

# **Margins to the Mainstream Prevention of Violence Against Women with Disabilities - Consultant project brief for final year evaluation**

## **Introduction**

Women's Health East seeks a consultant to design, implement and report on an outcomes and impact evaluation for the Margins to the Mainstream project for the final 18-months of the project's implementation (2022-2024). The project has had an evaluation undertaken of its first two years of implementation, which covered both process (outputs and reach, quality) and outcomes.

## **Background**

Margins to the Mainstream adopts a primary prevention approach to prevent men's violence against women. The project is part of the *Together For Equality & Respect Strategy: Preventing Violence Against Women in Melbourne's East 2021-2025*. This partnership is a cross-sector collaboration of organisations that work to prevent violence against women in Melbourne's east.

Margins to the Mainstream Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services from March 2020 to June 2024. It was developed in recognition of the prevalence and seriousness of violence against women with disabilities and the importance of centring the expertise of women with lived experience of disabilities in primary prevention work.

The project is led by Women's Health East, in partnership with Women with Disabilities Victoria and the Together For Equality and Respect partnership. It is designed to amplify the voices of women with lived experience of disabilities and to build the capacity of partner organisations to prevent violence against women with disabilities.

Women with lived experience of disability, including neurodiversity, mental health and chronic health conditions, are at the centre of the project through the Project Experts Group. Ten women with disabilities joined the group in late 2020 and took part in a range of skill development activities, together with reflection and sharing about their lived experiences to strengthen their roles as experts in the project's other activities.

## **Margins to the Mainstream project objectives**

The Margins to the Mainstream project objectives (as detailed in a logic model: Appendix 1) are to:

- Strengthen cross-sector partnerships for sustained work in the prevention of violence against women with disabilities
- Elevate the voices of women with disabilities and promote their leadership and status in society
- Build the capacity of partners to embed in their prevention work a focus on sexism and ableism as intersecting structural drivers of violence against women with disabilities
- Challenge intersecting sexist and ableist stereotypes across the community and other settings (including organisations)
- Contribute to the evidence base of 'what works' in community-led initiatives in the prevention of violence against women with disabilities.

## **Margins to Mainstream project partnerships**

The Together For Equality and Respect partnership supports the project's implementation, including resource and campaign dissemination, which has increased the project's reach and impact. Partners have provided subject matter expertise, assistance with recruiting women with disabilities to engage in co-design processes and participated in the Project Advisory Group.

The Project Advisory Group has been meeting regularly throughout the project and has overseen the project's implementation.

The Margins to the Mainstream Project Expert Group has been a key mechanism for the project to centre the voices of women with disabilities. This group began with ten members, with seven continuing to be engaged in the project.

## **Project implementation**

The project has included the following key activities:

- The Project Advisory Group, which currently has a membership of five Together For Equality and Respect partners, Women with Disabilities Victoria, and a community representative.
- The Project Experts Group, which has seven members, who have completed skill development sessions. These women have also undertaken co-design processes for the development of resources, including the 16 Days of Activism Campaigns (in 2021 and 2022) and a set of videos; provided advice about changes to three training programs with two organisations who were small grants recipients; provided presentations at regional events and participated in regional community of practice sessions.
- Workforce capacity building, which included training for the Project Advisory Group and Together For Equality and Respect partners, to increase knowledge and awareness of the intersecting structural drivers of violence against women with disabilities.
- Organisational capacity building, including identifying FVREE (formally EDVOS) and Access Health and Community as recipients of a small grant initiative and consultations with experts to improve training offerings.

## **Project evaluation 2020 to June 2022**

An evaluation consultant has undertaken a detailed process, impact and outcomes focused evaluation within the context of the project's first two years of implementation. The evaluation report for 2020-2022 sets the context and starting point for the current evaluation brief. The evaluation found that the:

- Margins to the Mainstream exemplified what leading-edge prevention looks like in a real-world context of practice in Victoria
- Margins to the Mainstream was of enormous value to the Project Experts in multiple ways
- Margins to the Mainstream is a flagship collaboration of the Together For Equality and Respect partnership and a demonstration of the partnership's intent to lead and create change on the intersecting drivers of violence against women with disabilities
- The partnership's workforce has gained much from the project's training and learning opportunities. It is important to continue this learning so that the workforce's capacity for intersectional prevention practice is strengthened
- Two partners, who received seed funding, have benefitted enormously from the work of the Project Experts. It is important that the rest of the partners engage in this deeper work, including in their organisations as settings for primary prevention action
- Margins to the Mainstream demonstrated how intersectional prevention practice, regional collaboration and collective action can be done now and into the future and can inform Victorian primary prevention policy and programming.

