



Changes to strengthen investment in grant programs with evidence

Factsheet for Stakeholders - March 2024

The changes

The Department of Health and Aged Care is strengthening its approach to grant program administration.

These changes will ensure the Department delivers the best health and aged care outcomes for the Australian community through:

- Investments that are supported by robust, evidence-based program evaluation that proves the programs are having the intended impact, and
- Targeting funding to high-value programs aligned with priority areas.

The Department will apply a risk-based and strategic approach to conduct evaluation of all grant programs. It ranges from fast, desktop review for low risk/low value programs to more comprehensive and detailed examinations for high risk/high value programs. Evaluation outcomes along with other considerations (e.g. alignment with government priorities, stakeholder consultation) will inform decision-making about next steps.

This approach will provide stakeholders and the Australian community with greater assurance that the health programs we invest in, are supported by robust data and evidence. This in turn, will ensure the evidence-based programs deliver high quality outcomes for all Australians.

What this means in practice

Stakeholders are required to ensure all new and existing grants have sufficient data collection, analysis and evaluation activities to demonstrate program effectiveness. What constitutes 'sufficient' data depends on the size, significance and risk profile of the programs. Higher risk programs would have a proportionally higher level of data requirements. As a general approach, both qualitative and quantitative information should be collected to assess the implementation, effectiveness and efficiency of the program. The evaluation ideal is: no numbers without stories; no stories without numbers. See also [Questions for consideration](#).

If your **current grant** has concluded, with a completed evaluation:

- The robust data, evidence and evaluation findings will form an integral part of Departmental recommendations and Government decision-making on the next steps for the grant.

If your **current grant** has concluded but there is insufficient data or evaluative activity has not yet finished:

- Your grant may be extended for a **time-limited** period, on the condition that the additional time is used to undertake evaluation and/or collect additional data. This will ensure that programs that do not currently have a robust evidence base develop it, to support decision making.

All **new programs** must include:

- Ongoing evidence and data collection, with a preference for objective, measurable metrics where possible, to support evaluation activity throughout the life cycle of the program.

Questions for consideration

- Does this proposal support a Government priority area in health, aged care and/or sport?
- Does this proposal have a clear and achievable plan to collect or produce the data that would enable the strength of the program to be demonstrated?
- Is this proposal supported by data and evidence? What is the strength of its support? Are any objective metrics used?
- Does other evidence support this proposal, for instance international evidence, literature or best practice?
- Does this proposal have an evaluation?

Resources

For more information on the Department's approach to evaluation, see: [Department of Health and Aged Care Evaluation Strategy 2023–2026](#)

For more information on the Department's Grants and Tenders, see: [Department of Health and Aged Care: Grant and Tenders](#)