

# Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program – Inclusion Round

## – yourtown’s advocacy submission



### What is it about?

The Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program (the Inclusion Round) will fund up to 720 new safe places to assist women and children escaping family and domestic violence. The Inclusion Round will focus on improving access to appropriate emergency accommodation for First Nations women and children, women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and women and children with disability.

### Why is it important?

The Inclusion Round will be delivered as an open competitive grant opportunity to support the building, renovation or purchase of new emergency accommodation for women and children leaving family and domestic violence.

The Government has committed to consulting with state and territory governments and stakeholders to inform the design of the Inclusion Round to ensure services delivered to First Nations women and children, women and children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, and women and children with disability are appropriate and meet their needs.

### Some of yourtown’s key messages:

**1. While the Inclusion Round is designed to provide increased and specialist support to First Nations, and CALD women and children; and women and children with disability, it is critical that this process is informed by the direct views and aspirations of young people from these backgrounds.**

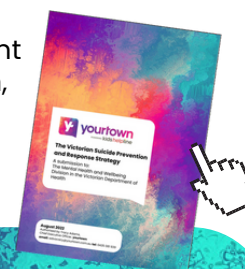
It is not clear how the views of young people have been incorporated to better understand their specific supports needs and what improving access to appropriate emergency accommodation means to them. It is critical that this process is informed by the direct views and aspirations of young people from these backgrounds, as well as the Office for Youth in keeping with the Government’s commitment to the new youth engagement model.

**2. To better support applicants the Australian Government Department of Social Services should provide a more comprehensive set of definitions and guidance around how applicants can demonstrate evidence of ‘rights-based’, client-centred’, ‘trauma-informed’ ‘culturally appropriate’ and ‘having gender expertise’ in the form of a rubric assessment tool.**

In its current state the proposed criteria is overly broad and while it touches on the key issues of services being ‘culturally appropriate and trauma informed’ without identifying the types of evidence applicants are required to demonstrate.

**3. The Australian Government Department of Social Services should encourage providers to work with a broad range of stakeholders including the Police, DV Connect and other providers to better support women and children escaping domestic violence, especially First Nations women and children, CALD women and children and women and children with a disability.**

Competitive tender models often risk discouraging collaboration or the development of joint responses to effectively meet the needs of First Nations women and children, CALD women and children, and women and children with a disability. This has been demonstrated in the Employment Services Sector with establishment of multiple service providers in each region, fostering competition against one another in order to achieve ‘results’.



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