# **Brief for the Margins to the Mainstream Final Evaluation**

## **Overview of the consultancy**

The aim of this consultancy is to design, implement and report on the impacts and outcomes of the project in its final 18 months, based on data that has been and will be collected from a range of project participants that includes women with disabilities, Together For Equality and Respect partners and members of the Project Advisory Group. The consultancy will include the development of an evaluation plan that draws on relevant evidence-based primary prevention indicators. Women's Health East will provide possible indicators for consideration. The consultancy will undertake all data collection and analysis and develop a final evaluation report.

## **Key evaluation questions**

This following evaluation questions will guide this consultancy:

1. To what extent has the Margins to the Mainstream project created or contributed to intersectional prevention practice and the prevention of violence against women with disabilities in the Together For Equality and Respect partnership?

In particular:

- a) To what extent has the project increased awareness and knowledge among project participants about how to prevent violence against women with disabilities?
- b) To what extent has the project increased intersectional practice to prevent violence against women with disabilities among Together For Equality and Respect workforces and partner organisations?

## **Participant groups**

Primary data collection would be gathered from the following project participant groups:

- Women with disabilities who were member of the Project Experts Group
- Members of the Project Advisory Group
- Primary prevention practitioners who work in partner organisations and among other organisations engaged in the project
- Other staff within partner organisations who work outside of primary prevention who have been engaged by the Margins to the Mainstream project resources
- Staff from other organisations and/or community members who have been engaged by the Together For Equality and Respect partners, as a result of the project.

This consultancy will engage a mixed methods approach that uses both quantitative and qualitative data, with a strong focus on collecting quantitative data that provides insights into the impact of the project on the project participants, as noted above.

## Evaluation audiences

The primary audiences for the evaluation report are:

- the Together for Equality and Respect partnership
- Victorian and Commonwealth Governments who fund primary prevention action, and the Victorian primary prevention sector.

## Key deliverables

- Development of an evaluation plan including methodology, evaluation indicators and tools that will capture data related to the key evaluation questions from all identified project participants.
- Undertake the evaluation design, data collection and analysis in consultation with Women's Health East staff and members of the Project Advisory Group.
- Write a final evaluation report that identifies the evaluation aims, questions, methodology, findings and recommendations that is between 15 and 20 pages.

## Timelines for key deliverables

This consultancy will start in 2023, with a final report delivered to Women's Health East by the 1 June 2023. Indicative timelines are detailed below.

Date	Activity	Who
Mid-April 2023	Consultant contract signed off and evaluation begins	Consultant and Women's Health East
Mid-to-late April 2023	Provide draft evaluation plan and draft evaluation tools for review by Women's Health East and Project Advisory Group	Consultant
Late April 2023	Provide feedback to consultant on draft plan and evaluation tools	Women's Health East
Start of May 2023	Adjust evaluation plan and evaluation tools	Consultant
May to June 2023	Proposed first round of data collection (adjustable based on the agreed evaluation plan)	Consultant
September - March 2024	Proposed data collection (adjustable based on the agreed evaluation plan)	Consultant
Mid-May 2024	Draft report for feedback from Women's Health East and Project Advisory Group	Consultant
Late May 2023	Feedback provided to consultant	Women's Health East
1 June 2024	Final Report submitted	Consultant

## **Budget**

A total budget of \$20,000 is available for this consultancy. This fee includes the development and delivery of key deliverables, administration, proof-editing, travel costs and is inclusive of GST.

- A payment of \$11,000 will be made on the signing of the consultancy agreement.
- A further payment of \$5,000 will be made on successful completion of the draft evaluation report.
- The remaining payment of \$4,000 will be made on the successful completion of the final evaluation report.

## **Assignment of copyright**

The consultant will be acknowledged as the author of the final evaluation report. Women's Health East will own the data, copyright and intellectual property of the evaluation plan and the report developed via this consultancy.

## **Further information**

For queries about this contract, please contact Catherine D'Arcy, Women's Health East's Manager of Prevention of Violence Against Women at [cdarcy@whe.org.au](mailto:cdarcy@whe.org.au) or 0404 922 100.

Written applications marked confidential with a three-page overview of the intended approach to the evaluation framework and methods, budget totalling \$20,000 and a CV highlighting relevant evaluations of primary prevention initiatives, lived experience and/or partnerships. Please include two referees and one example of recent written work relevant to this evaluation.

Please send applications with supporting documents to Catherine D'Arcy [cdarcy@whe.org.au](mailto:cdarcy@whe.org.au) by 5 pm on Sunday 2 April 2023.

**Objective 1. Strengthen partnerships for sustained work in the prevention of violence against women with disabilities (PVAWD)**

**Objective 2. Elevate the voices of women with disabilities (WWD) and promote their leadership and status in society**

**Objective 3. Build the capacity of partners to embed into their prevention work a focus on sexism and ableism as intersecting structural drivers of violence against WWD**

**Objective 4. Challenge intersecting sexist and ableist stereotypes across the community and other settings (e.g. organisations)**

**Objective 5. Contribute to the evidence base of 'what works' in community-led PVAWD**

