

Registration of Interest (ROI): Technical MEL partner for Community Development Section, Central Land Council

Organisation	Central Land Council – Community Development (CD) Section
Title	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Technical Partner for CLC’s CD Section
Proposed contract period	FY26/27 (1 September 2026 – 30 June 2027), with possibility of future contracts through an ongoing partnership approach
Commissioning Manager	Ian Sweeney, CD Manager
Contact details	Mikaela O’Neil, CD MEL Coordinator Email: mikaela.oneil@clc.org.au Landline: 08 8951 6396 Mobile: 0420 451 706
Date published	16 th June 2026
ROI closing date	1 st July 2026
Instructions for submission	Please see section 7 below - Procurement Process and Evaluation Criteria.

1. Background

The Community Development (CD) Section

The Central Land Council (CLC)’s Community Development (CD) Section was established in 2005 to work with Aboriginal people who choose to invest their own income in projects that strengthen their communities, identities, languages, cultures and connections to country as well as their capacity to participate in mainstream Australia. Since then, the unit has grown to employ more than 30 staff, support over 3,000 projects and helped invest \$300 million in communities across the region.

CD’s unique and innovative approach supports communities to lead project decisions. Aboriginal people decide on projects and using their own income, plan and make decisions together. It’s about Aboriginal people having the skills to take control and shape every project, with support from the CLC and outside experts.

Our [community development framework](#) has two aims:

1. To increase Aboriginal engagement, ownership and control over the development of our communities, homelands and futures
2. To deliver development outcomes Aboriginal people value and prioritise and that make a meaningful and sustained difference.

Read more about our work [here](#).

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in the CD Section

The CD Section began its MEL program in 2007. The MEL program aims to better monitor, evaluate and learn from the work of the Section. External MEL technical support has been integral to the development of CD’s MEL program throughout the years, and in developing strong in-house MEL capacity within the CD team. As of 2026, the CD Section employs two MEL Coordinators as well as a

team of Aboriginal community researchers. A variety of regular MEL activities and approaches are in place and provide ongoing data and reporting about CD's work across the region.

As internal MEL capacity has grown, it has been identified that CD's MEL approach requires a review and an update in its strategy and approaches, in order to more effectively capture the impact of our work, which is complex and has increased substantially over the years in terms of bigger budgets, a higher number of projects and more communities. There is also a desire to better understand and communicate the deeper outcomes and impacts of our work. Moreover, CD seeks to strengthen the learning and adaptation systems within our team, in order to better implement the lessons and recommendations that result from our MEL reporting.

2. Purpose of the Consultancy

CLC's CD Section seeks a technical MEL partner to provide high-level MEL expertise in order to strengthen CD's MEL program and internal capacity, and to develop its MEL strategy, processes and tools.

While the duration of this Consultancy is one year (FY26/27), it is expected that CD requires ongoing annual support that is adaptive to our growing capacity over the coming years. Therefore, CD is seeking a long-term technical MEL partner, and strong outcomes at the end of this one-year agreement would create the possibility for ongoing long-term partnership.

It is not essential that the supplier be located in Alice Springs, however it is expected that the MEL partner would either have direct experience in the region or strong ability to contextualise their expertise for the Central Australia region. Responses to this ROI can propose whether travel to Alice Springs will be required in order to meet objectives to a reasonable standard, whether the tasks can be completed remotely, or a combination of both.

3. Guiding Principles and Values

- Aboriginal leadership - Aboriginal people in control of planning, decision-making and development with access to clear and relevant information.
- Supporting everyone in the group - listening to different voices and thinking about the needs of everyone in the group, especially younger people and women.
- Respectful relationships – building equal relationships based on a two-way approach and teamwork between everyone involved.
- New ideas and learning – trying new ideas, checking things are on track and learning together as we go.
- Co-operation – working well together based on mutual respect of diverse cultures and contributions.

4. Long-term objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen the long-term internal MEL capacity of the CD Section, through the provision of expert advice, mentoring and a “critical friend” role.

Objective 2: Support the CD Section to develop and implement a MEL strategy, enabling the Section to better track, evaluate and communicate the impact of our work, and enhancing our focus on learning, accountability and adaptation.

