants | <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Pages/aod-family-carer-friends-support.aspx> |
| The principal contact officer for the AOD FCFS Grants | Tanya Bosch, Manager, AOD Strategic Projects  Telephone: 0476 675 686  Email: [tanya.bosch@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tanya.bosch@health.nsw.gov.au) |
| Contracted Probity Advisor | Anthony Lee, Procure Group Pty Ltd  Telephone: 0411 405 267  Email: alee@procuregroup.com.au |

Queries and clarifications

When seeking support, it is important to note that specific grant questions can only be answered by CAOD via the principal contacts listed above. Answers to questions emailed to the principal contact will be uploaded to the Q&A on AOD [FCFS webpage](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Pages/family-carer-friends-support-grants.aspx) so all organisations have access to the same information. Questions will be answered weekly and the last date for question submission will be 1 December 2024 and answers will be posted on 2 December 2024.

Selection process

Representatives from the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Centre for Aboriginal Health at the Ministry of Health as well as the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council will form a selection panel to consider the applications.

The Panel will base its decision on the information provided in response to the questions below. Each response will be scored by the panel members. The weighting will be as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question | Maximum score |
| 1 | 10 |
| 2 | 10 |
| 3 | 20 |
| 4 | 10 |
| 5 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 60 |

Submissions are due by 12 noon **9 December 2024**. Please email your completed application (including the budget template) to [MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Expression of Interest response form

## Stream 2 – AOD Family, Carers and Friends Grant

Current AOD and related services you provide

1. What current services and programs do you have that provide treatment and support for people who use alcohol and other drugs in a risky or harmful way?

For each program, please tell us:

* who is eligible for the service or program
* what sort of supports they can receive
* how long you have offered this support.

If you have this information already clearly set out in an existing brochure or report, you can attach that instead of writing a response in this section.

(Approx 100 - 150 words each program)

Score:

/10

Summarise your proposal and its costs

1. What would you like to do at your service to increase support for families, carers and friends of people who use AOD, and how much funding are you seeking to do it? (Maximum $250,000 per year per organisation)

Please fill in the attached Budget template or use your own template

(Approx 150 – 200 words)

Score:

/10

Your proposed service model

1. Please use the fictitious case study below about a patient “Jai” and his partner “Annie” to describe what a typical client journey would look like if you were successful in the grant and had established your proposed new services/ supports. How would they be linked in with existing services?

*Jai is a 28 year old Aboriginal man who has come to the GP clinic with injuries to his jaw and ribs as a result of falling while intoxicated. He has recently moved back to the area after being released from custody for a drug-related offence. He tells the GP he has been drinking heavily since he got out of jail, and it’s causing a lot of conflict with his partner. His partner Annie has separately told the nurse that she’s very distressed because of Jai’s drinking and now he has been charged with a low-level drink-driving offence. She is worried he’ll lose his licence. Jai does the school drop offs and pick ups for their two children, and she can’t take time off work to do it if he can’t drive.*

How would you help Jai and Annie and family if the new AOD Family, Carers and Friends support service was in place?

(Approx 200 – 300 words)

Score:

/20

Evidence of need

1. Why have you proposed this type of new service – how do you know it is needed?

What other local services will you link in with?

(Approx 100 - 150 words)

Score:

/10

Reporting on the new services

1. What data or information would you use that would show whether the new service is making a difference and having good outcomes?

(Approx 100 – 150 words)

Score:

/10

### Checklist – before you submit your EOI, double check:

* Does your service/organisation already provide alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment and support (including wellbeing programs that have AOD support as part of their focus)?
* Is your proposal for support for the family, friends and carers of people who have risky levels of AOD use?
* Is your proposal for $250,000 p.a or less?
* Does your proposal show how your new services will link in with existing services, including those provided by the LHD, and avoid duplication of services?
* Have you filled in the budget template

Submissions that do not meet each of these criteria will not be successful.

Please email your completed application (including the budget template) to [MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-CAOD-SCI-FCF@health.nsw.gov.au)

1. Including CBT, solution focussed, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Narrative Therapy, Brief Interventions [↑](#footnote-ref-2)