



## Request for Tender

### Our Voices, Our Way, Our Lives Project

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia and National Ethnic Disability Alliance

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<b>Project title</b>	Our Voices, Our Way, Our Lives Project
<b>Summary</b>	Inviting responses to this Request for Tender (RFT) from Universities for the provision of evaluation services.
<b>Response due</b>	26 November 2021
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Please note that all communication about this RFT, and the response should be submitted to:  Neha Prakash Project Manager National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) E: neha@neda.org.au

### About LGBTIQ+ Health Australia and National Ethnic Disability Alliance

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia (LHA), is the national peak health organisation in Australia for organisations and individuals that provide health-related programs, services and research focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people and other sexuality, gender and bodily diverse (LGBTIQ+) people and communities.

LHA previously undertook a NDIS funded project called EmployableQ via the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) Economic Community Participation Disability Grant. Launched in 2020, the EmployableQ Toolkit includes templates and resources for employers within the LGBTIQ+ sector to promote the hiring of LGBTIQ+ people with disability.

National Ethnic Disability Alliance (NEDA) is a national Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) that advocates federally for the human rights of people with disability, and their families. This includes people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). NEDA is a founding member of Disabled People's Organisations Australia, which are organisations constituted and governed by people with disability (PWD).

## Project Overview

‘Our Voices, Our Way, Our Lives’ is a joint initiative by LHA and NEDA and is funded by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The project was created to improve the health and well-being of LGBTIQ+ PWD across Australia. The DSS ILC grant is all about inclusion of people with disability. It is about creating connections between people with disability and their communities.

The project works within a framework of co-design, where sector experts, DPO’s, community organisations and LGBTIQ+ people with a lived experience of disability are engaged in the design process to help determine the training content and delivery. The project design and delivery phases are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ First Nations and CALD PWD. To help develop and implement this project, we’ve established an Advisory Committee that provides expert advice and guidance.

Initially, the project was planned to be delivered primarily face-to-face but due to COVID-19 restrictions and ongoing pandemic impacts it has been moved to an online delivery mode.

### Aim

The project aim is to build the individual and collective capacity of LGBTIQ+ PWD to strengthen existing knowledge and skills to increase social connection, self-advocacy and community engagement, to contribute to the longer-term aim of improved health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ PWD.

### Objectives

The objectives of the project for LGBTIQ+ PWD are to:

- increase knowledge, skills and capacity in a dynamic and innovative way
- increase confidence and empowerment to act
- increase participation and contribution to community

### Activities

The project will be delivered through a range of activities including:

- providing online mentoring and peer support activities to improve confidence and skills to engage in storytelling and advocacy
- developing online training regarding various aspects of digital storytelling including information on how to tell a purposeful and safer story
- providing online resources focussed on strengthening existing skills and knowledge about rights, advocacy, volunteering to increase social connection, self-advocacy and community engagement
- collaborating across state and territory jurisdictions with LGBTIQ+ PWD, DPO’s, LGBTIQ+ organisations, First Nations and CALD groups to link and facilitate a communities of practice (CoP) to facilitate sharing knowledge, best practice and resource sharing to support LGBTIQ+ PWD across Australia

## Evaluation Scope

NEDA and LHA would like to work in partnership with a contractor to refine the evaluation purpose and methodology.

The proposed scope will focus on process and outcome evaluation in line with the project aim, objectives, learning outcomes and activities employed in developing and implementing the project. The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- assess the effectiveness of strategies and activities used to develop and implement the project, including redesigning the project to meet the needs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- analyse the role of Advisory Committee, Co-design Group and CoP in effectively meeting the aim and objectives of the project
- include wellbeing measures within the evaluation tools developed
- investigate how and in what contexts strategies and processes were or were not effective in strengthening knowledge and skills of participants

For the purposes of this project, participants will include LGBTIQ+ PWD, who are engaged in the project which includes the Advisory Committee, Co-design Group, mentoring participants and individuals engaging with the online content. The evaluation tools developed will need to be accessible for participants.

## Evaluation Methodology

We invite you to determine the design and methodology for this evaluation as a part of your response.

Once the evaluation commences, the successful contractor will work with NEDA and LHA to finalise:

- i) evaluation design and methodology
- ii) data collection methods, instruments and procedures
- iii) planned data analysis methods
- iv) sequencing of evaluation activities
- v) identification of potential limitations of the evaluation

The contractor will have access to relevant information, documents and resources to assist them with the evaluation process including:

- online learning resources and materials including learning outcomes
- DSS activity work plan
- co-design and roundtable reports
- Communities of Practice Framework
- other documents as negotiated

## **Evaluation Milestones**

The draft evaluation report should be submitted to NEDA/LHA by mid-November 2022 (TBC) with the final report due to DSS in December 2022. Note: we are currently applying to the DSS for an extension to the final report deadline from September 2022 to December 2022.

The evaluation design and methodology, data collection methods and instruments will need to be developed prior to the start of the online activity's rollout in May 2022.

## **Selection Criteria**

Responses will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. The proposed evaluation methodology and approach most suitable for this project.
2. Evaluation that addresses the priorities of LGBTIQ+ PWD. The proposed principles, theory and methodology must be inclusive and align with the social model of disability and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
3. Capacity to undertake high quality evaluation in the time and with the resources available.
4. Demonstrated experience working on similar projects, especially with LGBTIQ+ communities and/or with PWD is desirable.

## **Funding**

The allocated budget for the evaluation is \$40,000 (excluding GST).

## **Submission Process**

Submissions are only accepted via email. Applicants are invited to submit a word document in response to the RFT with the following sections:

1. University name (including ABN or ACN)
2. Brief evaluation summary (200 words)
3. Evaluation methodology: methods, conceptual or theoretical approaches, data collection approach and analyses (300 - 500 words)
4. Capacity to undertake research and feasibility: outline the contractor's capacity to complete the proposed evaluation, including track record, and demonstrated experience in working on similar projects. This section should also outline how ethics approval will be obtained (if required) (300 - 500 words)