



Australian Government

Community  
Grants Hub  
Improving your grant experience



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# Volunteer Grants 2018

## Feedback summary

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### Overview

The Australian Government values the efforts of Australia's volunteers and acknowledges that Australia's 8.7 million volunteers and their organisations are the backbone of community life.

The Department of Social Services (the Department) thanks you once again for taking the time to apply for the 2018 Volunteer Grants round. The 2019 Volunteer Grants round will open later this year. Feedback from the 2018 Volunteer Grants round may help you in developing an application for the 2019 Volunteer Grants round.

### Selection results

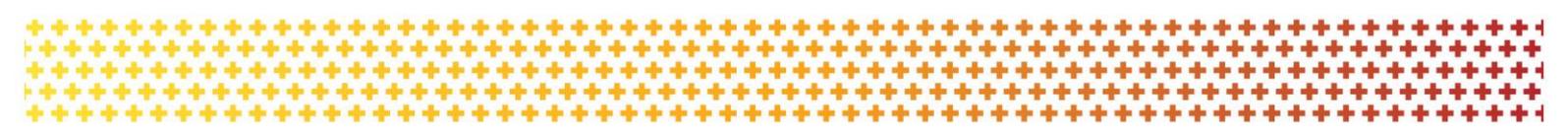
Around 5,000 organisations will receive funding from the 2018 Volunteer Grants round. The standard of applications was high, making the selection process very competitive. The Department assessed applications based on the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

### Selection process

The Department ran an open competitive selection process to ensure all eligible organisations and community groups had an opportunity to apply for funding.

Applications were considered and assessed against the following priorities:

- work with disadvantaged communities, prioritised according to the Socio Economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA)
- support for individuals and communities experiencing disadvantage:
  - engagement of volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds
  - ability to help more than one disadvantaged group
- ratio of volunteers to paid staff
- number of volunteers who will directly use the purchased item/s
- numbers of volunteers
- operating budget
- cost of the requested item/s.



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In addition, feedback was sought from all Members of Parliament (MPs) on applications within their electorate. MP feedback provided the Department with on-the-ground knowledge on the potential community benefit.

Funding was spread across Australia, areas of high needs, people experiencing disadvantage, and a range of organisations and community groups to allow for a broader allocation of funding.

## General feedback for future Volunteer Grants applications

It is important to note that Volunteer Grants is a very competitive community-based funding opportunity and meeting the priorities for funding does not necessarily guarantee success.

The following tips provide guidance in completing applications for Volunteer Grants funding.

### Read supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about Volunteer Grants when applying for funding, especially the grant opportunity documents provided on the Community Grants Hub (the Hub) website.
- The grant opportunity documents are specific to each Volunteer Grants round and contain important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, timeframes and how to apply.
- The application form includes helpful information and details on questions relating to priorities for funding and mandatory information required for the selection process.

### Check the application before it is submitted

- Organisations and community groups are encouraged to check the application form for completeness prior to making an attempt to submit.
  - Check that all fields in the application form have been completed in full.
  - Check that all answers to questions have been entered correctly and saved into the application form.
  - Check that any required attachments have been completed in full and correctly saved into the relevant section/s on the application form.
  - Please note that lack of information may impact on the overall final score of the application.
  - The Community Grants Hub Hotline is available via [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au) to provide assistance. Applications that are not completed correctly and in full may be deemed as non-compliant or ineligible and may not be considered.

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## Submitting an application

- Organisations and community groups are also encouraged to prepare early and allow plenty of time for completion and submission of the application in order to meet the closing date and time specified in the published information on the Hub's [website](#).
  - It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application is received by the Hub on time.
  - If in doubt, you may wish to contact the Community Grants Hub Hotline after the application has been submitted to confirm that it has been received.
  - Application deadlines are in Australian Eastern time zone. Please take this into account to ensure the application is submitted on time.
- Organisations need to clearly establish their legal entity status to ensure that they have the required legal status to apply for Volunteer Grants.
  - Organisations are encouraged to seek information as to whether their legal entity name and/or trading name is registered for use under the ABN they provide on the application form. It is important that applicants applying as an organisation provide the correct ABN associated with the legal name and/or trading name of their organisation.
  - Unincorporated entities and entities that are not associated with an ABN are encouraged to seek an authorised signatory or office holder to apply as an individual representing a community group.
  - Please read the grant opportunity documents to understand eligibility requirements.
  - The Hub may request additional supporting documentation to confirm an organisations entity type and status, e.g. Incorporation Certificate or Trust Deed.
- Applications are limited to one application per volunteer-based community group. If more than one application is received, the last application received is the one assessed.
  - Persons completing an application are encouraged to consult with other members from the organisation or community group to ensure that only one application is submitted.
- Late applications are only considered under exceptional circumstances beyond the applicants control and in line with information on the Hub's [website](#).
  - It is strongly recommended that the application is submitted well before the closing date and time. The Hub cannot accept a request to submit a late application if exceptional or unforeseen circumstances do not exist.