Karinya young mums ‘n’ bubs
Evaluation Brief (tor)

December 18, 2015

# Overview

## Introduction

**Karinya Young Women’s Service** (Karinya) is a new service in the Launceston area that provides accommodation to young mothers at risk of homelessness. The service, which has three years of funding from by Clarendon Children’s Home Inc., is looking to evaluate its processes, outcomes and cost-savings ratio in order to present these findings to Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in a bid to secure future funding. The service has contracted an external evaluator to collect the process-related data, and some data has been collected. Karyina is commissioning an evaluation that focuses on the outcomes and costing data, which is currently at the preparation stage.

## Project Background and Description

Karinya provides short term crisis accommodation to young women aged 13 to 20 years. It was established in 1979 to meet the need for safe, confidential, crisis accommodation for young women in the Launceston and greater northern Tasmania region. A worker is on duty 24 hours a day with the main house providing accommodation for up to six young women and two separate onsite units for extended crisis stays.

In 201X, Karinya, in partnership with UnitingCare Tasmania, established a community tenancy program that improves accommodation options (short, medium and long term) for pregnant and young parents aged 16 to 19 years and their children. Staffed by XX Program Workers, the service offers XX fully-supported and XX semi-independent units/houses for young couples and young single parents (up to the age of 19 years) and their children. To date, XX adults and XX children have been housed and supported by the program.

The outcomes sought from this program are:

1. Healthy, skilled, connected and confident young-parent families;
2. Healthy, nurtured babies of young mothers;
3. Healthy young mothers pursuing the development of their personal potential as productive socially and economically engaged adults.

An application has been approved by Housing Tasmania to provide suitable housing stock through the State Government’s Community Tenancy program. There is a mix of Direct Tenancy and Community Tenancies.

Funding has been provided for funding for an equivalent full-time Program Worker for the first three years of the program. After this time ongoing operational funding will be sought from DHHS based on the findings of the Program evaluation.

## Evaluation design

The evaluation has three strands:

* The first (process-related) examines the model of service provision and the experience of the participants. This includes documenting the service delivery model, including the enablers and barriers to effective and efficient service provision.
* The second (outcomes-related) is to assess whether the service is meeting the needs of individual participants specifically in relation to access and safety and to assess the impact of the program on the parenting of the participants (their parenting, health & wellbeing and personal development)
* The third (cost-related) involves estimating the amount of money saved by the Tasmanian State Government (over 1, 5 and 20 years) for every dollar invested in Karinya Mums and Bubs. Savings may come from the reduced need for Child Protective, Drug and Alcohol, Health and Education expenditures. This ratio will be estimated for three separate client groups: low, medium and high-needs.

On the basis of this evaluation, recommendations will be made for the future development of the program, including further funding.

## Methods

Each of the three strands will have a slightly different method, and the method can be negotiated, however, the following are guidelines:

**Process-related strand**: A mix of qualitative and quantitative methods drawn from realistic evaluation ([Pawson & Tilley, 1997](#_ENREF_3)) are planned in order to capture the multidimensional characteristics of the Young Mums ‘n’ Bubs program. Some data collection (via an external evaluator) has begun in this area, including:

* Interviews with participants and key stakeholders;
* Narrative case studies;
* Participant and stakeholder satisfaction surveys.

**Outcomes-related strand:** This data will be primarily quantitative, and could be drawn from approaches such as outcomes mapping (Earl 2012) or Collaborative Outcomes Reporting (Dart 2014):

* Participants health and wellbeing survey (pre and post);
* Parenting effectiveness survey (pre and post);
* Journal/Diary entries from participants.

**Cost-related strand:** This data will be solely quantitative, drawn from an approach such as pure cost-benefit analysis or utilisation-focused (Patton 2008):

* Data is currently being gathered on each participant from the existing database. Cost and savings estimates will be based on data from a typical 12-month service period.

