

Aboriginal Elders and community members are invited to nominate for the Loddon Aboriginal Advisory Group.

Applications are due by Friday, 13 September.

Further information, including contacts to assist with questions or applications, and an application form can be found in the attached expression of interest.

Introduction to the Aboriginal Advisory Group

- The Aboriginal Advisory Group is one of the local area governance groups that informs the implementation and ongoing operations of The Orange Door in the Loddon Area.
- The Aboriginal Advisory Group is the mechanism for Aboriginal Community and services to advise on implementing principles of self-determination, service choice and cultural safety in The Orange Door and support engagement of Aboriginal services and community.
- Membership is anticipated to include representation from key Aboriginal organisations and groups, Community Elders, and Aboriginal practitioners in The Orange Door.

Introduction to The Orange Door

- The Orange Door (formally branded as Support and Safety Hubs) was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence. The State Government has committed funding for the establishment of The Orange Door across the 17 Department of Health and Human Services Areas.
- The Orange Door is a new way for women, children and young people experiencing family violence and families in need of support with the care, wellbeing and development of children and young people, to access the services they need to be safe and supported. It does not replace existing specialist services or responses but enables a new entry point.
- The Orange Door helps to tilt the focus of the whole service system towards tackling the source of the violence, the perpetrator. There is a strong focus on perpetrator accountability, holding them accountable for their actions and changing their behaviour.
- The Orange Door will replace existing referral points for victims and perpetrators of family violence (including police L17 referral points) and children and families in need of support (Child FIRST).

The Orange Door in Loddon

- The Orange Door in Loddon is anticipated to commence services towards the end of the first quarter 2020
- The Loddon Area includes the Campaspe, Loddon, Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Central Goldfields local government areas.
- The primary premise will be based in Bendigo with a specific location is still to be confirmed.
- Work is underway through the implementation planning to determine access across Loddon to deliver The Orange Door service beyond the primary premises, including the location of access points.

22 August 2019

Aboriginal Advisory Group, The Orange Door – Loddon

Expression of Interest and Application Form

Objective

To outline the Expression of Interest process for determining Community Elder membership of the Aboriginal Advisory Group for The Orange in Loddon (Advisory Group).

Purpose of the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will create a clear mechanism for Aboriginal services and communities to:

- Collectively advise the Hub Leadership Group (HLG) on implementing the principles of self-determination, service choice and cultural safety with The Orange Door Loddon
- Inform decision-making about the ongoing operation of The Orange Door, in relation to the needs of Aboriginal communities across The Orange Door catchment area
- Oversee engagement of Aboriginal services with The Orange Door in Loddon.

Membership roles and responsibilities

Specialist expertise

Members must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting Aboriginal communities within a family violence and children and family's context. They must also demonstrate an ability to communicate sensitively and effectively with Aboriginal communities and services. Additional recognition will be given to applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

The role of individual Advisory Group members is to:

- Endorse and act consistently with the Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference
- Advise the Hub Leadership Group on ensuring the principles of self-determination, service choice and cultural safety are in place from the outset
- Inform decision-making about the establishment and operation of The Orange Door, in relation to the needs of Aboriginal communities across The Orange Door catchment area
- Raise any opportunities, risks or concerns related to self-determination, service choice, or cultural safety with the Co-Chairs/Chair
- Escalate, as appropriate, any matter requiring consideration and endorsement
- Be open and respectful to all contributions

Members of the Advisory Group and associated sub-groups are expected to contribute to the work of the group and be:

- Empathetic to the experience, contexts and needs of all the people who will work in, and access The Orange Door in Loddon
- Open to new perspective and beliefs
- Willing to work differently and think creatively
- Aware of the whole, connected system and of the broader landscape of reform
- Solution-focused, to contribute to the successful ongoing operation of the Orange Door in Loddon Area.

All members will be required to identify and declare potential conflicts of interest.

Meeting and sitting fees

Meetings will be held monthly (or more often, by exception, when key input is required). The Co-Chairs will reconsider the frequency of the meetings if necessary.

Aboriginal Advisory Group members who attend meetings on a voluntary basis (i.e. are not paid to attend on behalf of their organisation) will be provided with sitting fees to acknowledge Aboriginal Advisory Group members' time and contribution.

Where an agreement already exists with FSV, members will be paid sitting fees in line with that agreement, through the Inclusion and Engagement Branch.

Process and criteria

Individuals interested in joining the Advisory Group are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to become a member.

Individuals are required to address the following:

1. What are your strengths and how would they contribute to the Aboriginal Advisory Group for The Orange Door in Loddon?
2. If appointed to the Aboriginal Advisory Group, how would your involvement in the Advisory Group be of benefit to the local Aboriginal community?
3. Please provide two references who can speak to the above.

Selection Process

Individuals are invited to complete the below template (no more than two pages) and submit to Hazel Hudson, Family Services Manager, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation (contact details on page 3).

A panel comprised of the Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Dhelk Dja Action Group and Family Safety Victoria will be convened to determine the successful applicants.

Individuals will be notified in writing of the outcome.

Timelines and Actions

Indicative Timelines	Actions
Week beginning 26 th August 2019	Individuals invited to submit an Expression of Interest to join the Aboriginal Advisory Group for the Orange Door in Loddon
13 th September 2019	Closing date for written applications
Week beginning 23 rd September 2019	Panel convenes, and applications reviewed
Week beginning 30 th September 2019	Individuals notified of the outcome of the EOI process
October/November (date to be confirmed)	First Aboriginal Advisory Group meeting takes place.

Aboriginal Advisory Group The Orange Door – Loddon

Expression of Interest - Application Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL DETAILS AND RETURN BY 13th SEPTEMBER 2019.

If you require assistance with your application, support is available through:

- Ann Spittles, Loddon Campaspe Indigenous Family Violence Regional Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, 0428 528 175, ann.spittles@dhhs.vic.gov.au
- Hazel Hudson, Family Services Manager, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, 0459 881 299, hazelh@njernda.com.au
- Dallas Widdicombe, Director of Operations, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative, 0458 613 493, Dallas.Widdicombe@bdac.com.au

Your application should be submitted to:
Hazel Hudson, Family Services Manager,
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Mail: 34 Annesley Street, Echuca, 3564
Email: hazelh@njernda.com.au

If you require further information, please contact:
Katie Petrie, Implementation Manager, The Orange Door.
Email: katie.petrie@familysafety.vic.gov.au
Mobile: 0429 170 219

SELECTION PROCESS

Expressions of interest will be considered by a selection panel against the following criteria:

1. Responses to questions 1 -3
2. Community connection, experience and knowledge the applicant will bring to the AAG

Applicants will be advised in writing of the result of their expression of interest.

APPLICANT DETAILS

Name_____

Phone_____

Email_____

3. REFERENCES

Reference 1:

Name:

Contact number:

Reference 2:

Name:

Contact number:

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

I have read the accompanying Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct documents.

I am committed to sign, and act in accordance with the Aboriginal Advisory Group Code of Conduct.

I have completed questions 1-3 of this Expression of Interest document.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Aboriginal Advisory Group for The Orange Door, Loddon Area.