

Health Justice Australia – Final Report

EMPOWERMENT FUND

Project summary

The Partnership Evaluation Program (PEP) was designed to strengthen shared evaluation capability among health and legal partners working in health justice partnerships (HJPs) across Victoria. The program aimed to support partners in articulating shared intended impact, building a common understanding of evaluation concepts, and collaboratively planning meaningful outcome measurement across disciplines.

Delivered using a flipped-classroom model, the program combined recorded learning materials with facilitated workshops to support practical skill development. It focused on building partners' capability to develop program logic models, identify shared outcomes and indicators, and use ethically robust data-collection approaches. The program also produced enduring tools and resources that can be used beyond the initiative's life to support consistent, high-quality evaluation practice across the HJP sector.

Key achievements/findings

The Partnership Evaluation Program successfully delivered on its intended outcomes by building evaluation capability and shared understanding across participating health justice partnerships. Fourteen practitioners from legal and health/community services completed the program across three cohorts.

Key achievements included measurable improvements in evaluation knowledge across all capability domains, with the largest gains observed in program logic development (+54%) and identifying evaluation next steps (+47%). Participants reported high satisfaction with the program's quality, relevance, and facilitation. Practical uptake of tools, such as program logic templates, monitoring and evaluation plans, and consent forms, demonstrated a shift from learning to early-stage implementation of shared evaluation practice.

Insights

Learnings for the Organisation

- Evaluation capability is both technical and relational

Effective evaluation in HJPs requires aligning different professional perspectives (legal, health, social), not just building technical skills.

- Practical tools drive uptake

Templates (program logic, M&E plans, consent forms) were critical in translating knowledge into action and supporting immediate application. Developing adaptable, practical tools significantly supported confidence and readiness to apply evaluation in practice and will continue to provide value beyond the program.

- Structured, facilitated collaboration is essential

Dedicated time for partners to work together strengthened relationships and enabled shared understanding of outcomes and measurement.

- Flipped delivery model is effective and scalable

Combining self-paced learning with facilitated workshops supported flexibility while maintaining engagement and depth.

- Capability building must account for workforce constraints

Participation challenges reflected broader sector realities, including limited time and competing service delivery priorities.

Learnings for the broader social services sector

- Integrated service models require shared evaluation frameworks

Cross-sector partnerships cannot rely on single-agency evaluation approaches; shared logic and outcomes are essential.

- Evaluation capability gaps are common but addressable

Practitioners often have strong contextual and practice knowledge but require support to formalise evaluation approaches.

- Peer learning is highly valuable

Learning alongside other services enhances relevance, generates practical insights, and builds sector cohesion.

- Outcome measurement must balance standardisation and flexibility

Particularly in client-centred models, evaluation must accommodate complexity while maintaining consistency. Clear guidance on outcome indicators and practical templates is particularly valuable for services at early or intermediate stages of evaluation maturity.

Additional information

Finalised evaluation materials and tools developed through the Partnership Evaluation Program (including program logic templates, monitoring and evaluation plan templates, and participant consent forms) are available through Health Justice Australia's website: <https://healthjustice.org.au/resources/monitoring-and-evaluating-your-partnership/>

Additional program feedback can be viewed here:

<https://healthjustice.org.au/newsideas/news/partnership-evaluation-program-testimonials/>

Enquiries

For further information about this project and its findings, please contact:
lyla.pedersen@healthjustice.org.au