

Empowerment Fund: Project descriptions (Evaluation stream)

Organisation	Grant (excl GST)	Project description
Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO)	\$115,969	To develop an advanced evaluation system that operationalises the Organisation's evidence-based Impact Logic Model and Outcomes Framework. This initiative will strengthen evaluation capacity and enhance the quality and effectiveness of the Organisation's early intervention services.
Berry Street Victoria	\$96,600	To elevate Take Two research and evaluation data and long-term capabilities via REDCap (a secure web application that is suited to longitudinal studies and data sets). Design and migration of Take Two databases into REDCap will support complex analysis and evaluation activities to be undertaken through the use of more powerful statistical tools and applications, such as SPSS Statistics and PowerBI. The Organisation's Take Two program is the specialist provider across Victoria of therapeutic services for children, addressing the impact of trauma associated with abuse, neglect, family violence and other adverse experiences.
Beyond the Bell	\$58,176	To implement an initiative designed to significantly enhance the Organisation's evaluation capabilities for early intervention programs, which are critical for the support and development of Victoria's youth. The proposal is anchored by three core objectives: the procurement of advanced data collection and evaluation software; the enhancement of the Organisation team's evaluation skills through targeted training; and the development of tools to improve data accessibility and stakeholder engagement.
Community Health First	\$250,000	To develop a Community Health evaluation framework to enable Community Health services to rapidly establish, collect and utilise data, and create evidence that supports the sector and health system.
Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Services	\$239,240	To implement an Outcomes Framework for building capabilities and embedding practices within the Organisation's workforce, so that data and evidence is a key feature within all facets of practice, rather than being viewed as an additional administrative requirement. Elizabeth Morgan House Outcome Framework aims to make evaluation of all programs more effective and allow the Organisation to better utilise the data collected.
Health Justice Australia	\$104,000	To design and develop an Evaluation Foundations Program that will build the capability of health and legal partners from Victorian Health Justice Partnerships (HJP) to articulate their shared intended impact, collaborate on evaluation planning, and make informed decisions about shared outcome measurement across sectors. By the end of the program, participants will have a shared plan for how to evaluate their work together, and be ready to progress internal evaluation work, or to brief an evaluation consultant on their shared evaluation needs.

Organisation	Grant (excl GST)	Project description
Youth Projects	\$144,181	To increase the evaluation capabilities of the Organisation's early intervention programs, namely the Queer Psychosocial Outreach Program (QPOP). The exclusion of gender-specific information for the LGBTIQ+ community in the 2021 Census spotlights the pressing requirement for targeted, program-centric data to steer modifications in services and inform policymaking. The project is set to enhance the Organisation's internal evaluative capacity and extend the sector's understanding of effective, diverse youth intervention strategies.

Empowerment Fund: Project descriptions (Data stream)

Organisation	Grant (excl GST)	Project description
Anchor Community Care Ltd	\$229,715	To enhance the Organisation's internal capacity, overcome cost barriers associated with architecture investments, and develop in-house training that are aligned with business processes. Once implemented, the initiative will transform the Organisation by enabling informed decision making in designing, implementing, and measuring current and future programs. The initiative will enhance the Organisation's operational efficiency and effectiveness by contributing to evidence-based policy-making and strategic planning.
Brotherhood of St. Laurence	\$382,412	To build automation and quality checks into existing infrastructure, build internal capability, enable access to and utilisation of evidence, and promote an enduring culture of continuous learning and adaptation. This will enable better measurement, more effective service delivery, and improved outcomes across a plethora of early intervention programs.
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare	\$397,836	To trial an open-source benchmarking tool, Social Scope. Social Scope will provide critical data insights and bolster evaluation capability within the sector. Social Scope aims to address barriers to outcomes measurement and improve data utilisation across the sector, enabling organisations to leverage sector-wide benchmarking and help identify effective strategies to enhance the impact of early intervention.
Community Health First	\$400,000	To develop a state-wide Community Health data platform to enable Community Health services to rapidly establish, collect and utilise data, and create evidence that supports the sector and health system.

