



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Volunteer Grants 2016

Feedback Summary

Overview

The Strengthening Communities Activity aims to build socially cohesive and resilient communities and promote inclusion and participation by disadvantaged people in community life. Funding is provided to organisations and community groups to develop solutions and deliver responsive and integrated services that meet community needs.

Volunteer Grants aims to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers. The grants provide small amounts of money that organisations and community groups can use to help their volunteers. The grants are part of the Government's work to support the volunteers who help disadvantaged Australian communities and encourage inclusion of vulnerable people in community life.

Selection results

There was a very strong response from organisations and community groups across Australia to the Volunteer Grants 2016 call for applications. Around 2,700 organisations and community groups were successful in receiving funding which will assist almost 95,000 volunteers across Australia.

Overall, the standard of applications was high, making the selection process very competitive. All applications received under the Volunteer Grants 2016 selection process were assessed in accordance with the Community Grants Hub (the Hub) policies.

Selection process

An open competitive selection process was used to ensure all eligible organisations and community groups had an equal opportunity to apply and that suitable organisations and community groups were recommended for funding.

Applications were considered and assessed on how strongly they met one or more of the following priorities:

- Organisations and community groups that work with disadvantaged communities, prioritised according to the Socio Economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA)
- Organisations and community groups that support individuals and communities experiencing disadvantage were assessed more highly. This included;
 - Organisations and community groups located in areas affected by a recent major natural disaster (based on disasters listed on the Disaster Assist [website](#)) occurring within the last 12 months up to the closing date for applications;
 - Organisations and community groups which engage volunteers from disadvantaged backgrounds; and
 - Organisations and community groups which help more than one disadvantaged group
- Organisations and community groups that have more volunteers than paid staff
- A higher number of volunteers who will directly use the purchased item/s
- Organisations and community groups with high numbers of volunteers
- Organisations and community groups with a smaller operating budget
- Applications with a lower total cost for the requested item/s

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.

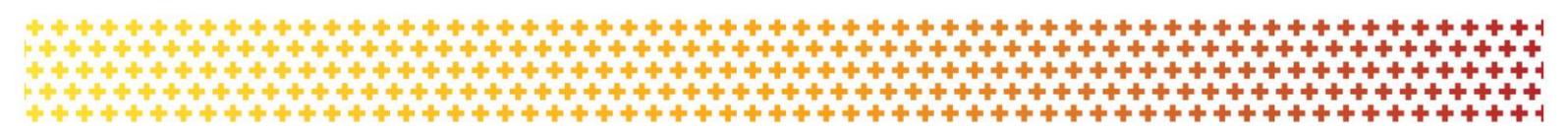
The following tips provide guidance in completing applications for Volunteer Grants funding.

Read supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about Volunteer Grants when applying for funding, especially the Application Pack provided on the Hub's [website](#).
- The Application Pack is specific to each Volunteer Grants round and contains 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 priority for funding and mandatory information required by the Hub for the selection process.

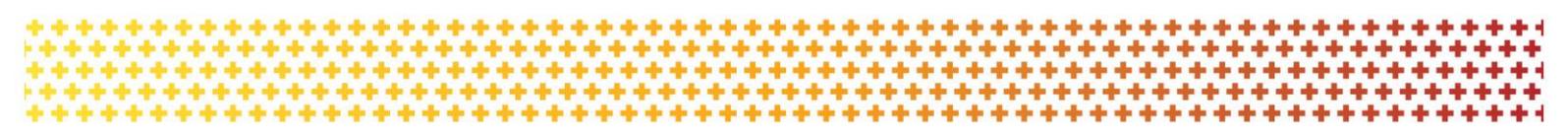
Eligibility and compliance

- In previous Volunteer Grants funding rounds, a community group that was not a legal entity could still receive funding, as long as it was sponsored by an organisation that was an eligible legal entity. This arrangement is no longer relevant. Instead, authorised individuals (e.g. president, chairperson, secretary, treasurer) representing community groups that are not legal entities can now apply on their behalf.

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- 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.
 - 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 on their legal entity status from their finance officer or accountant.
 - It is important that the Application Pack is read 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.

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.
 - Check that written answers are accurate, clear and easy to read, and within the specified word limits.
 - Please note that lack of information may impact on the overall final score of the application.

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- The Grants Support Hotline is available to provide assistance. Applications that are not completed correctly and in full are deemed as non-compliant or ineligible and are not be considered.

Submitting an application

- Organisations and community groups are advised 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 [website](#).
 - It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application is received by the Hub on time.
 - If in doubt, contact with the Grants Support Hotline should be made as soon as possible after the application has been submitted to confirm that the Hub has received the application.
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any postal applications are received by the Hub and are date stamped before the closing date and time. One way of ensuring this, is to register receipt of the application through Australia Post.
 - Australian Eastern time zone differences must be taken into account to ensure the application is submitted on time.
- Late applications are only considered under exceptional circumstances beyond the applicants control and in line with the Late Application Policy on the Hub's [website](#).
 - It is strongly recommended that the application is submitted well before the closing date and time. The Hub will not accept a request to submit a late application if exceptional or unforeseen circumstances do not exist.