



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Families and Children Activity: Program logic information session 2021

DSS acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present

Program logic Information Session

Today we will cover:

- The purpose of the new program logic requirements
- The timeframes for submitting your program logic to DSS
- The DSS assessment process and criteria for the program logics
- Useful resources
- Pre-submitted questions

Program logic – What is a program logic?

This will be explored in more detail in the next webinar led by the Evidence and Evaluation Support Team at AIFS.

- Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – 1 – 2 PM AEDT.

A program logic is a visual representation of the resources and activities that make up the program and the changes we expect from them.

Program logics will provide evidence of how each service will achieve its outcomes and ensure the intended outcomes are appropriate.

Program logic – Requirements

Service providers are required to develop a program logic for each funded activity.

- Service providers must submit their draft program logic **by 31 March 2022**
- Service providers must submit their final program logic **by 30 June 2023**

This requirement applies to the following programs:

- Budget Based Funded
- Children and Parenting Support (CaPS) services
- Family and Relationship Services (FaRS), including Specialised Family Violence Services
- Family Mental Health Support Services.

Program logic - Template

- Program logic template and other support documents are available on the DSS website.
- You may use an existing template if your organisation has one.
- Multiple and single service.
- Linkages with Activity Work Plans (AWPs).

Families and Children program logic template

Objective/s:					
Needs statement:					
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes
Theory of change statement ¹					

¹ This theory of change assumes that the program activities are informed by evidence about how to support the target group/s and achieve the desired program outcomes.

Program logic - Process

Service providers must develop a draft program logic:

- Use the department's template (available on the DSS Website)
- Examples have also been provided to assist providers to complete this requirement
 - o Two example types: Multiple service and single service
- Further support is available through FAMs, the Evidence and Evaluation Support Team at AIFS, and online resources

Check your funding agreement for your program logic milestones. In general these are:

- Service providers must submit their draft program logic by 31 March 2022
- Service providers must submit their final program logic by 30 June 2023.

Program logics - Assessment

Once you have submitted your draft program logic to your FAM, your FAM will assess this to ensure you have:

- completed the template correctly and in full
- used research and evidence
- provided all the necessary information and included enough detail in each section
- established a logical program pathway
- included a theory of change statement
- demonstrated accuracy and consistency with the objectives of the Families and Children Activity.

Where required, FAMs will provide feedback on draft program logics to service providers for action, with the goal of finalising the program logics by 30 June 2023.

Program logics – Assessment Criteria

The department is finalising the assessment criteria resources and will publish and share these with service providers shortly.



Families and Children Program Logic – Assessment Checklist

Program logic section	Criteria	Yes	No	Comments
Objectives <i>Also known as aims, goals or vision</i>	Program objectives/aims are stated and provide general information about who will benefit from the program and what those benefits will be.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Needs statement <i>Also known as problem statement, needs analysis or community needs/issues</i>	Details are given about the nature and extent of the problem to be solved, issues to be addressed, or need within the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	An explanation is given of why the situation needs a response.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Details are given about what will happen if the situation is not addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Details are given about who is primarily affected by the situation or who in particular needs support (i.e. who is the target group).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Data sources or claims made about need are supported by published data, journal articles, evidence summaries, evaluation reports or government reports and referenced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Inputs	The resources needed to deliver the program are listed. <i>The particular inputs of any program will depend on the type of program being delivered</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Program logics – Useful resources

The department has provided a number of useful resources to assist service providers to develop their program logics. These include:

- Guidance to complete the program logic (available in the template)
- Examples of completed program logics
- Assessment criteria (provided to you shortly)
- Additional resources on the AIFS website (program planning and evaluation guide: <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/expert-panel-project/program-planning-evaluation-guide>)
- AIFS Evidence and Evaluation Support Team's one-on-one support service at: fac-expert-panel@aifs.gov.au
- Your Funding Arrangement Manager.

Questions and Answers



Next program logic webinar

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – 1 – 2 PM AEDT

In the next session, the AIFS Evidence and Evaluation Support Team will provide guidance on how to complete the new program logic template, followed by a Q&A.

The next session will cover:

- An overview of the purpose of program logic
- What is expected in each part of the template
- Tips and tricks
- Examples of program logics.

Register via the link in the AIFS newsletter.

Wrap-up

Many FaC Activity service providers are required to submit a program logic for their funded programs:

- Draft program logic by 31 March 2022
- Final program logic by 30 June 2023

Program logic template and examples can be found on the DSS website

The program logic assessment criteria will be made available to you shortly.

If you have any questions, register for the next webinar or contact your Funding Arrangement Manager to discuss.

Thank you

Family Policy
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