



Australian Government

Community  
Grants Hub  
Improving your grant experience



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# Try, Test and Learn Fund: Tranche 2 batch 1

Feedback for applicants

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## Overview

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$79.6 million to finance projects over the four years of the Try, Test and Learn Fund. There will be around \$50 million available to support projects over the course of Tranche 2 of the fund.

The objective of this grant opportunity is to gather evidence to inform future Government policy through small-scale trials of projects to support people at risk of long-term welfare dependence to improve their workforce participation or capacity to work. Tranche 2 has four priority groups but also welcomes ideas to support other groups proposed (and appropriately justified) by applicants. Small scale means that the trails would generally run for six months up to two years with a budget less than \$5 million.

The outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- Gather policy evidence on what works to support people at risk of long-term welfare dependence to improve their workforce participation or capacity to work
- Improve capacity to work (e.g. through training or skills development and/or workforce participation for people involved in the trials)
- Build capacity and collaboration between Government and other stakeholders.

Projects financed through this grant opportunity will be evaluated through a range of methods, including quantitative and qualitative reviews, stakeholder interviews, participant surveys, case studies, program data analysis and secondary data analysis.

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## Selection process

The Community Grants Hub used an open competitive selection process to select multiple providers to deliver projects from the Tranche 2 applications submitted by 31 January 2018, referred to as batch 1.

The Community Grants Hub received 37 applications for funding in batch 1, each of which was required to address the following five selection criteria:

Criterion 1: Demonstrate the target group's need for your project.

Criterion 2: Explain how your project will address the target group's needs.

Criterion 3: Explain how the implementation of your project will achieve the grant objectives.

Criterion 4: Explain how your project will achieve value for money for the Commonwealth.

Criterion 5: Demonstrate your organisation's capability to successfully deliver the project and achieve the grant objectives, including its ability to deliver on time.

Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Project Guidelines.

## Selection results

Eight project proposals were selected from batch 1 to be delivered as part of tranche 2 of the Try Test and Learn Fund.

The applicants of the selected projects provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Project Guidelines. Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.

Applications that were shortlisted as potentially suitable will be reconsidered for funding alongside applications received in later batches. We will notify you when the status of your application changes; either to not successful or to approved for funding.

Applicants who were not successful in being granted funding in this batch may reapply at any time during the Tranche 2 application period.

There is no guarantee that applicants who reapply or are shortlisted will receive funding in future batches, even if applicants address the issues raised by the feedback released over the course of Tranche 2.

## Criterion 1: Demonstrate the target group’s need for the project.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- provide evidence that the people targeted by the project are at risk of long-term welfare dependence (e.g. evidence may include Priority Investment Approach data, research, government reports, empirical evidence, etc.);
- provide evidence of the need for the project among those it would support (e.g. evidence may include Priority Investment Approach data, research, government reports, empirical evidence, etc.); and
- outline how the project addresses an existing service gap and does not duplicate existing services or supports that are available to your targeted group.

Strength	Example
<p><b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated evidence that the people targeted by the project were at risk of long-term welfare dependence</b></p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the risk of long term welfare dependence on the target group by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ citing evidence in the form of statistics, data and reports by Department of Social Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, your organisation, or other significant reference documents</li> <li>○ how the risk has, or would change over time.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated evidence of the need for the project among those it would support</b></p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for the project among those it supported by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ referencing analysis of Centrelink statistical information and findings from other research conducted</li> <li>○ identifying barriers and the current outcomes and limits of current services or supports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project addressed an existing service gap and did not duplicate existing services or supports that are available to the targeted group.</b></p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how projects will address an existing service gap through               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ analysis of surveys or feedback collected on other programs or services and/or research conducted, e.g. Refugee Council of Australia, QCOSS.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• how projects did <b>not</b> duplicate existing services or resources through               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ explaining how the services/resources would be unique, delivered differently or is not being delivered.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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## Criterion 2: Explain how the project will address the target group’s needs.

