Aotearoa Crisis Intervention Group (ACI)

Assessment Process/Criteria for Funding Applications/Expressions of Interest

Preamble

The MThNZ Aotearoa Crisis Intervention Special Interest Group (ACI SIG) specifically aims to provide coordinated support to both the short and anticipated long term needs of music therapists who are, in turn, responding to New Zealanders who are experiencing community trauma. Community trauma, also referred to as collective trauma, is defined as “an aggregate of trauma experienced by community members or an event that impacts a few people but has structural and social traumatic consequences” (Pinderhughes, Davis, & Williams, 2015).

Everyone experiences crisis at some points during life. A crisis may be personal or community-wide. The Aotearoa Crises Intervention group seeks to fund music therapy projects that respond to community-wide events, such as earthquakes, mass shootings, or pandemics; and events that might have a significant impact on a community of vulnerable people, such as the sudden death of a child in a school community. Music therapy can be an important and helpful way for individuals, groups, and communities of people experiencing stress, anxiety, and the effects of trauma, to regain a sense of safety, develop their confidence, improve mood and communication, and remain engaged with daily life.

It is difficult to envisage such events, and therefore to anticipate how the music therapy community might choose to respond to them. It is therefore likely that project applications will be diverse. Application criteria therefore need to be broad, with projects judged on their merit according to the circumstances of the crisis.

Process for Assessing Applications/Expressions of Interest

No less than three members of the ACI group (sub-committee) will assess the merits of each application or expression of interest using the guiding criteria below. The sub-committee determine whether:

* 1. the expression of interest is accepted as an application and funding is ‘Approved’
  2. the expression of interest provides enough information to be received as an application, and funding is likely be approved if the further information is supplied to the satisfaction of the committee
  3. the expression of interest is received, and applicants are given feedback and invited and/or supported to make an application
  4. the expression of interest is ‘Declined’.

The reasons for the decision will be documented and shared with the applicant and will also be recorded in a ‘case-book’ for future reference, to maximise fair and equitable decision making over time.

Guidelines for Assessing Applications/Expressions of Interest

Values/Purpose

* Is the proposed music therapy project clearly related to a community or national crisis event?
* Have the needs of the community been clearly identified?
* Is it clear how the crisis intervention project will address the “individual and group mental health and wellbeing needs” of community members?

Viability

* Is the project leader a Registered Music Therapist?
  + If the project involves the project leader engaging directly in music therapy practice, do they have a current practising certificate?
* Is the project leader familiar with, and/or do they have significant contacts in, the field of practice?
* Has the project leader led projects of this size before and/or can they demonstrate that they have the skills needed for the project?
* Who will be included in the project from the community or group affected?
* Does the project leader have the skills, or does someone on the team have the skills, to submit a post-project report (1–2-page executive summary) suitable for use in MThNZ publications, and in ongoing promotions of the ACI SIG work?
* If this is a one-off project, does it seem likely it could be satisfactorily completed in the time stipulated?
* Is it clear what tools, equipment, resources, or support will be provided to music therapists to ensure the project is delivered?

Affordability

* Is the budget sufficiently detailed and realistic?
* If this is likely to be a longer-term project, does the potential for ongoing funding seem realistic?

Sustainability

* Are the people involved in the project available longer term or can others be engaged during the project?
* Has there been written documentation of additional and/or ongoing funding for longer term projects?
* Can the project be replicated for other crisis events that may occur?

Reference

Pinderhughes, H., Davis, R. A., & Williams, M. (2015). Adverse community experiences and resilience: A framework for addressing and preventing community trauma. Prevention Institute. https://bit.ly/2Phz53G.