Organisation	Grant (excl GST)	Project description
Flat Out Inc	\$253,879	To streamline and improve the collection of monitoring and outcome data as part of day-to-day business. This includes a review of current data monitoring systems and developing a tailored solution to support: consistent data collection across projects and programs, with a focus on early intervention and impact measures; improved ability to demonstrate the Organisation's impact on program participants, the sector and broader community; and streamlined reporting systems.
Inclusion Melbourne	\$66,250	To enhance and reconfigure the Organisation's current systems to enable functionality for end-to end service delivery aligned to the evidence-based, disability-sector specific Practice Framework. Funding will also upskill staff and Direct Support Professionals to build the Organisation's internal data capability and capacity to utilise and embed the new system and processes, as well as monitor and measure outcomes effectively.
Launch Housing	\$400,000	To embed processes that enable the Organisation to use robust data at all levels to capture and quantify client outcomes and plan service delivery that is trauma-informed and person centred. The initiative also includes activities to develop and sustain data capability and capacity within the Organisation.
Law and Advocacy Centre for Women Ltd	\$175,000	To improve the Organisation's data collection, information systems and storage to ensure that the Organisation is empowered to better understand its clients' needs and the outcomes of the support that it provides, particularly in the early-intervention space. The initiative involves addressing data quality issues, upskilling staff to improve data capability, and expanding bespoke outcomes measurement tools and systems for women as a specific cohort in the criminal legal system.
OzChild, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Youth Support Advocacy Services	\$397,816	To implement integrated data management systems, designed to be adaptable and scalable across Victoria, to pinpoint early warning signs indicating children and youth people (CYP) who may be at risk of involvement in youth justice (YJ) services. This will involve the development and routine electronic gathering of early indicators to assist in recognising CYP who are at greatest risk of involvement with YJ, and/or acute and tertiary hospital care. The learnings and methods derived from this project will be shared with other community service providers across the sector.
Parenting Research Centre	\$198,000	To design, build and test a digital platform for the Me as a Parent Scale (MaaPs). MaaPs provides a simple, validated, and already widely used method of measuring parenting self-efficacy in both research and practice. The ability to use the MaaPs through an online platform will increase its reach across the child and family services sector. The ability to benchmark will support improvement opportunities for practitioners working with parents, and support services reaching those who need them most.
Sacred Heart Mission	\$35,000	To use machine learning to combine and analyse relationships between different datasets that will result in enhanced service delivery and learnings for homelessness policy setting and the sector.

Organisation	Grant (excl GST)	Project description
Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency	\$257,719	To support the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency work in building the Aboriginal evidence base, the Organisation proposes the Data Capability Building Project in which a dedicated Data Analyst role will be supported by existing team structures to build systems and staff skillsets to collect, store and analyse quality data in the Family Services and Koorie Kids Supported Playgroups programs.
Westjustice	\$300,000	To systemise the Organisation's data collection from being reactive and ad hoc to that of a proactive data collection agency. The Organisation will then fund the creation of a Monitoring & Evaluation framework with in-kind support. This transition will sharpen reporting and understanding of the impact of the Organisation's early intervention across its three disciplines of legal, financial counselling and social work, making the Organisation more responsive to its client needs, and enabling sharing of learning and resources with the sector.
Windana Drug and Alcohol Limited	\$199,410	To embed the MERL (Measurement, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning) tool across the Organisation's combined services. This will allow the Organisation to collect and monitor longitudinal outcomes across all its early intervention services, including alcohol and other drugs, mental health, family violence and employment.
Youth Disability Advocacy Service Youth Affairs Council Victoria	\$385,080	To implement a customer relationship management (CRM) tool that will link disparate and patchy impact measurement tools and existing outcomes data into a centralised database. This will unlock data and enable visibility over the interrelated outcomes and impact of early intervention work with disabled young Victorians. Upon completion, training and advocacy services will be improved, government reports made richer, and the Organisation will share insights and learning with the youth and disability sectors.