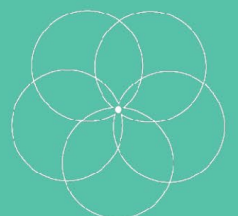


Request for Tender

Report State of Multicultural Mental Health in Australia

This is an open tender process; all submissions must be received no later than 5:00pm (AEST) on 26 August 2024.



Mental Health Australia

For over 25 years, **Mental Health Australia** (MHA) has advocated for mental health reform, and we continue to drive policy changes and proactively put mental health on the agenda. We have over 140 members, including service providers, professional bodies, organisations representing people with mental ill health, family, carers and supporters, researchers and state and territory peak bodies.

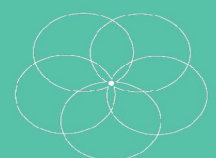
As the national peak for mental health, we unite the mental health sector to present a cohesive voice to government, and provide practical policy solutions to influence decision-making, which in turn, improves the mental health system and the mental health of people in Australia. We work to strengthen the impact and influence of the mental health sector and embed a human rights approach across the mental health system.

The views and expertise of people with lived and living experience of mental ill health, family, carers and supporters, along with our member organisations, underpins our work. We believe that by bringing together diverse perspectives across MHA's members, the community and governments, we will create greater change and more innovative solutions than what any of us could do working alone.

The **Embrace Multicultural Mental Health** (the Embrace Project), then known as the Multicultural Mental Health Australia Project, was adopted by MHA in 2018.

The Embrace Project operationally led by MHA and strategically supported by an Alliance, provides a national focus on mental health and suicide prevention for people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. It is a national platform for Australian mental health services and multicultural communities to access resources, link to services and information in a culturally accessible format.

The Embrace Project builds on the important work of previous national multicultural mental health projects and works towards an equitable mental health system that reflects and responds well to the needs of Australia's multicultural population.



1. Background

MHA has been funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) as part of the Embrace Multicultural Mental Health (Embrace Project) to deliver a *Report on the State of Mental Health in Multicultural Australia*.

It will be undertaken over fourteen (14) months beginning in September 2024.

1.1 Context

The current state of mental health in multicultural Australia is relatively unknown. It is largely reliant upon anecdotal reports due to the absence of contemporary academic literature and formal reports focussed on the topic. The *Report on the State of Mental Health in Multicultural Australia* will help to fill this gap.

The report will be a critical informant for policy, research, and service development, providing a suite of recommendations to enhance government and sector capacity and capability to adopt best practice approaches to support the mental health of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This report is a 10-year follow up to the 2013 *Mental Health in Multicultural Australia Report* conducted by Associate Professor Harry Minas for the Embrace Project and the National Mental Health Commission.

The report aligns with the Australian Government's commitment to improving mental health supports for priority population groups, including CALD communities, and improving access and equity for people seeking mental health services.

The report is intended to be disseminated to the broader mental health and multicultural sectors, wider community, and government to enhance capacity and capability for multicultural mental health and to promote an awareness of how better outcomes can be achieved for multicultural Australia.

1.2 Purpose

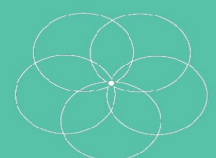
The aim of this report is to improve sector understanding, and to support and inform future mental health policy development, service design and implementation, research and related initiatives for multicultural communities in Australia.

1.3 Scope

Building on the learnings of the Embrace Project since 2018, including insights from its Lived Experience Group, Stakeholder Group and Alliance Partners, as well as research previously undertaken, the project and report will consider the following questions:

1. What is currently known about the state of multicultural mental health in Australia?

This should include an understanding of how multicultural communities are using services understood through an analysis of recent national surveys, mental health service use data and other potential data sources; further critical literature review to provide an update on what is now known about the mental health of multicultural communities in Australia; and, in



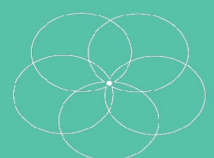
undertaking this work should identify the limitations of existing national and jurisdictional data sources and provide recommendations to remedy this.

2. What is current and emerging best practice in supporting the mental health of multicultural communities in Australia?

Drawing on current practice within mental health services and the attitude and experiences of multicultural communities, provide examples of best and emerging practice in responding to the mental health needs of CALD communities across Australia; identify the enablers and barriers to accessing services; and provide recommendations for government and services to support best practice approaches in supporting the mental health of CALD communities in Australia

To note:

- Key stakeholders will be identified in consultation with the successful partner, and at a minimum will include the Embrace Lived Experience Group, Embrace Stakeholder Group and Alliance Partners.
- Paid participation for people who participate outside of paid-work will need to be considered within the budget for any interviews or face to face consultations, and must be in line with current remuneration rates outlined the [Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part Time Public Office Determination](#), as “Offices not specified”.