Objective 3: Improve data management processes including the embedment of Indigenous Data Sovereignty into systems.

Objective 4: Support research dissemination to communicate the impact of our work, including (but not limited to) academia.

Note: In the response to ROI, please specify which of the above objectives you would be well-placed to fulfill, describing relevant experience and competency. We would consider applicants that do not fulfill all four objectives.

5. Year One Priorities

While suppliers should include in their response to this ROI how they would fulfill the above long-term objectives, this section outlines the key priorities that will guide deliverables for Year One (FY26/27). As such, responses should also specifically outline the supplier's capability to complete these tasks during the coming year. These include:

- Completing the annual external monitoring report
 - Led by the supplier but working collaboratively with CD MEL Coordinator and other staff as relevant
 - Involves developing report methodology, analysis of existing quantitative and qualitative data, design of data collection tools for additional qualitative data, drafting report, holding validation and feedback staff workshop, and refining final report.
 - Previous reports can be viewed [here](#), for reference.
- Provide expert advice and feedback on a departmental MEL strategy
- Review and redesign of the above annual external monitoring report for the following year (FY27/28) – to align with the new MEL strategy, once developed.

6. Budget and contract

Please include in your response to this ROI an indication of prices (specifying excl. or incl. GST). Pricing must include all expenses, including any travel.

Indicative annual budget, including all expenses, should fall within the range of \$50k and \$150k. We encourage proposals to offer a small number of options within this range.

The initial annual contract is expected to commence in September 2026, delivering until 30 June 2027. Upon a successful first contract, it is expected to then move to longer-term partnership contracts.

7. Procurement process and evaluation criteria

The procurement of the MEL partner will be undertaken in two stages, first through inviting suppliers to register their interest in responding through an ROI. Suitable candidates will then be shortlisted and invited to respond to a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP).

Suppliers responding to this ROI will be shortlisted, using the following criteria of essential capabilities:

- Technical expertise in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) in a community development setting, including experience developing MEL strategies or frameworks.

- Experience working in the Central Australian context with remote Aboriginal communities, or a strong ability to transfer and contextualise expertise.
- Alignment of values outlined in section three above, especially a strong commitment to Aboriginal-led, self-determined community development.
- High-level research and / or academic expertise, including experience with both qualitative and quantitative methods in a social research discipline, and conducting research directly with communities.
- Experience with Indigenous methodologies (or other decolonial approaches to research) will be highly regarded.
- Strong ability to engage in complex analyses, critical and creative thinking, and provide strategic advice in relation to MEL, social change and developmental theory.

ROI Response Requirements

Interested parties are invited to submit a concise response (no more than 8 pages, plus CVs of team members) by email to Mikaela O’Neil at mikaela.oneil@clc.org.au, addressing:

- 1. Understanding of the task**, including an interpretation of the program, context, principles and partnership purpose
- 2. Proposed high-level approach to meeting:**
 - The long-term objectives;
 - Year One priorities
- 3. Relevant experience**, including examples of similar work and experience in remote community setting (or description of transferable experience)
- 4. Team**, including structure, key personnel and relevant expertise (share CVs as additional attachments)
- 5. Location and availability to travel to Alice Springs and surrounding remote communities** to deliver on-ground activities. Please specify if the work will be completed in Alice Springs, remotely or a hybrid.
- 6. Indicative budget range for Year One priorities**

Key procurement dates

- ROI released: Tuesday 16 June 2026
- ROI close: Wednesday 1 July 2026
- RFP issued: Monday 6 July 2026
- RFP submissions close: Monday 27 July 2026
- Evaluation partner appointed: Mid-late August 2026

8. Conflicts of interest

Suppliers must include in their response to this ROI any personal disclosures of team members that may present a conflict of interest.

9. Conditions

Upon final contracting, the successful supplier will be required to provide copies of:

- Public liability insurance for at least \$10 million;
- Professional indemnity insurance for at least \$5 million; and
- If the Consultant employs any person for the purpose of this Agreement, then workers compensation insurance.

All documents and discussions relating to this ROI are confidential and remain the property of the CLC, to be shared only with their express approval. Responses to this ROI will be treated confidentially by the CLC, and not shared externally.