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| 2025 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards General Award criteria |
| Category 07 - Excellence in Aboriginal health and wellbeing  This award recognises innovation in health service delivery that is culturally responsive, promotes inclusion, advances Aboriginal self-determination and, above all, delivers improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people in Victoria.  **Criteria topics and questions**  Below are the criteria topics and questions which should be addressed in your submission. The judges will use these criteria to score your submission. Pay attention to criteria weighting which can be found in the last column as a number between 0-3. Criteria topics that are weighted more heavily (with a higher number) are worth more than others. |
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| Criteria topic | Criteria question | Judging criteria for scoring | Weight |
| Abstract  (not scored) | Provide a clear and brief summary of the organisation and initiative, focusing on its objectives, target population, methods and outcomes. | This section should provide a brief summary of the work being undertaken. The abstract receives no score. | 0 |
| Objectives and planning | Describe the service, system or area that was the focus for improvement.  Describe why this initiative was needed? Use evidence or story-telling.  How does the work align with Aboriginal community priorities?  What were the objectives of the initiative?  How was Aboriginal self-determination built into this work? For example, was there a focus on genuine partnerships community-led design, and addressing systemic barriers? Did you prioritise culturally safe and responsive systems, services, and programs, while actively acknowledging and addressing the impact of historical and ongoing trauma? Did you empower Aboriginal people by transferring decision-making power and resources, and ensuring accountability and transparency in all processes? | * Is the evidence supporting the need for the initiative robust? * How was the need for the initiative identified and from whom? * Does the work align with Aboriginal community priorities? * Do the objectives clearly address the needs of Aboriginal people in Victoria? * Was Aboriginal self-determination built into the work? | 2 |
| Methods and implementation | Describe the processes and performance measures used to plan and undertake the work. How did these measures incorporate Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing?  How were Aboriginal individuals, families and/or communities involved? Were Aboriginal people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives included (multicultural, LGBTIQA+, people with a disability)?  What other key stakeholders were involved? Include the key tasks, timelines and whether data was used to monitor progress or whether feedback was received.  Demonstrate adherence to Aboriginal data sovereignty principles when using data or community feedback, reinforcing culturally respectful evaluation practices. | * Were the measures used to monitor and evaluate the program defined by Aboriginal stakeholders and/or clients? * Has a measured planning and implementation processes been demonstrated in the entry? * What degree of decision making did Aboriginal individuals, families and/or communities have in the planning, design, delivery and monitoring of the initiative? * To what extent were Aboriginal people and people with diverse backgrounds and perspectives included (multicultural, LGBTIQA+, people with a disability)? * Was data or feedback used to monitor and support the initiative’s implementation? * Have they demonstrated adherence to Aboriginal data sovereignty principles when using data or community feedback? | 2 |
| Results and outcomes | What were the specific results and outcomes from the initiative?  Describe the way the initiative is improving Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes, culturally safe patient experience, organisational or system-wide outcomes for the target population and the impact this has had on the community and/or organisation.  Demonstrate adherence to Aboriginal data sovereignty principles when using data or community feedback.  **Hint:** The judges look for data or service user stories and narrative story-telling that show how the work has achieved the objectives. You are encouraged to supply data (charts and tables, etc.) or qualitative narratives in your support document. Explain how the data (such as graphs, tables) or stories show improvement/benefit. If relevant include the sample/population size, so the judges know the scale of the work. | * Has the initiative been able to demonstrate improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes, patient experience or organisational outcomes? * Has the initiative delivered culturally safe service responses for Aboriginal clients? * Does the initiative support or advance Aboriginal self-determination in health services? * Has the entry provided reliable evidence on its results and outcomes? * Does the data substantiate the desired outcomes and benefits for patients, their families and/or the community? * Have they demonstrated adherence to Aboriginal data sovereignty principles when using data or community feedback? * If additional information is provided, does it illustrate the success of the initiative? | 3 |
| Status and sustainability | What is the current status of the initiative?  What are the plans to ensure this initiative provides ongoing benefits to Aboriginal individuals, families and/or communities? | * Has the entry provided adequate information regarding the sustainability of the initiative? * Have there been efforts to share ideas, tools and techniques and spread the initiative? | 2 |
| Budget | What was invested in the initiative, including staff time and financial resources?  Were external financial or in-kind resources secured?  How does the investment in this initiative represent good value for Aboriginal communities? | * In relation to what was invested, does the approach represent good value? * Does the investment represent good value for Aboriginal communities? | 1 |
| Achieving quality, innovation and excellence in healthcare | How is this initiative innovative?  How does the initiative represent an innovative model of care and excellence in supporting the workforce?  What challenges or barriers did you overcome?  How has this initiative enhanced quality and safety and reduced the risk(s) to Aboriginal individuals, families and/or communities? | * Is the initiative innovative? * Is this a strengths-based initiative that promotes and draws from the strengths of Aboriginal keeping people healthy and safe in the community’ cultural connections? * Does the overall initiative represent excellence in person, family or community-centred care? * Has the initiative overcome significant barriers to improve patient care, patient outcomes or care in the community? * Has the initiative enhanced quality and cultural safety and reduced the risk(s) to the patient? | 3 |
| Project summary  (not scored) | Here we’re asking for a very short summary of your project, to be used for promotional purposes, should you become a finalist.   * In two sentences, what was the problem your project aimed to solve? * In one sentence, what was your idea to solve this problem? * In one sentence, please describe your methodology and any innovations your project incorporated? * In one sentence, please describe the outcome and impact of your project? | * This will not be assessed or scored as part of your entry. | 0 |

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