

# EIIF Cultural Safety Framework – ‘Framework on a page’

The Early Intervention Investment Framework (EIIF) Cultural Safety Framework aims to improve outcomes for First Peoples by listening and learning from the experiences of First Peoples and implementing actions to better support cultural safety and self-determination when developing EIIF budget proposals.

The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) partnered with the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency to develop the EIIF Cultural Safety Framework, consulting with a range of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Victorian Government departments engaged in EIIF.

<p><b>Consultation with ACCOs raised eight key barriers</b> for reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Aboriginal-led decision-making within budget processes</li> <li>• Systemic failure to implement existing government commitments to self-determination</li> <li>• Unequal power and resources to mainstream organisations</li> <li>• Inflexible government structures, systems and funding often misaligning with Aboriginal needs</li> <li>• Lack of investment in evidence building within ACCOs</li> <li>• Rigorous requirements to access funding and reporting burden</li> <li>• Lack of education around cultural safety and the role of ACCOs</li> <li>• Lack of accountability from departments to follow intent of policies and initiatives</li> </ul>	<p><b>Domain 1: Working in partnership</b></p>	<p><b>Domain 2: Recognising the Aboriginal evidence base</b></p>	<p><b>Domain 3: Supporting effective implementation</b></p>
<p>This consultation informed the EIIF Cultural Safety Framework domains and actions. These are important for departments when developing EIIF budget proposals, as DTF will look for evidence of these domains in its consideration of EIIF business cases.</p>	<p><b>Departments should consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering engagement through facilitating and allowing sufficient time for capacity building</li> <li>• Sharing information and encouraging transparency by being clear on how information is being used, managing expectations throughout the budget process, and ensuring feedback loops</li> <li>• Being respectful of time commitments and ensuring requests of ACCOs are appropriate by attending cultural safety training and/or engaging with vast pre-existing resource</li> <li>• Undertaking due-diligence on business cases where ACCOs are included as part of a consortia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Departments should consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiating and co-designing meaningful EIIF outcome measures with First Peoples</li> <li>• Planning enough time for community-led consultation and co-design</li> <li>• Considering how cultural determinants of health and wellbeing can be incorporated and measured</li> <li>• Providing any additional information in the business case that speak to a holistic view of a program’s benefits</li> <li>• Discussing early with the EIIF team about options for evidencing a program’s benefits that supplement the EIIF’s quantification requirements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Departments should consider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking to provide ACCOs with longer term funding agreements, if budget funding allows for it</li> <li>• Exploring funding models such as flexible funding or outcomes-based contracts as alternatives to standard service agreements</li> <li>• Ensuring resourcing requests for ACCOs recognise the scope of their work, including cultural load and consultation government seeks their engagement in</li> <li>• Requesting resources as part of budget bids to enable evaluation and/or data collection</li> <li>• Investing in Aboriginal-led approaches to data, monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>When assessing EIIF business cases, DTF will look for</b> evidence that, or the extent to which, relevant proposals have been designed through genuine partnering with First Peoples. DTF may request additional information to understand the extent of consultation.</p>	<p><b>When assessing EIIF business cases, DTF will look for</b> evidence that outcome measures have been co-designed with First Peoples, or a clear consultation plan that sets out how community will be engaged in developing outcome measures.</p>	<p><b>When assessing EIIF business cases, DTF will look for</b> proposals that identify service provider needs, particularly ACCOs, for collecting data during implementation and propose adequate resourcing to do this, as well as any commitments to building Aboriginal-led data and evaluation.</p>

## How DTF can help with EIIF proposals

- ✓ Facilitate collaboration across departments and with the social services and ACCO sectors
- ✓ Provide advice on evaluations to help better inform an evidence base
- ✓ Work with departments and ACCOs to develop outcome measures and avoided cost estimates
- ✓ Support linked data analysis
- ✓ Provide advice on outcomes-based funding arrangements
- ✓ Explore resource and skill sharing between departments and the social services and ACCO sectors
- ✓ With departments support, continue to volunteer economic expertise as part of development of individual budget bids.

## Next steps

DTF will develop additional resources and undertake enabling activities to support implementation of the EIIF Cultural Safety Framework.

To measure progress, DTF will monitor activities, including through review of EIIF business cases submitted by departments, to annually measure and trial public reporting of high-level progress against key indicators.

DTF is also considering the findings and insights from the consultations that have application beyond EIIF and will explore how they can help inform work around advancing self-determination:

- in budget processes and decision-making
- by improving cultural safety and Aboriginal employment and inclusion in DTF
- through greater partnerships and engagement with First Peoples
- by improving economic outcomes for First Peoples.

For further information, please contact [earlyintervention@dtf.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyintervention@dtf.vic.gov.au)