

Program Logics

Mental Health NGO Commissioning



ACT
Government

Acknowledgement of Country

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We respect the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff, and their continuing culture and contribution they make to the Canberra region and the life of our city.

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Introduction

The ACT Government is committed to investing in NGO mental health services that strengthen the overall mental health system.

The Mental Health NGO Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) outlines the Government's approach to redesigning and investing in the non-government organisations (NGO) mental health sector. This investment is aimed at building a responsive, inclusive, and outcomes-focussed NGO mental health system that meets the diverse needs of Canberrans

Alongside the SIP, the Mental Health Commissioning Framework paper was released, providing additional detail and context to the outcomes that will be used to achieve a responsive and inclusive system.

This paper compliments the SIP and the Mental Health Commissioning Framework Paper, providing additional context to Program Logics.

Components of a Program Logic

To be commissioned, services will need to identify how their proposed services will contribute to the relevant outcome/s in the Personal Domain and achieving all of the outcomes in the Service Domain.

To demonstrate how proposed services contribute to the ACT Government's outcomes detailed in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework, organisations should consider what their proposed service activities will be, what measures will be used and the Indicators that will work towards each of the relevant outcomes. This can be done through the development of a Program Logic, which outlines each of these elements.

Your organisation will need to develop a Program Logic for your proposed program. Program Logics outline how the program is expected to work, outlining the activities and indicators monitored by measures, to show their connection to outcomes. This helps communicate the program's structure and flow for your organisation's grant application.

Your program logic(s) will need to include:

- **Activities:** The service or program being proposed.
- **Measures:** The proposed tool/s used to track progress towards indicators.
- **Indicators:** The key drivers and influences on progress towards an outcome.
- **Outcomes:** The ambition of the reformed ACT mental health NGO commissioned system.

Activities

Activities describe what the service does to deliver the program. These activities should lead to a change in the identified indicator/s. This could be one activity or a set of activities that reflect a component of a service or the entire service delivery.

Measures

Measures are the tools used to quantify progress towards Indicators. Measures provide the granular detail about the progression towards indicators and can be used to guide personal, service and system improvement. Measures play a key role in evaluating programs and creating a mental health system that meets the needs of consumers by working towards the Outcomes.

The measures used to track progression towards an indicator will be dependent on the indicator the organisation identifies. **Your organisation should choose measure/s that best suit your proposed program.** Table 1 outlines examples of measures that could be used for Personal and Service Domain outcomes.

Table 1: Example measures for Personal and Service Domain outcomes

Domain	Outcome	Example Measures
Personal	People experience environments that promote mental wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Wellbeing Index • Wellbeing stars • Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale
Personal	People are supported in seeking help, and self-management of emerging mental health needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Wellbeing Index • Wellbeing stars
Personal	People’s mental health and wellbeing is supported in all aspects of their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K10 • DASS-21 • Personal Wellbeing Index • Recovery Star • Wellbeing Stars
Personal	People are supported to receive transitional care between hospital and the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K10 • DASS-21 • Recovery Star • HoNSCA/ HoNOS/ HoNOS 65+ • Factors Influencing Health Status (FIHS) psychosocial complications indicator • Level of difficulty with activities in a life area (LSP-16 score) • Level of functional independence (RUG-ADL score)
Service	Services are accessible and culturally responsive (right care, right place, right time).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES) • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES)
Service	Services are delivered holistically, are safe, inclusive, trauma-informed and compliant with human rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES) • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES)
Service	Services are collaborative, integrated and address the full spectrum of a person’s needs by coordinating across the sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES) • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES)
Service	Services ensure people, carers and families are able to understand and move through the mental health system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES) • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES)
Service	Services ensure people with lived experience are central to service design, delivery, and evaluation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES) • Number of lived experience staff/volunteers
Service	Services are evidence informed with a culture of continuous learning and improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Experience of Service Survey (YES) • Carers Experience of Service Survey (CES)

Indicators

Indicators signal the changes needed to achieve an outcome. Indicators reflect the key drivers and influences towards an outcome.

