ACT Government

Mental Health Commissioning Adults and Older People Stream

Information Session

10 September 2026



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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Welcome and Introductions

Adam Brockway – Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Heidi Bell - Grants Hub

What are we covering today?

This session will provide:

- An overview of the grant opportunity including the grant objective and funding allocation
- Eligibility and application requirements
- Key dates and next steps
- A Q&A opportunity

Mental Health Funding Streams and Grant Tranches

The Commissioning process includes five funding streams split across three different tranches of Grant Processes.

Tranche 1 (complete)

Individual Advocacy

Residential Community Supports

Tranche 2 (applications closed - contracts in place 1 July 2027)

Child, Youth and Families

Tranche 3 (contracts in place 1 July 2027)

Adults and Older People

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing

See the **Strategic Investment Plan** for more information on Mental Health Commissioning.

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Mental Health Adults and Older People Grant

Tranche 3 (contracts in place 1 July 2027)

Adults and Older People

- Focuses on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of **adults and older people**, including those with **complex and ongoing needs**, by providing targeted and integrated services.
- Total available funding is approximately **$3.5 million** (GST exclusive) annually and is subject to Community Sector Indexation.
- Funding is expected to support a **range of services** that support the mental health and wellbeing of adults and older people across the ACT.
- Grants will be provided for an initial **5-year period** with the option to extend for up to **2 additional years.**

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Service Priorities

Priority will be given to services that:

- Provide targeted supports to **adults and older people** with **specific complex** and **ongoing needs**
- Support people with mental health needs who are **exiting the detention system**
- Provide access to **psychosocial services** that improve **quality of life**, **social connections** or support other **social determinates** of health and wellbeing
- Focus on the needs of specific groups such as **LGBTIQA+**, **culturally and linguistically diverse communities**, and **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**
- Recognise and support the role of **carers and families.**

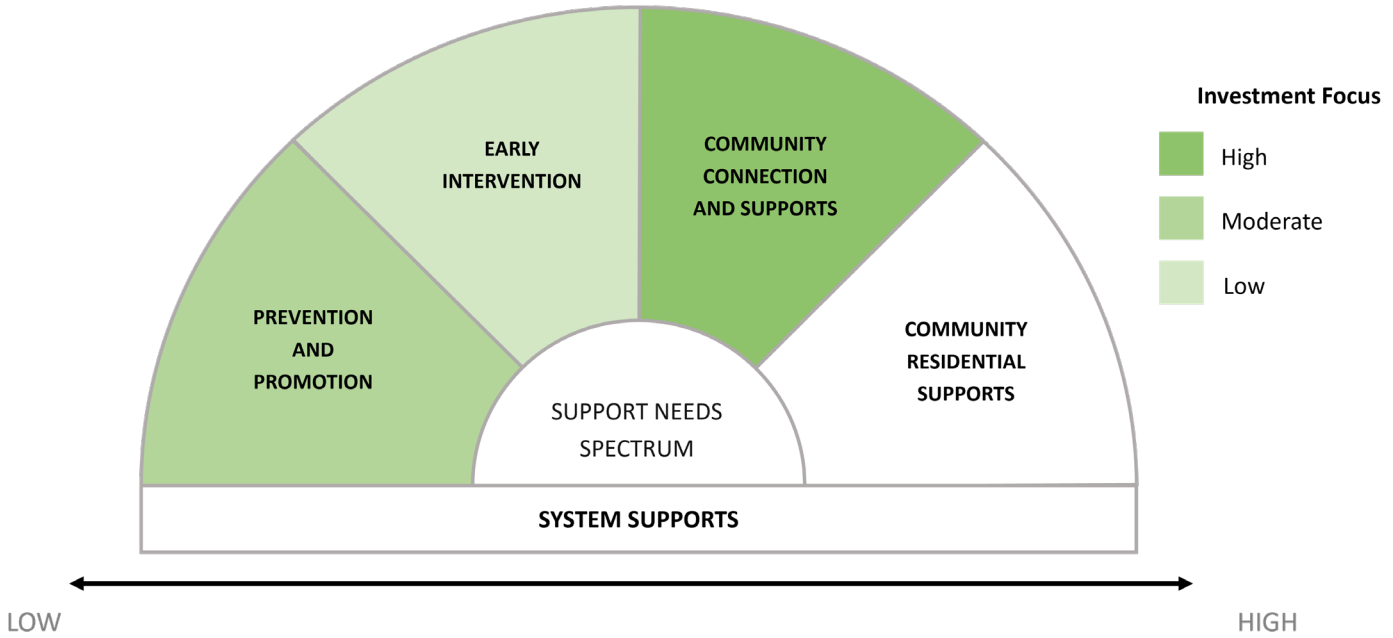
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Investment Focus

This grant seeks applications for programs with a focus on, in order:

- Community Connection and Supports
- Prevention and Promotion
- Early Intervention

This investment focus was informed by mapping of services available in the Overview of Mental Health Services for Adults and Older People.



Personal Domain Outcomes

The Commissioning Framework

Applicants must demonstrate how they contribute to **one or more** Personal Domain Outcomes.