## Available data

**On participants**

* Housing: Prior to program, during program, upon exit
* Support provided: housing/accommodation; family/friends; relationships; legal; education, financial
* Education: Enrolled; Returning (year), year attained at time of pregnancy/birth, attending group training, re-engagement with school/work/training
* Demographic: Age (current and at childbirth), Relationship status (and age of partner)
* Children: Ages, engagement with ante-natal care, complicated/normal pregnancy, engagement with CU@home, premature, immunization status, dental care
* Child protective: CP intervention in own youth, CP notifications prior to Karinya, ongoing notifications, level (investigation, referrals to IFS, orders)
* Health: Mental health issues, Drug/alcohol issues
* Police/legal: Family violence events, criminal involvement, legal matters
* Tenancy/living skills: Before, during, after

**On service/staff**

* Total participants (by month)
* Travel costs per staff member (and client)
* Meetings with whom and why
* Workshops and training
* Contact with other service providers and reason

## Scope and focus

The evaluation is designed for providing information to the Karinya staff and funders. Data from the first strand, which has been collected, will provide information on improving the service. While this formative data will be valuable, the staff are concerned that Government may place a higher value on quantitative outcomes/cost measures. Therefore, the second and third strands have been created. Data from these strands, for which the Consultant is accountable, will be used to demonstrate accountability and cost-effectiveness to Government and other funders. Specifically, the Consultant engaged as a result of this brief will:

* Review surveys used in all three objectives and provide feedback where appropriate
* Review the data currently being collected by the Karinya staff and ascertain if there are any gaps (i.e., data points that need to be collected)
* Identify and summarise lessons learned from the process-related interviews
* Analyse survey data on parenting, health & wellbeing and personal development and provide a coherent summary (with graphs) on outcomes.
* Aggregate the service data to estimate the average cost per client (for the total cohort as well as for three sub-cohorts: low, medium and high-needs)
* Estimate the savings using pre-existing cost-benefit ratios (using published studies/estimates. Karinya has begun to collect these), apply these ratios to the Karinya clients’ data.

## Stakeholder involvement

The Karinya team is very passionate about their work and interested in both the formative feedback as well as presenting the best possible case to government for their ongoing funding. The team has been actively collecting and storing data on each participant, as well as sourcing potential estimates of cost savings. The team would expect to have regular communication with the Consultant. The evaluation funder, The Ian Potter Foundation, is also available to review the draft of the final evaluation document.

## Deliverables

The Consultant will prepare: 1) an evaluation workplan; and 2) an evaluation report in accordance with standards identified in the CIDA Evaluation Guide.

1. **Workplan**
* The draft workplan will be submitted by email within four (4) weeks of the signing of the contract.
* Within one (1) week of receiving Karinya's comments on the draft workplan, the Consultant will email a final evaluation workplan.

**2) Evaluation report**

* The evaluation report will be a 12-15 page document that:
	+ Provides an overview of the program (1-2 pages)
	+ Summarises the key learnings from the process-related evaluations (2-3 pages)
	+ Highlights the survey results of participants’ outcomes in parenting, health & wellbeing and personal development (2-3 pages, with graphs)
	+ Explains the cost and savings calculations (1-2 pages)
	+ Provides on overview of the savings per dollar spent on the low, medium and high-needs cohort) (2-3 pages, with infographic)
	+ Provides government with recommendations on future directions and funding
* The Consultant will submit a draft evaluation report for review by CIDA within four (4) weeks of returning from mission. Five copies in hard copy format are to be submitted.
* Within two (2) weeks of receiving Karinya's comments on draft report, the Consultant will submit a final evaluation report, including an evaluation abstract/executive summary. Ten copies in high-quality, hard copy format are to be submitted.

## High-Level Timeline

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| Event | Deadline |
| Calls for interest | 1 February 2016 |
| Consultant selected | 1 March 2016 |
| Workplan drafted | 1 April 2016 |
| Meeting with team, surveys reviewed, data collected | April-June 2016 |
| Report drafted | 1 August 2016 |
| Numbers updated and final report submitted | 15 September 2016 |
| Report submitted to Government | October 2016 (date TBD) |

## Budget

Karinya has a budget of $XX,000 allocated to this project, and the Consultant is expected to work within that budget.

## Evaluation management

The evaluation will be managed by the Karinya staff and an independent evaluation team(s) will implement the evaluation, including all fieldwork, analysis and reporting. If you are interested in applying, please email a cover letter, your CV, references and a work sample to the Karinya staff by 1 February 2016. If multiple team members will be involved, please include all such information and delineate how roles will be divided. Selection criteria include the proposed approach, past experience, understanding of the sector and value for money. Please contact XXXXXX, at XXXXXXX for further questions and details.