Indicators occur as a direct result of the activity being delivered and contribute more broadly to the outcomes in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

When creating a Program Logic, your organisation will be required to identify indicators achieved by the proposed activities and detail how these indicators will contribute to the outcomes outlined in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

Outcomes

As outlined in the SIP and the Mental Health Commissioning Framework Paper, outcomes reflect the ambition of the reformed mental health and wellbeing system. Outcomes are long term goals achieved through the collective work of the sector.

Through your program logic, you will be required to demonstrate how your service contributes to all Service Domain Outcomes and relevant Personal Domain Outcome/s. You will need to articulate how the indicators of your service or program support the long term outcomes described in the SIP and the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

Your organisation will not be required to develop program logics for System Domain Outcomes as they describe the commitment of the ACT Government to supporting the sector and community.

For more information about outcomes, please see the SIP and the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

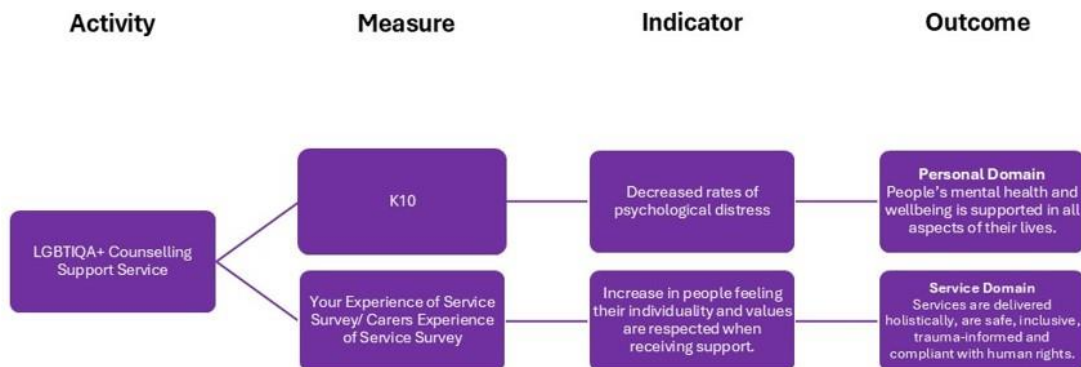
Developing Program Logics

Program Logics clearly articulate how the program or components of a program will contribute to the outcomes outlined in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.

Your organisation will need to articulate how the proposed service will contribute to the Outcomes in the Mental Health Commissioning Framework and attach a program logic to your grant application.

Organisations are recommended to review the example Program Logic Template provided in the Attachment to this document. **It is not required for organisations to present their program logics exactly according to this template; however it is there to support the thinking and development for organisations to prepare their program logics.** Organisations may adapt this template as necessary to suit the needs of your proposed program.

Examples of program logics can be found below.



Further Resources

The following resources have been provided for organisations seeking additional guidance on developing program logics.

Please note there are varying definitions of Activities, Measures, Indicators, Outcomes, and other commonly used program logic terms. **For grant applications in this Commissioning cycle, it is expected that program logics align with the terminology outlined in the SIP and the Mental Health Commissioning Framework.**

These resources include additional information on how organisations can conceptualise their programs, including consideration of assumptions and external factors that could influence program outcomes:

- [Program Logic Examples and Templates | Youth Coalition](#)
- [How to Develop a Program Logic for Planning and Evaluation | Australian Institute of Family Studies](#)
- [Your Guide to using Logic Models | Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit](#)
- [Developing and Using Program Logics | NSW Health](#)

Attachment A - Program Logic Template

Background Context:

Organisation/Service Name:

Program Aim:

Problem Statement:

Assumptions:

Principles and Theories:

External Factors:

Attachment A - Program Logic Table

Activities	Measures Qualitative and/or Quantitative	Indicators	Outcomes	Domain
<i>E.g. LGBTIQ+ Counselling Support Service</i>	<i>E.g. K10</i>	<i>E.g. Decreased rates of psychological distress</i>	<i>E.g. People's mental health and wellbeing is supported in all aspects of their lives</i>	<i>E.g. Personal</i>



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