

Questions and Answers

National Disability Conference Initiative 2018-19

1. How can I apply for National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) funding?

The National Disability Conference Initiative grant opportunity documents can be found on the [Funding Open for Application](#) page. You can [subscribe to receive alerts](#) when new information is made available (DSS accepts no responsibility to inform applicants of any changes if they do not subscribe to receive alerts and it is the responsibility of organisations applying for grants to keep informed of new information throughout the application period).

2. Who can apply for the National Disability Conference Initiative 2018-19?

To satisfy eligibility requirements, applicants to the National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) 2018-19 must fall into one of the following categories:

- Incorporated Associations (incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc.' in their legal name),
- Cooperative (also incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name),
- Company (incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (may be a proprietary company (limited by shares or by guarantee) or a public company),
- Indigenous Corporations (incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006),
- Partnership,
- Trustees on behalf of a Trust,
- Statutory Entity, or
- Consortium with a lead organisation.

3. My organisation has applied for incorporation but it has not been finalised yet. Can I still apply?

No. If the organisation is not incorporated at the time of applying for a grant, the organisation is not eligible for NDCI grant funding.

4. My organisation does not have any public liability insurance. How can I apply for funding?

You may be able to work with an established organisation that has public liability insurance, to develop a project proposal. The established organisation with the public liability insurance cover would be responsible for submitting the application, receiving and managing the grant, reporting on progress and making sure the project is completed.

5. What can I use the NDCI grant for?

The NDCI aims to help eligible conference organisers to improve the inclusion and participation of people with disability at nationally-focused, disability-related conferences in Australia.

Eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for disability-related conferences with a national focus planned for 2018-19 to:

- assist people with disability with the costs of attending conferences, (for example, conference fees, accommodation, travel for domestic participants),
- 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), 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).

Funding may not be used for:

- conferences which are not nationally-focused (refer to Question 6),
- conferences which are not disability-related (refer to Question 7),
- a person without disability unless they are a family member or carer who is attending specifically to support a person with disability to participate,
- international travel, international conferences or international participants,
- presenters/speakers without disability to present at a conference,
- general administrative costs such as advertising, telephone, printing/publishing, staff expenses, catering or venue hire, and
- audio-visual expenses/live-streaming expenses, unless expressly provided to enable the inclusion and participation of people with disability.

6. What is the definition of a 'nationally-focused' conference?

A 'nationally-focused' conference is a conference:

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

7. What is the definition of a 'disability-related conference'?

'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.

8. Is a grant available to a carer if the person with a disability is not attending?

No. NDCI funding only extends to family members or carers if they are accompanying the person with a disability to provide support to that person during the conference. The person with disability needs to be participating in the conference.

9. Where can I find information about any other funding to assist a person with disability to attend a conference?

The [Australian Government Grant finder](#) is available to search for disability conference funding and provides information about government grants and assistance for individuals, businesses and communities.

10. If an application from an eligible organisation is approved, when will the NDCI funding be paid?

Payment of the approved amount in the Grant Agreement will be made on execution of the Agreement.

11. Can I apply for the 2018-19 National Disability Conference Initiative as an individual?

No. Individuals are not eligible to apply for the National Disability Conference Initiative. You will need to contact the conference organisers to find out if assistance is available to attend the conference.

12. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. To treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the progress of your application.

13. If I am not able to submit my application by the due date, can the Community Grants Hub grant an extension?

Applications for this funding round must be submitted by 2pm AEDT Tuesday 20 March 2018. The Community Grants Hub, on behalf of DSS, may reject any application that is lodged after the stated closing date of a grant application process.

If an application is late or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date, the Community Grants Hub may determine that there were exceptional circumstances beyond the applicant's control that meant they could not meet the deadline. Examples of exceptional circumstances could include, but may not be limited to:

- Community Grants Hub infrastructure failures,
- natural disasters,
- power outages affecting the ability of the applicant to submit their application by the deadline, and
- death or disability of key personnel.

Information on the Community Grants Hub [late application policy](#) is available on the Community Grants Hub website.

14. Is there is any age restriction on this grant?

No age restrictions apply to National Disability Conference Initiative grants. Further general information regarding eligibility criteria can be found in the *National Disability Conference Initiative Guidelines*.