

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

RANZCP

Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides information to assist tender applications in the preparation and submission of a quotation to:

- To evaluate the methodology used by the RANZCP Mood Disorders Committee (MDC) for evidence collection and evaluation in the development of the [2020 RANZCP Clinical Practice Guideline for mood disorders](#) (the CPG). This should also include a review of the references and levels of evidence considered in the CPG, and whether a different approach is required for reviewing psychodynamic psychotherapy evidence. This will also include an evaluation of whether the final recommendations of the CPG were evidence based.
- To undertake a review and synthesis of the quantitative, qualitative, and experiential evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders¹.
- To develop a methodology which includes synthesis of submissions from the RANZCP membership regarding their views of the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders.

This evaluation must consider the lived experience knowledge from consumers, carers, and healthcare professionals from Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa.

The consultancy will directly report to and inform the RANZCP Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review Steering Group.

Applicants are advised that this Request for Quotation (RFQ) document will be made publicly available to members of the RANZCP via the [RANZCP website](#).

OVERVIEW OF CONSULTANCY

BACKGROUND

The RANZCP Board has formed a Mood Disorders Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Evidence Review Steering Group (the Steering Group) to review the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders. This review is in response to feedback raised by RANZCP members regarding the 2020 RANZCP Clinical Practice Guideline for mood disorders. The Steering Group will engage with a selected independent entity (consultancy) to review and guide progress, and to assist with the development of reports and recommendations to the RANZCP Board.

DELIVERABLES

The RANZCP Board is seeking a consultancy to undertake a project to:

Part 1.

- Review and synthesize the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy including, but not limited to:
 - The appropriateness and completeness of methods by which the evidence was collected, evaluated, and formulated into the recommendations contained in the CPG.

¹ In this RFQ, mood disorders refers to recurrent and chronic depression and acute depression, and depression which is co-morbid with other mental illnesses or neurodevelopmental conditions.

- The content of the final recommendations and whether they were sufficiently evidence-based when assessing the breadth of available data.
- To review the levels or conventional hierarchies of evidence considered and whether psychodynamic psychotherapy requires a different approach to evaluating evidence.
- A review and synthesis of the evidence for the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders. This will include an investigation and mapping of the processes utilised by other research groups (nationally and internationally) examining the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy for the treatment of mood disorders, including their findings.

Part 2.

- Prepare and submit a series of recommendations and proposals for the assessment and evaluation of evidence regarding the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders. These recommendations and proposals will be based on the findings attained in part 1 of the project.

These recommendations and proposals will be reviewed and provided to the RANZCP Board by the Steering Group. The recommendations and proposals will be released to the RANZCP membership.

For both Part 1 and Part 2, prepare and submit a Human Ethics approval to undertake the project and for data to be used by the RANZCP for publication purposes.

GOVERNANCE

The project will be monitored and guided by a Steering Group, Chaired by a Fellow of the RANZCP with experience in relation to evidence-based, academic, and clinical psychodynamic psychotherapy. The role of the Steering Group will be to oversee the project, and ensure deliverables are met, and timeframes are adhered to. The Steering Group comprises psychiatrists and members with expertise in psychodynamic psychotherapy, evidence-based practice, clinical and academic psychiatry, and lived experience of depression and care experiences.

CONSULTANCY TIMEFRAME

The length of the project is 6 months from commencement.

QUOTATION SPECIFICATIONS

SPECIFICATION 1: THE CONSULTANT

The successful tender applicant will require a relevant background to the assignment and demonstrated capacity to successfully undertake the project within the specified timelines.

STATUS OF ENTITY

The consultant must be a legal entity with which the RANZCP can enter into an agreement. The proposal must describe and provide evidence of the legal status of the consultant including their Australian Business Number (ABN), Australian Company Number (ACN), or a copy of the

organisation's public liability, professional indemnity, and workers compensation policy certificates of currency.

UNDERSTANDING OF REQUIREMENTS

The organisation that submits a quotation must demonstrate an understanding of all aspects required to conduct the project.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The quotation must describe the experience of the consultant in relation to the deliverables described in this document.

FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, PLANNING AND OTHER RESOURCES CAPABILITY

The quotation must provide supporting documentation to enable the RANZCP to be satisfied with the financial, technical, planning, and other resource capabilities of the consultant to successfully complete the project.

STAFF COMPETENCIES

The quotation must describe the minimum competencies of staff and policies to maintain competency throughout the contract.

The consultancy will need to be capable of gathering and evaluating quantitative, qualitative, and experiential evidence relating to the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders. The consultancy will also need an awareness of the local practice context in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand including the realities of clinicians, lived experience, and consumer/carer representative groups. It is expected the consultancy will have the appropriate methodological skills and weight up advantages and disadvantages to different types of approach to evidence synthesis.

SPECIFICATION 2: CONSULTANCY DELIVERABLES

A review on the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders which includes the following considerations:

- Directly report to the RANZCP Steering Group on a monthly basis regarding the progress of the consultancy's work. Seek advice from the Steering Group where necessary.
- Development of a methodology which includes synthesis of submissions from the RANZCP membership regarding their views on the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders.
- Review and synthesise the evidence for the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders.

This review and synthesis of the evidence will include:

- An investigation and mapping of the processes utilised by other research groups (nationally

and internationally) that have examined (or are currently examining) the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy for the treatment of mood disorders, along with their findings.