Domain	Outcome
Personal	1. People experience environments that promote wellbeing.
Personal	2. People are supported in seeking help, and self-management of emerging mental health needs.
Personal	3. People's mental health and wellbeing is supported in all aspects of their lives.

Service Domain Outcomes

The Commissioning Framework

Applicants must demonstrate how they contribute to **all** Service Domain Outcomes.

Domain	Outcome
Service	1. Services are accessible and culturally responsive (right care, right place, right time).
Service	2. Services are delivered holistically, are safe, inclusive, trauma-informed and compliant with human rights.
Service	3. Services are collaborative, cohesive and address the full spectrum of a person's needs by coordinating across the sector.
Service	4. Services ensure people, carers and families are able to understand and move through the mental health system.
Service	5. Services ensure people with lived experience are central to service design, delivery and evaluation.
Service	6. Services are evidence informed with a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Further Information

The Mental Health Commissioning Webpage includes all resources developed in the design and invest phases, including:

- **The Strategic Investment Plan**
- **The Mental Health Commissioning Framework**
- **The Program Logics Guide and Template**
- **An Overview of Mental Health Services for Adults and Older People**

https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/commissioning/sectors-in-progress/mental-health

SmartyGrants landing page



Mental Health Adults and Older People

Start a submission | Preview the form | Download preview form

Submissions are now being accepted. Submissions close at 3:00pm 14 October 2026 (AEDT).

IMPORTANT: Please read the information below to assist you in completing your submission.

Before you begin

Welcome to the **ACT Government Health and Community Services Directorate** online grant application service, powered by SmartyGrants. If this is the first time you are applying using SmartyGrants, click 'Start a Submission', then 'Register here'.

Click here Mental Health Adult and Older People Grant Requirements to view the guidelines and click here to view our Privacy Policy.

For queries about the guidelines, deadlines, email **HCSDGrants@act.gov.au** and quote your submission number.

If you need help using this form, download the Help Guide for Applicants or check out Applicant FAQ's.

https://acthealth.smartygrants.com.au/MHAO

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Eligibility

To be eligible, the Applicant must:

- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or an Australian Company Number (ACN)
- Be registered for Good and Services Tax (GST)
- Have an account with an Australian financial institution
- Be financially viable to deliver the proposed service over the term of the grant

Eligible entity types:

- An incorporated organisation in Australia
- A company limited by guarantee
- An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
- A joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation that would otherwise meet the above criteria

Eligibility

- **The following Applicants are not eligible to apply**
  - **Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies or bodies**
  - **Individuals**
  - **Unincorporated associations**
  - **For-profit entities**
  - **Overseas organisations**

Evaluation Criteria – Mandatory Assessment Criteria

Ref	Criteria
MC1	Board or similar governance structure to oversee functions
MC2	Continuous quality improvement
MC3	Cultural competency for staff working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
MC4	Information security and data management
MC5	Risk management
MC6	Insurance
MC7	Appropriate accreditations, qualifications and certifications
MC8	Financial viability and statements
MC9	Compliance with relevant legislation, regulation and policy
MC10	Agreement with service requirements and draft Deed of Grant
MC11	Risks or issues that may impact service delivery
MC12	(Consortium only) Letters of commitment from all partners

Evaluation Criteria – Weighted Criteria

Ref	Criteria	Score
1a	Describe the service/program your organisation is proposing to deliver under the grant.	/20
1b	Through a program logic, describe how the proposed service/program will contribute to Personal Domain Outcomes and Service Domain Outcomes.	/25
1c	Describe the evidence underpinning or informing your proposed service model and delivery practices.	/10
2a	Demonstrate your organisational experience delivering mental health services that are tailored to the needs of priority populations.	/10
2b	Demonstrate organisational experience working collaboratively with non-government sector partners, government programs and the Canberra community.	/10
3a	Identify capacity and resourcing your organisation has in place to support the delivery of the proposed service.	/10
3b	Describe how your organisation will support workforce sustainability through the development, wellbeing and safety of staff and/or volunteers.	/15

Program Logics – weighted criteria 1b

- Applicants must provide a program logic that clearly articulates how the proposed service/program contributes to the Outcomes.
- For more information, please see the Program Logics Guide.

Evaluation Criteria – Non-Weighted Criteria

Ref	Criteria
NW1	Measurement and Reporting
NW2	Risks and Challenges
NW3	Budget
NW4	Funding Sources
NW5	Referees

- There is a Risk Management template and Pricing Schedule Template within the application form for you to complete.
- **Practical resources to assist you in developing your budget and pricing schedule can be found here:** Costing and pricing resources for human services - ACT Government Transparency Portal

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Indicative Timeframes

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Grant round opens	01 September 2026
Sector briefing	Today – 10 September 2026
Grant round closes	3pm Thursday 14 October 2026
Assessment of applications	October 2026 to January 2027
Delegate approval	February 2027
Notification of outcomes	February 2027
Contract negotiations	February to April 2027
Transition out period (existing providers)	30 March to 30 June 2027
Earliest start date of service	1 July 2027

Thank you.

Any questions?
Email **HCSDGrants@act.gov.au**

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