# **ACCO-led primary prevention in the early years** Information about limited tender – Request for Proposal

This process is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

Applications may include a group (consortium) of organisations and/or Early Childhood Education and Care settings, however the *lead organisation must be an ACCO.*

Applications must be about developing and delivering a prevention of gender-based violence project with, or in an existing Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) setting.

The focus of your project idea could be:

* a *new* project focused on primary prevention of gender-based violence in an ECEC setting, or
* an expansion or scale-up that builds on existing primary prevention of gender-based violence practice, and/ or
* a community-led process to explore and expand primary prevention of gender-based violence in an ECEC setting.

Projects will take place over 18 months, starting approximately August-September 2025, and completed approximately March 2027.

In developing your proposal, you are encouraged to refer to:

* [*Change the story*](https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Change-the-story-Our-Watch-AA.pdf)(Our Watch, 2021) - an evidence-based framework to guide a coordinated national approach to the prevention of violence against women and their children.
* [*Changing the picture*](https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Changing-the-picture-AA.pdf) (Our Watch, 2018) - a national resource to support the prevention of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the essential actions on pages 16 to 32 of [*Changing the picture*](https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Changing-the-picture-AA.pdf). Please see the **essential actions summary** on the **last page of this Information sheet.**

**How to submit your proposal**

Applications close COB Friday 25 July 2025 and should be submitted to innovation.projects@ourwatch.org.au

We are providing a 2-stage process, to support the development of Request for Proposals. Stage 1 is *optional*, while stage 2 is *required*.

Stage 1 includes preparing a Project concept brief to help refine your idea before submitting a full proposal. The Project Concept stage is **optional**. If you do not want feedback from Our Watch, you can go straight to stage 2 and submit your full proposal. Please choose the process that works best for you.

Below is an outline of the optional and required steps:

Stage 1 (**optional**): You can do one or more of these, if they are helpful to you.

* Attend the information session on **19 June 2025 (optional)**.
* Fill out the Project concept template and submit by **23 June 2025** (**optional**), in order to receive feedback from Our Watch.
* Ask a question at the information session or email a question to innovation.projects@ourwatch.org.au by **23 June 2025** (**optional**).
* Request a copy of the FAQs which will include a list of answers to questions from other interested organisations (**optional**).
* Consider the feedback provided by Our Watch and prepare your proposal, in response to the questions and selection criteria in the RFP document.

Stage 2 (**required**): You must complete this step

* You **must** submit a full proposal responding to the request for proposal (RFP) no later than **COB Friday 25 July 2025** (**required**). You may submit a full proposal even if you have not participated in Stage 1.
* To submit your full proposal (**required**), please respond to the questions and selection criteria in the RFP document. You will need to:
* Fill out the table in Part C (page 10) of the RFP document to include the required organisational information
* Respond to the selection criteria (focus areas 1 to 3) on pages 10 to 16 of the RFP
* Provide an indicative budget in table format (see the ‘Proposed Pricing’ section on pages 14-15 of the RFP as a guide)
* Fill out the quality, risk and compliance section on pages 15 to 16 of the RFP

Please send your full proposal with this information via email to [innovation.projects@ourwatch.org.au](mailto:innovation.projects@ourwatch.org.au) by COB Friday 25 July 2025.

After the closing date, Our Watch will assess the proposals against the selection criteria in the RFP. We will aim to inform the successful applicant by mid-August 2025. We will inform all applicants of the outcome by September 2025, once we have contracted the successful applicant.

# Changing the picture – essential prevention actions (summary)

Responding to current extreme levels of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is critical. But to prevent this violence from happening in the first place, we need actions that directly address its three underlying drivers.

**Action 1 - Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities**

* Heal the impacts of intergenerational trauma, strengthening culture and identity
* Strengthen and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
* Implement specific initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls, boys and men, and children and young people
* Challenge the condoning of violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
* Increase access to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

**Action 2 - Address the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonisation for non-Indigenous people, and across Australian society**

* Challenge and prevent all forms of racism, indifference, ignorance and disrespect towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures
* Address racialised power inequalities and amend discriminatory policies and practices
* Challenge the condoning of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Please see next page for Action 3

**Action 3 - Address the gendered drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women**

* Implement intersectional approaches to preventing violence against women across the Australian population
* Challenge the condoning of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by challenging both racist and sexist attitudes and social norms
* Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s participation in leadership and decision making
* Challenge gender stereotypes, and the impacts of colonisation on men’s and women’s roles, relationships and identities
* Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relationships between women and men, girls and boys
* Engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous men to challenge harmful and violence-supportive ideas about masculinity and relationships

This is a summary only.[*Changing the picture*](https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Changing-the-picture-AA.pdf)discusses the many different ways and contexts in which these actions need to be implemented. It also points to a number of supporting actions to address other factors that exacerbate violence.