



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



National Disability Conference Initiative 2018-19

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The 2018-19 National Disability Conference Initiative is offered under the Disability and Carer Support Activity and provides grants to conference organisers to enable them to help people with disability to participate in nationally focused disability-related conferences held in Australia.

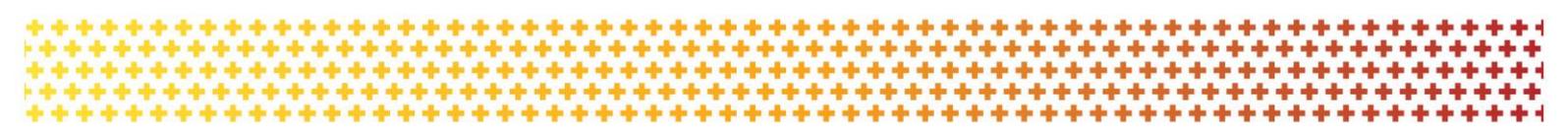
Disability-related conferences are considered to be conferences for which at least half of the schedule focuses on people with disability and issues that affect the lifetime wellbeing and social participation of people with disability.

A 'nationally-focused' conference is considered a conference:

- (1) for which the majority of the conference schedule focuses on national (rather than state, local or regional) issues; and
- (2) which is open to participants from across Australia (rather than being restricted to participants in a particular state or territory).

Eligible applicants were able to apply for funding of up to \$10,000 for disability-related conferences with a national focus planned for the 2018-19 financial year to:

- assist people with disability with the costs of attending conferences, (for example, conference fees, accommodation, travel for domestic participants); and/or
 - assist family members or carers providing support to a person with disability attending a conference (for example with costs associated with conference fees, accommodation, travel for domestic participants); and/or
 - facilitate access so that people with disability can participate in conferences (for example, by funding accessible materials, Auslan interpreters, assistive computer devices or software, aids or appliances or other costs of ensuring venue accessibility).
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Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub used an open selection process to select providers to deliver the National Disability Conference Initiative 2018-19.

The Community Grants Hub received 56 applications for funding, each of which was required to address the following three selection criteria:

- Criterion 1
Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity (assistance for people with disability to participate in your 2018-19 national disability-related conference).
- Criterion 2
Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Disability and Carer Support Activity objectives for people with disability.
- Criterion 3
Demonstrate how grant funding will be used to provide value for money.

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 Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Selection Results

Thirty three organisations were selected to deliver National Disability Conference Initiatives.

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



Criterion 1

Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity (assistance for people with disability to participate in your 2018-19 national disability-related conference).

In providing a response to this criterion, you **must** include:

- how the conference is disability-related;
- how the conference has a national focus; and
- the specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference (for example travel for domestic participants, accommodation, live captioning, accessible materials, etc. and how this represents value for money).

Strength	Example
1.1. Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the conference is disability-related	<p>Strong responses described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The conference schedule and how it relates to people with disability, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ more than 50% of the conference schedule will focus on people with disability and issues that affect their lifetime wellbeing and social participation.○ conference themes, topics of keynote speakers, etc., have a focus on people with disability.• The involvement or participation of people with a disability, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how the target group/people with disability will be represented or involved in the conference, as speakers, panel members, etc.• How the conference is accessible to/inclusive of people with a disability, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how it will cater for delegates' accessibility requirements, such as by canvassing needs of delegates or by having a range of presentation formats.○ The conference organising committee/ relevant panels, consultations/calls for papers, include or involve people with disability.• The disability type, its nature, characteristics, prevalence, and related issues, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ describes specific barriers and issues.○ explains why it is important for people with the disability in question to attend the conference.



Strength	Example
1.2. Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the conference has a national focus	<p>Strong responses described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the conference schedule/agenda focuses on national, rather than state or regional issues, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how conference themes have a national focus, or provides examples of topics/ agenda items to demonstrate a national focus.• How attendance/representation is open to participants from across Australia, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how the conference is open to participants from all Australian states and territories.○ The conference location rotates between jurisdictions, providing opportunities for participation nationally.• Evidence of broad national coverage, promotion and accessibility, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how the event will be promoted nationally, such as through Facebook, websites, newsletters.○ use of digital technologies such as live streaming, recordings, to increase accessibility; or record or digitize the conference via video/audio recordings or PDF PP slides.
1.3. Strong applications clearly demonstrated the specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference.	<p>Strong responses described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The range and types of assistance to be subsidised, and how they will assist the target group to participate, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ outlines specific supports and services, and describe how the grant will subsidise relevant costs, such as costs of travel, accommodation, mobility needs, transport, registration fees, and general care practices.○ identify other items the grant funding will cover, including the production of conference-related resources, AUSLAN translators, accessible alternative formats and captioning services; or by providing a support person or “safe space” for people with developmental disability, etc.



Criterion 2

Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the Disability and Carer Support Activity objectives for people with disability.

In providing a response to this criterion, you **must** include:

- your organisation’s capacity and capability to administer the grant; and
- the relevant experience and skills of the members of your organisation in delivering the project

Strength	Example
2.1. Strong applications clearly demonstrated organisation’s capacity and capability to administer the grant.	<p>Strong responses described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong governance structures/accountability and reporting processes, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ oversight and accountability structures and processes, including risk management, an understanding of compliance with relevant laws or regulatory frameworks.○ has a robust project and financial management infrastructure in place.• Organisational capacity, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ has an organising committee with skillsets relevant to the project, including financial and project management.○ has a dedicated grants/contracts team, and shows how this fits within its organisational structure.• Previous experience administering grants/ securing outcomes, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ similar services provided in the past, and how these relate to the grant objectives.○ taken the lead or partnered with other organisation(s) to successfully deliver similar projects.



Strength	Example
2.2. Strong applications clearly demonstrated relevant experience and skills of the members of your organisation in delivering the project.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant skills and experience of staff, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ identified key staff involved with the project; their roles, relevant skills/ qualifications and/or experience working on similar projects.○ where key organisational staff are not available, has identified which third party or external contractors it will use, and any relevant skills they possess.



Criterion 3

Demonstrate how grant funding will be used to provide value for money.

Strength	Example
3. Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the grants funding will be used to provide value for money.	<p>Strong responses described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the grants funding will be complemented by other sources of funding or assistance, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ indicates what sponsorships or discounts/ other benefits are available, for example, by leveraging its relationships with other organisations, to secure free or discounted venues, free promotion, etc.○ outlines the involvement of volunteers.• How assistance will be targeted, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ considers financial and personal circumstances and evidence, as part of its process for prioritising or allocating financial assistance.○ ensure grant funds maximise the participation of people with disability, or give due consideration to rural and remote delegates, by applying specific criteria to financial assistance applications.• How conference learnings/benefits will be extended, or disseminated more broadly, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ assist participants in disseminating information beyond the conference, through newsletter articles and social media, live streaming/recordings, etc.• Benefits to the target group, for example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ highlight the efficient sharing of resources; unique networking or educational opportunities, or opportunities for personal growth and professional development provided by the conference.