In responding, applicants were required to demonstrate all of the following:

- outline the services that the project will offer to participants;
- outline how the project will improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work; and
- outline how the project will address barriers to employment that affect the target group.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the services that the project offered to participants</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the services that the project offered to participants by<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ listing services in detail, including the role of the delivery agent and the potential to develop resources</li><li>○ relating how the project will be delivered to the target group, e.g. in terms of the phases/activities or resources.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project would improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the project would improve individuals’ workforce participation or capacity to work, citing evidence (statistics, data, reports)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ which explains and supports how services would improve participant’s capacity to work or workforce participation</li><li>○ explains how participants’ behaviour would change as a result of the services implemented.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project addressed barriers to employment that affected the target group.</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the project addressed barriers to employment that affect the target group, citing evidence (statistics, data, reports) that explains<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ how each barrier to employment such as isolation, skill development and self-esteem affects the target group</li><li>○ how the project would address and/or overcome the barriers.</li></ul></li></ul>



**Criterion 3: Explain how the implementation of the project will achieve the grant objectives.**

In responding, the applicant was required to demonstrate all of the following:

- explain how the project will generate valuable new insights and empirical evidence that could improve Government policy aimed at increasing workforce participation or capacity to work for groups at risk of long-term welfare dependence;
- explain how the project is a new or innovative approach to supporting a group at risk of long-term welfare dependence; and
- explain how the project will be practical to implement and evaluate as a trial within the required timeframe.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project would generate valuable new insights and empirical evidence that could improve Government policy aimed at increasing workforce participation or capacity to work for groups at risk of long-term welfare dependence</b>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how valuable new insights and empirical evidence on workforce participation or capacity to work would be generated that could improve Government policy, by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ listing surveys or other instruments which would be used to capture data</li> <li>○ explaining project evaluation key performance indicators and/or outcomes/goals which would generate data.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated that the project was a new or innovative approach to supporting a group at risk of long-term welfare dependence</b>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the project will be a new or innovative approach by citing evidence in support of claims, for example, of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the transferability of successful approaches</li> <li>○ the difference between other existing programs/services and the project</li> </ul> </li> <li>• how the project differs from similar projects delivered by the applicant</li> <li>• how the project incorporates innovative elements or service delivery mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated that the project would be practical to implement and evaluate as a trial within the required timeframe.</b>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ how the project would be practical to implement as a trial within timeframes,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ giving examples of previous experience of strong networks, established consortiums and established services</li> <li>○ outlining a realistic approach to recruiting participants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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Strength	Example
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ evidencing how timeframes and services were or would be met and delivered, or how resources were utilised to meet objectives</li><li>○ showing how risk would be managed.</li></ul>



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**Criterion 4: Explain how the project will achieve value for money for the Commonwealth.**

In responding, the applicant was required to demonstrate all of the following:

- explain how the requested amount of grant funding is proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by your project; and
- explain how the project will use grant funding efficiently and effectively (i.e. economically).

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the requested amount of grant funding was proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by the project;</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the requested amount of grant funding was proportional to the scale, benefits and number of participants supported by the project, by<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ citing evidence (statistics, data, reports) of the cost per participant including comparison with annual welfare payments and the estimated total number of participants</li><li>○ listing project benefits by describing how participant outcomes would be improved, citing research or experience from DSS and internal data sources</li><li>○ explaining how the scale of the project would change e.g. target locations, or participant numbers etc.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how grant funding would be used efficiently and effectively (i.e. economically).</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how grant funding would be used efficiently and effectively, (i.e. economically), by<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ listing multiple factors that would improve the start-up or completion of timeframes such as in-house contributions and other in-kind support</li><li>○ providing examples of previous experience on other projects, showing how funding was used to save money, resources or time.</li></ul></li></ul>

**Criterion 5: Demonstrate the organisation’s capability to successfully deliver the – project and achieve the grant objectives, including its ability to deliver on time.**

In responding, the applicant was required to

- outline key staff that will manage and deliver the project, including: the amount of time they will devote; their qualifications; their skills; and their experience, including relevant experience working with the identified participants in the proposed location; and
- demonstrate the organisation’s experience in successfully delivering projects, and explain how this experience will support the organisation to deliver its project and achieve the grant objectives, including generating measurable outcomes in two years or less.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the key staff that would manage and deliver the project, including the amount of time they would devote; their qualifications; their skills; and their experience, including relevant experience working with the identified participants in the proposed location;</b>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how key staff would manage and deliver the project by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ listing attributes of key staff requested i.e. time to be devoted per participant or period, relevant experience and qualifications held</li> <li>○ describing the reporting required by the organisation’s governance structure</li> <li>○ exemplifying other factors impacting the project, e.g. the use of experienced volunteers as mentors, or administrators shared with other projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated experience in successfully delivering projects, and explained how this experience would support the delivery of the project and achieve grant objectives, including general measurable outcomes in two years or less.</b>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• experience in successfully delivering projects by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ listing e.g. participant outcomes or other measures of success or acknowledgement achieved, e.g. national awards or industry recognition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• how this experience would support delivery of the project and achieve grant objectives, including general measurable outcomes in two years or less, by               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ describing, e.g. project management systems used in terms of what outcomes were measured and timeframes required on past projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>