

Request for Proposal Evaluation of The Priority Project

Issue Date: 11 September 2023

Proposal Due: 29 September 2023

1. RFP Purpose

Mission Australia seeks to engage a skilled and experienced evaluator/consultancy to collaboratively design and deliver a small evaluation of The Priority Project pilot in Queensland.

2. About Us

Mission Australia is a national non-denominational Christian organisation, with more than 160 years' experience in standing together with Australians in need on their journey to independence. Our evidence-based, client-centred community services are focused toward our goal of ending homelessness and ensure people and communities in need can thrive.

Constellation Project is driving action through collaboration. In 2018, Australian Red Cross, the Centre for Social Impact, Mission Australia and PwC Australia joined forces in the belief that together we stand a better chance of driving action on homelessness. The Constellation Project exists to identify and accelerate solutions to end homelessness through cross-sector collaboration.

3. About The Priority Project

3.1 Background

Domestic and family violence (DFV) is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children in Australia, with many women choosing to remain in unsafe living situations due to a lack of suitable housing. It is well documented that there is a gap in the provision of medium to long-term housing for women experiencing intimate partner violence.

This solution is not about more crisis accommodation or more social housing, although both are desperately needed. This solution is about housing vulnerable women in underutilised 'housing stock', private rentals. The team has engaged stakeholders who are willing to support women and their children who need stable, medium to long-term accommodation in rental properties. This solution will require a pilot in the current market where private rentals are in very short supply.

At this stage, there is no coordinated effort by any organisation to involve property owners in the provision of housing for women experiencing DFV. Consultation during this project (with property owners and real estate agents) has established that some property owners would prioritise rental to women experiencing intimate partner violence. This relates to investments properties being rented to this priority group at full market rent or at discounted market rent.

3.2 Objectives of The Priority Project (TPP)

TPP will work in a partnership approach to support women and children at risk of homelessness as a result of intimate partner violence. TPP is a new solution that involves referring organisations and

other coordinating bodies and advocacy groups to identify and support women and their children in newly found rental accommodation. It involves:

- Creating and maintaining a Private Rentals Property Register
- Working collaboratively with referring support services during a woman's tenancy to ensure women are being provided with appropriate supports, especially in regard to rental security and security in the home.
- Brokering partnerships between real-estate agencies, community services, contractors and other stakeholders for the provision of housing, funding, goods and services managing the contribution of funds, services and products, including in-kind contributions.
- Implementing and advocating for strict procedures to protect the privacy of women and family members.
- Ensuring rental properties have suitable levels of security.

TPP will enable women and their children to:

- reduce incidences where a woman returns to a violent home
- avoid homelessness and reduce the need for and/or length of stay in crisis accommodation
- find accommodation and services to support them more easily and have more control, choice and confidence in their community
- settle into a new community with increased support and security
- remain in a community with their familiar local supports
- have improved mental and physical health – feel and be safer.

There is additional information about the project here (link): [The Priority Project \(missionaustralia.com.au\)](https://missionaustralia.com.au)

3.2 TPP pilot

TPP was developed through a social lap process over the last few years. Mission Australia and The Salvation Army are now delivering a 12 month pilot with the support of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ).

The purpose of the 12 month pilot is to validate the feasibility and scalability of the TPP service. This includes validating that:

1. there is **appetite from real estate agents and investment property owners** to list properties on TPP's Private Rentals Property Register and
2. women (and their children) who have experienced family and domestic violence (DFV) can access to **safe, secure rental housing** through TPP.

4. About the evaluation

We are seeking to engage a skilled and experienced evaluator/organisation to collaboratively design and deliver an evaluation of the TPP pilot in South East Queensland.

The evaluator will work collaboratively with the Evaluation Reference Group (representatives from the project's Steering Committee, including Mission Australia and The Salvation Army), who will meet regularly to provide oversight and feedback on the evaluation design, management, and reporting.

Evaluation objectives

The purpose of the evaluation is to examine the appropriateness and effectiveness of the TPP 12 month pilot. The objectives are to:

- Assess the implementation of the TPP pilot, including the need and demand, establishment and implementation of the Private Rentals Property Register, quantity and quality of services provided and access to support services during a woman's tenancy.
- Identify any barriers, enablers and service model components that are critical to establish, implement, and expand the TPP.
- Understand and evidence the early impact of TPP, including outcomes for women and children, real estate owners/landlords and stakeholders more broadly. Including, if appropriate, comparison with other similar service models (i.e. Headleasing and social/affordable housing).

