



National Legal Aid

National Legal Aid Best Practice Standards

Community Development

Principle

Strategies should be designed in consultation with the target group so the community is involved in mutual needs identification, service goals, output measurements, delivery structure, and evaluation strategies.

National Legal Aid – Best Practice Standards Community Development

Element	Includes	Best Practice Standard
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Services - Outreach systems - Resources - Workshops - Seminars - Publications - CLE strategies - Awareness raising programmes - Network development - Promotional and other strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs identification processes include all major stakeholders, existing and potential. • Development and documentation of a clear and agreed vision of project content. • Development and documentation of a clear and agreed vision of desired outcome. • Development and documentation of a clear and agreed evaluation processes. • Processes to ensure broad community participation should be employed, including, where relevant, the use of interpreters or other supports to facilitate involvement. • Proposals and outcomes must be designed to ensure social justice and broad community relevance.
Should be designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any single or multiple tasks formulated and implemented to further the strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasks undertaken should include specific outcomes tied to the identified strategies. • Methods and techniques employed should be those that most effectively achieve the stated objectives.

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Element	Includes	Best Practice Standard
<p>In Consultation with the target group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any jointly agreed single or multiple tasks intended to support or extend community knowledge, resources and capacity to respond to legal issues. • Research and consultation undertaken to identify priorities and tasks. • Research and consultation designed to identify existing experience, skills and community wishes that may be harnessed within the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency must recognise projects may require a commitment to the community for the medium to long term. • Development strategies must include coordinated and complementary initiatives with stakeholder groups and be designed to integrate and work with existing structures where practical. • Where existing structures do not exist or require supplementary development, work undertaken should promote social justice strategies and broadly relevant community participation. • Where practical and appropriate, tasks and projects should facilitate community involvement as part of the skills development strategy. • Where practical and appropriate, projects should be tested prior to implementation.
<p>So the community is involved in mutual needs identification, service goals, output measurements, delivery structure, and evaluation strategies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation about community requirements and expectations. • Development of resources and services relevant to these needs and that are readily accessible by the community. • Development of an evaluation process designed to test outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative approach to incorporating community priorities and requirements within the framework of the project. • Flexible approaches to needs and issues. • Flexible responses that support and build communities. • Where necessary, a commitment to ongoing supports and resources to ensure the project remains relevant and effective.