

Federation of Community Legal Centres – Victoria

Evaluation Capacity Building and Outcomes Measurement Project - FAQs

The Federation of CLCs (the Federation) is undertaking a project designed to build the evaluation capacity of selected Victorian CLCs and create a shared outcomes measurement framework for the entire Victorian CLC sector.

What are the key objectives of the project?

The project has two key objectives:

1. To collaboratively build a sector-wide outcomes measurement framework that is endorsed by the Victorian CLC Sector as representative of the key outcomes it aims to achieve through its activities and service delivery.
2. To work with seven Victorian CLCs and the Federation to build their evaluation capacity so that they can better monitor and evaluate the impact of their work.

Why build evaluation capacity in CLCs?

Evaluation capacity building involves helping organisations to improve their ability to monitor their work and to use evaluation findings for decision-making and action. By building their evaluation capacity, CLCs will be better equipped to demonstrate to clients, the community and current and potential funders the impact of their work and their reasons for undertaking it. Through better evaluating their service CLCs will also have an improved ability to make evidence-based strategic decisions about service delivery.

Why create a sector-wide outcomes measurement framework?

The Federation, through its Members, has identified that the development of a sector-wide Outcomes Measurement Framework will assist the Victorian CLC sector to demonstrate, articulate and measure the outcomes it achieves through its activities and service delivery. This will strengthen the ability of CLCs and the Federation to advocate on behalf of the sector and clients.

A collaboratively designed and shared outcomes framework provides the sector with an opportunity to identify broad outcomes which recognise commonalities across the sector. Individual CLCs will be able to translate this into more detailed evaluation tools that reflect the unique characteristics and service priorities of each CLC.

The content of the Outcomes Measurement Framework will be determined by the people working in Victorian CLCs. The development of the Framework is not a funder-driven exercise – the Federation has initiated this process. We want to develop a Framework that is endorsed by the sector and is available as a resource to CLCs.

How will the Framework be developed?

The broad timeline and process for developing the Framework will be:

- From July to December 2016 we will run a series of consultations with the sector to get your input about what needs to be in the Framework.



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- From January to August 2017 we will pilot a draft version of the sector framework in the Federation and the seven CLCs selected for evaluation capacity building to see whether the draft outcomes reflect the on-the-ground work of CLCs.
- From September to November 2017 we will then conduct further consultation to review and finalise the framework and seek endorsement of it from the Victorian CLC sector.

How will the two objectives of the project complement each other?

The CLCs participating in the evaluation capacity building component of the project will test the draft sector-wide outcomes measurement framework to check that it is fit for purpose. Evaluation systems created with the seven CLCs, including theories of change and monitoring and evaluation frameworks, will align with the final sector-wide outcomes measurement framework

What else will the project do to support improved evaluation practice in CLCs?

Staff from the CLCs selected for evaluation capacity building and the Federation have formed an evaluation community of practice in which they will share ideas and engage in peer learning. The membership of this group will be expanded over time to include broader sector representation.

Along with the Framework, a sector-wide M&E toolkit including templates and resources relating to evaluation, theory of change, M&E frameworks, data collection and reporting will be produced for use by the sector.

How long will the project run for?

The project commenced working with CLCs in May 2016 and is funded to November 2017. A final version of the Outcomes Measurement Framework will be provided to the Victorian CLC sector for consideration and endorsement by November 2017.

Who is delivering the project?

Rohan Thwaites from the Federation is managing the project. A team of three consultants from Lirata Consulting – Mark Planigale, Nadu Dove and Elaine Hendrick - will lead the development of the Framework and work with the CLCs to build their evaluation capacity.

What happens once the project has finished?

The CLCs who have received evaluation capacity building support have committed, as far as possible within their resources, to mentor other CLCs and share their knowledge.

The Federation will be looking for other opportunities to continue supporting CLCs to improve their evaluation capacity beyond the project. If you have any suggestions or thoughts about how we should do this please get in touch!

Questions? Contact Rohan Thwaites at the Federation: rohant@fcl.org.au (03) 9652 1511



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