- An examination of evidence beyond the current CPG and whether evidence concerning long term psychodynamic psychotherapy was appropriate. This should involve an examination of whether sufficient consideration was given to references other than Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs), systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. Many levels of evidence from levels 1 to 5 (see [Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine](#)) should be considered including but are not limited to experience data, expert consensus, grey literature, qualitative studies, and observational cohorts including routine data.
- Exploration of the impact of the exclusion of non-quantitative evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy, along with lived experience and consumer and carer resources.
- An examination of the following components of the current CPG:
 - The levels of evidence captured within the CPG and whether a different approach is required to evaluating long term psychodynamic psychotherapy evidence.
 - The evidence collection and evaluation utilised in the development of the CPG. This includes but is not limited to an examination of the methodology employed by the MDC (e.g., the process of reference collection, screening and data extraction), whether the MDC had access to the relevant available quantitative, qualitative, and experiential evidence for psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders, and whether evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy was evaluated appropriately.
 - Whether the various types of depression (e.g., acute / chronic depression, treatment-resistant, chronic, with complex post-traumatic stress disorder (CPTSD) / borderline personality disorder (BPD) were sufficiently delineated regarding the efficacy of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the development of the CPG.
 - Whether the patient's experience was given adequate weight in assessment, management, and treatment of mood disorders in the development of the CPG.
 - The language and terminology utilised in the CPG in relation to long term psychodynamic psychotherapy, to ensure that accepted clinical and academic standards have been met.
 - The content of the final recommendations of the CPG pertaining to the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy for the treatment of mood disorders, and whether they are consistent with the relevant literature that has been published.
- Include the lived experience data and knowledge of consumers, carers, and healthcare professionals in all stages of the consultancy's work.
- Preparation and submission of a series of recommendations and proposals for the assessment and evaluation of evidence regarding the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders. This includes producing documents regarding the outcome of the consultancy's work for the RANZCP Board and wider RANZCP membership.

EVALUATION OF QUOTATIONS

The following criteria will be used for the assessment of the quotations received, and the determination of the successful applicant.

CRITERIA RELATING TO THE SPECIFICATIONS (CONSULTANT)

The application will be assessed using the following criteria:

- An understanding of evidence and/or methodological expertise for reviewing the evidence for long term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders.
- An understanding and/or methodological expertise for reviewing the evidence of the psychodynamic clinician's perspective on the use of long-term psychodynamic psychotherapy in the treatment of mood disorders.
- An understanding and/or methodological expertise for reviewing the evidence of the bio-psycho-social framework and how it relates to psychodynamic psychotherapy.
- Experience in developing methodology for consultation and the collection of submissions.
- An understanding of the lived experience data and knowledge of consumers, carers, and healthcare practitioners.
- Ensure appropriate collaboration where possible, co-design through inclusion of an appropriately skilled lived-experience advisor in the consultancy team.
- An understanding of levels of evidence (i.e., levels 1 to 5) which include but are not limited to: RCTs, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, case studies, and case series.
- Relevant and adequate experience, with demonstrated ability to deliver projects within prescribed timeframes and agreed cost.
- Experience in interview and focus group techniques.
- Experience in undertaking professional workforce reviews.
- Experience in developing and working to Human Ethics protocols.
- Ability to collect, analyse, and present large scale quantitative and qualitative data sets.
- Availability to undertake the project at the times indicated and submission of the required deliverables.
- Understanding of the Australian and Aotearoa/New Zealand health sectors.
- A demonstrated lack of Conflict of Interests which would ethically compromise the review process.

QUOTATION EVALUATION PROCESS

Quotations will be initially assessed by the Steering Group, against the indicated criteria. The assessment and recommendation of the Steering Group will be reviewed by RANZCP Board.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The successful organisation will need to enter a deed of confidentiality and/or consultancy agreement with the RANZCP. Upon completion and payment of the deliverables, the RANZCP will obtain full copyright of materials, reports, and recommendations.

NOTIFICATION OF FINAL OUTCOME

Organisations that submit a quotation will be advised in writing of the final outcome of the assessment process.

CONDITIONS OF QUOTATION

LODGEMENT OF QUOTATIONS

The quotation can be lodged via email, marked:

Confidential

By email to: Ms Nicola Wright
Executive Manager, Policy, Practice and Research Department
Nicola.Wright@ranzcp.org

Quotations must be sent to the above email address by **Tuesday 11 April 2023**. The opening period is from the date of the receipt of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) to the day on which submissions close.

- Incomplete quotations will not be accepted.
- Quotations must be signed and dated by an authorised officer.
- Quotations will not be accepted after 5.00 PM (AEDT) on the closing date of the RFQ.
- Notification of receipt will be forwarded to the tender applicants.
- All costs associated with lodgement of a quotation will be the responsibility of the bidding organisation.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Organisations submitting a quotation must declare to the RANZCP any matter or issue which is, may be perceived to be, or may lead to, a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in the supply of the services described. The organisation must describe a strategy so that any conflict of interest will be avoided.

PRICING

Organisations submitting a quotation must contain a detailed cost summary as well as relevant stage and total project cost. Organisations must provide a specific breakdown of costs associated with staff and disbursement.

PAYMENT

Organisations submitting a quotation must indicate whether they can accept electronic funds transfer

as a facility for contract payments. A payment schedule will be negotiated with the successful organisation that submits a quotation. The RANZCP's preferred position is to make payments according to the delivery of outputs or satisfactory achievement of key deliverables.