

Family & Community Support Research Agenda Framework

With reference to the Offender Services and Programs Family & Community Support Research Agenda (the Research Agenda), research questions are to be asked and answered in a family focused context that seeks to improve outcomes for offenders, their families and communities affected by the consequences of incarceration and other justice related activities. Research applicants are required to outline the significance of anticipated results and contribution to the advancement of knowledge in their research area and in particular how their research will have a positive impact on offenders, their families, communities or those at risk of offending.

A Committee, consisting of members of the OS&P Practice Development Group, will assess and consider each application on its individual merits and will need to be satisfied that the proposed research is:

- Of a high ethical standard;
- Rigorous, valid and accurate;
- Relevant to current and emerging policy and research and community interests relating to family and community support needs of offenders;
- Able to make a significant contribution to knowledge in the research area;
- Directly related to reducing offending behaviours;
- Able to inform corrective services practices in ways that have a positive impact on offenders, their families, communities or those at risk of offending.

Ethics Approval

Applicants proposing to conduct research must obtain the formal approval of the CSNSW Research Ethics Committee as well as that of the Ethics Committee attached to the institution with which they are affiliated, such as a university or agency.

Research involving majority sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must meet the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (see <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/e52>)

Priority groups

Where appropriate, research should include a focus on offenders, their families and communities who are:

- Indigenous;

- From a non-English speaking background;
- From rural and regional NSW;
- Gay, lesbian;
- Transgender;
- Impacted by disability or aged care issues;
- Impacted by mental health issues;
- Impacted by primary care responsibilities to a child under 16.

Partnerships

To further support the aims of the Research Agenda, partnerships will be formed with other government and non-government agencies such as NSW Department of Human Services, Health, universities and research institutions to share knowledge, resources and specialist expertise.

Role of the Principal Advisor Family & Community Support (PAF&CS)

The PAF&CS will support the Research Agenda by:

- Monitoring the progress of approved research projects and reviewing their results;
- Representing CSNSW on relevant steering committees;
- Facilitating in-kind contribution to larger projects;
- Acting as a co-researcher by providing information, data and other knowledge;
- Directly commissioning high-priority research;
- Disseminating research findings, including facilitating:
 - Briefings to stakeholders
 - Presentations at relevant forums
 - Publication of completed research papers in Australasian Journal of Correctional Staff Development;

The OS&P Practice Development Group

The OS&P Practice Development Group consists of academics and senior CSNSW Offender Services and Programs policy advisors. The Group will periodically review this Research Agenda and provide expert advice on current issues and future directions in the field.