2. Instructions to Tenderers

2.1 Key Deliverables and Payment Schedule

The successful partner will (at a minimum) be required to meet the following project deliverables, noting that the estimated timings will be reviewed and mutually agreed as part of the contract establishment process. This project must be completed by 1 December 2025. We ask that tenderers detail their capacity to begin this work following contract establishment.

Funding available: up to \$300,000 (excluding GST)

| Key Deliverables | Estimated Timings | Payment |
|--|-------------------|---------|
| Contract establishment | September 2024 | 1 |
| Initial meeting and final project plan submitted | October 2024 | 2 |
| Summary of preliminary findings | May 2025 | 3 |
| Submission of draft report | October 2025 | 4 |
| Submission of Final Report | November 2025 | 5 |

2.2 Project Governance

The successful partner is expected to detail their approach to project governance, and (at a minimum) is expected to include an approach to providing formal updates on project progress to MHA.

The project team will consist of the research team and members of the Embrace Project Team. This group is intended to progress day to day operations of the project and is expected to meet monthly.

2.3 Eligibility

MHA encourage proposals from individual organisations/institutions or consortium approaches.

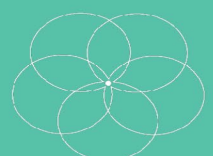
For the duration of the project, eligible organisations must maintain and show evidence of:

- Legal identity with an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Public Liability Insurance, a minimum value of \$20 million per claim and in the aggregate of all claims
- Professional indemnity insurance - \$10 million per claim and in the aggregate of all claims
- Workers compensation as required by the Law

The successful partners will be responsible for providing all personnel, office, venue hire, ICT infrastructure, and any travel undertaken in relation to delivering the project

Submissions must:

- demonstrate experience and qualifications of key personnel who will be undertaking the work, demonstrating experience in multicultural and health fields
- include at least two professional referees
- provide detail and demonstrate an ability to achieve outcomes, deliverables and meet timeframes outlined in Item 2.1



- include budget with a breakdown structure, including a phased payment schedule
- provide a risk management plan that identifies potential risks and details mitigation strategies

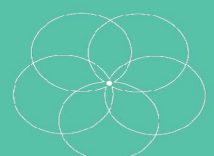
Mental Health Australia may contact the applicant(s) to clarify information shared or obtain additional information during the assessment period.

2.4 Assessment

- Responses should be submitted electronically to multicultural@mhaustralia.org by **5:00pm (AEST), 26 August 2024**. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- All applications will be considered through a competitive panel process, based on an assessment of how well it meets requirements in this tender, how it is ranked against other applications and whether it provides value for money.
- It should be noted that MHA is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.
- All applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of the tender process.
- No information will be released regarding unsuccessful tenders.

2.5 Selection Criteria

| Criteria | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Detailed proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a detailed proposal speaking to how project objectives will be achieved, including methodology and project governance • Include timelines demonstrating your ability to achieve outcomes, deliverables and meet timeframes outlined in Item 2.1 | 40% |
| Organisational capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide detail on the organisation experience and capability in multicultural and mental health fields • Provide detail on the relevant experience and qualifications of key personnel who will be undertaking the work • Include at least two professional referees | 25% |
| Approach to participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include detail on the approach to participation, including strategies for inclusive and accessible engagement and participation as it relates to Question 2, in Item 1.3. | 25% |
| Budget and Risk Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a budget with a breakdown structure, including a phased payment schedule • All prices/costs presented in the application form and funding submission must be exclusive of GST. • Provide a risk management plan that identifies potential risks and details mitigation strategies | 10% |
| Compliance (for all organisations, provide evidence for) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal identity with an Australian Business Number (ABN) • Public Liability Insurance, a minimum value of \$20 million per claim and in the aggregate of all claims • Professional indemnity insurance, \$10 million per claim and in the aggregate of all claims • Workers compensation as required by the law | Mandatory requirements |



2.6 Timeline

| Action | Timeline |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Request for Tender released | 29 July 2024 |
| Last day for questions | 22 August 2024, 12:00pm (AEST) |
| Request for Tender closes | 26 August 2024, 5:00pm (AEST) |
| Inform organisations of results | 20 September 2024 |
| Contract establishment | Week of 24 September 2024 |

2.7 Confidentiality

All information provided in response to this RFT will be treated as confidential. The information provided will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating the tenders.

2.8 Conditions of Funding Agreements

Mental Health Australia's standard contract for your consideration can be found at: <https://mhaustralia.org/open-tender-state-multicultural-mental-health-australia>

The successful applicant is required to seek the permission of MHA prior to making any announcements regarding the research.

We may publish a project description, including title and summary, which differs from that provided in the application.

2.9 Queries

All queries related to this tender should be directed to multicultural@mhaustralia.org no later than **12:00pm (AEST) on 22 August 2024**.

Queries related to the tender process will be published on the Mental Health Australia website for all applicants to consider. These can be found at: <https://mhaustralia.org/open-tender-state-multicultural-mental-health-australia>