The evaluation findings will be used to for both formative and summative purposes. Mission Australia will:

- Refine the model, including how it works for all key partners.
- Inform decisions to scale and expand TPP.
- Share with the current funder (ANZ) and future funders (philanthropists, corporate funders, etc) to secure ongoing funding.
- Share best practice and evidence within pilot partners, broader sector to end homelessness and support women who have experienced FDV.

Specific evaluation questions to meet these objectives and purposes will be developed in collaboration with the Evaluation Reference Group.

4.1 Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will assess the 12 month pilot of the TPP in South East Queensland. Evaluation stakeholders will include real estate owners/landlords, eligible tenants, the Partnership Broker (who works for Mission Australia), support services (Mission Australia and The Salvation Army), Property Managers and the REIQ.

Estimated samples across the pilot timeframes are 15 women, 10 real estates across South East Queensland by the 12 month mark.

4.2 Evaluation design

We are seeking a mixed methods evaluation design to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of the TPP pilot, building on the existing draft TPP Evaluation Framework. It should include:

- An Evaluation Plan, based on the draft TPP Evaluation Framework. This will include high-level evaluation questions, criteria for each question and framework, data sources, timeframes etc.
- Utilisation existing quantitative data collected by Private Rentals Property Register and dashboard.

- Mechanisms to collect qualitative and quantitative data for the range of stakeholders at key timepoints.

4.3 Deliverables and timeframes

The deadline for delivering the evaluation is 22 November 2024. The specific deliverables required are outlined in bold under the key phases of Mission Australia’s Evaluation Project Management approach.

Evaluation Stage	Key tasks and deliverables
Manage	1. Commencement of the evaluation contract.
Design	2. Initiation Workshop with the Evaluation Reference Group to provide an overview of the initiative, introduce the proposed evaluation approach, develop key evaluation questions and establish shared ways of working. 3. Develop an Evaluation Plan based on the draft TPP Evaluation Framework , including questions, methodology, timeframes, data collection plan, analysis approach, ethical and cultural considerations and evidence sharing approach.
Measure	4. Establish any additional data collection systems, procedures and templates to support data collection and monitoring. 5. Connect regularly with the Partnership Broker and meet 3-4 times with the Evaluation Reference Group to discuss data collection and address any challenges that may arise. 6. Undertake any data collection, as per the Evaluation Plan.
Analyse	7. Conduct analysis according to the data analysis section outlined in the Evaluation Plan. 8. Facilitate a face-to-face Validation Workshop , around 1 month before the final evaluation report, with the Evaluation Reference Group to present early findings and to seek clarification, interpretation and synthesis of data sources for each evaluation question.
Report	9. Produce a high quality and succinct Final Evaluation Report which clearly answers the key evaluation questions and provides recommendation based on the key findings.
Action	10. Facilitation of a face-to-face or virtual Key Findings Presentation with the Evaluation Reference Group and key organisational stakeholders after the final evaluation report has been produced.

4.4 Budget

The costs will be guided by the evaluation design; however, payment will be made in accordance with the following milestones.

Timeframe	Indicative budget	Deliverables
October 2023	\$5,000	Milestone 1: Commencement of contract
November 2023	\$5,000	Milestone 2: Acceptance of Evaluation Plan
November 2024	\$15,000	Milestone 3: Acceptance of Evaluation Report
Total	\$25,000	

5. About your proposal

Please provide a proposal **by 5:00 pm (EST) on 29th September 2023** outlining your demonstrated experience and capacity to complete the evaluation. Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and should include a concise description of:

- The proposed evaluation approach and methodology.
- Content knowledge and previous experience, including key personnel who would be involved in the evaluation team.
- Capacity to deliver to the timeframes and milestones listed above.
- A quotation with the breakdown of costs for each deliverable/milestone.
- Overview of insurances held by the provider.
- Key contact for the proposal – name, position, telephone, and email address;
- An example of previous work and two referees.

The following selection criteria will be used to compare and evaluate all proposals. A shortlist of Applicants will be invited for a short virtual interview. The successful applicant will be based on the strength of the proposal against the selection criteria and the additional information provided in the interview.

Criteria	Description
Appropriateness of the proposed approach	The proposed approach and evaluation design is appropriate to the requirements of the RFP. All aspects of the service design, cohorts, locations and ethical considerations have been considered and addressed.
Demonstrated experience and content knowledge	Experience in delivering similar evaluation projects. Demonstrated content knowledge about housing, homelessness and/or DFV support service models.
Organisational capacity	Ability to deliver the project on time and within budget. The evaluation team includes technical skills, suitable experience and the ability to respectfully engage with key stakeholders.
Value for money	Demonstrated value for money through careful considerations of the evaluation design costs, benefits, options and risks.

Selection of the successful applicant will be subject to negotiation and execution of a contract by Mission Australia.

All enquiries and submitted proposals should be sent by email to:

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