



Value for Money Assessment

This document describes the evaluation process used to determine value for money for procurements where one supplier has been approached. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation are recorded below.

Background

In October 2018, the Department received a research proposal from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), Australian National University by email to undertake a public health assessment of e-cigarette use in Australia. The Minister announced that \$750,000 (GST exclusive) would be allocated over two financial years for this important work. In progressing this work the Department sought further details from the NCEPH and comprehensive proposal was received on 2 January 2019 followed by an amended proposal on 23 January 2019.

The process followed for this procurement has complied with the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* and with our agency's internal requirements.

Evaluation Team

The evaluation team consisted of:

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Evaluation Scale

Use the ratings below in the assessment of each respondent.

Very Good	The Offer satisfies the Selection Criterion to a very high standard and presents minimal or no risk to the Commonwealth and its claims are fully supported by the information provided.
Good	The Offer satisfies the Selection Criterion to a high standard and/or presents limited risk to the Commonwealth. The Respondent's claims, in the view of the Evaluation Committee (EC), are supported by the information provided.
Satisfactory	The Offer satisfies the Selection Criterion to a satisfactory degree and/or presents an acceptable level of risk to the Commonwealth. In the view of the EC, there are some minor deficiencies and shortcomings in the information provided.
Poor	The Offer barely satisfies the Selection Criterion and/or presents some degree of unacceptable risk to the Commonwealth. In the view of the EC, there are major deficiencies in the information provided.
Unsatisfactory	The Offer does not satisfy the Selection Criterion and/or presents an unacceptable level of risk to the Commonwealth.

Findings of the Evaluation

The quotation received was compliant and fully assessed.

Evaluation Assessment	
Criteria	<p>Supplier</p> <p>National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University (NCEPH).</p>
Extent to which the supplier's offer met the Commonwealth's requirement set out in the RFQ.	<p>The response was rated very good as its claims against the requirements were fully supported throughout the proposal.</p> <p>The NCEPH demonstrated the highest level of experience and expertise to reach the required outcome.</p>
Supplier's capacity to provide the requirement.	<p>The response was rated very good as the supplier provided evidence of its overall capacity to fulfil the requirement throughout the proposal.</p> <p>The project team to provide the requirement consist of internationally-recognised experts in epidemiology, tobacco control and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.</p>
Total costs to be incurred by the Commonwealth.	\$825,000 (GST inclusive)
Overall i.e. Value for Money (VFM)	<p>The response was rated as very good overall as it represented the best Value for Money given the anticipated high-quality outcomes, owing to the experience and expertise shared amongst those involved in the proposal.</p> <p>Justification includes:</p> <p>The NCEPH is committed to the highest standards of conduct in the responsible practice of research. Research is conducted in accordance with the <i>NHMRC Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)</i>, <i>Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (2003)</i> and complies with the <i>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)</i> and the <i>Australian Privacy Principles</i> prescribed by the <i>Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)</i>.</p> <p>All researchers work to the highest standards, governed by policy that includes management of data, publication and dissemination of findings, authorship, peer review, conflicts of interest, ethical and safety requirements and dealing with research misconduct. These practices promote quality of research, value for money and minimise the risk of harm for all involved.</p>

Recommendation

The evaluation team unanimously recommends that NCEPH be contracted for \$825,000 (GST inclusive) to undertake a public health assessment of e-cigarette use in Australia.

This decision is based on the evaluation assessment that the offer from NCEPH provides the best value for money outcome.

Approval to proceed

- The delegate must provide email approval of the recommendation to enter into contract with NCEPH.
- The contract **must not** be signed until the delegate has approved the commitment approval in SAP.