



# National Disability Strategy – National Disability Conference Initiative 2021–22

## Questions and Answers

### 1. What is the National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI)?

This NDCI is an open, competitive selection process, for eligible organisations. The NDCI has two discrete grant activity streams to be conducted concurrently in 2021–22:

#### **Activity Stream 1: Disability Conference Activity (DCA)**

Providing grants to disability conference organisers to help people with disability participate in nationally-focused, disability-related, conferences held in Australia. Grants will support eligible conference organisers to provide accessibility measures that will maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at their conference.

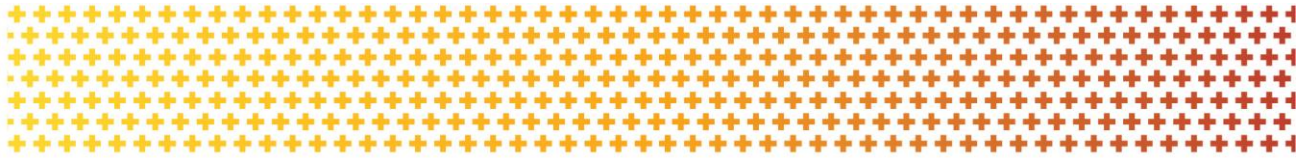
#### **Activity Stream 2: Mainstream Conference Inclusion Activity (MCIA)**

Providing grants to disability organisations to collaborate with mainstream conference organisers to integrate content and issues relevant to people with disability into mainstream conferences. This approach will be relevant to a broad range of conference types (for example, sport/recreation, tourism, arts, environment, information technology, employment, education, health, housing, transport) that are expected to contain content that aligns with the outcome areas in the [National Disability Strategy](#).

### 2. How can I apply for NDCI funding?

The NDCI grant opportunity documents can be found on the [Funding Open for Application](#) page of the Community Grants Hub website. Before completing the funding application the applicant must read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines to see whether they are eligible for funding.

Organisations and individuals can register to receive updates on grant opportunities including for the NDCI by signing up to the [Community Grants Hub](#) and [GrantConnect](#). It is the responsibility of organisations applying for grants to keep informed of new information on the Community Grants Hub and GrantConnect websites throughout the application period.



## **Activity Stream 1 – Disability Conference Activity (DCA)**

Note: The following questions are relevant to Activity Stream 1 – DCA only.

### **3. What can I use the DCA grant for?**

Eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) for disability-related conferences with a national focus planned for 2021–2022 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)
- facilitate access so that people with disability can participate in conferences (for example, by funding accessible materials, assistive computer devices or software, technology enhancements so people with disability can participate remotely, Auslan interpreters, 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 4)
- conferences which are not disability-related (refer to Question 5)
- 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.

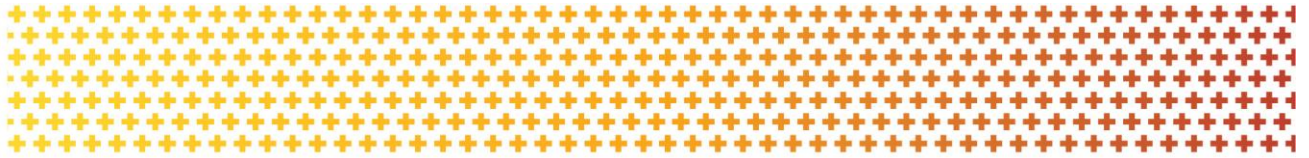
### **4. What is the definition of a ‘nationally-focused’ conference?**

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
- which is open to participants from across Australia (rather than being restricted to participants in a particular state or territory).

### **5. 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.



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

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

## **7. Who can apply for the 2021–2022 DCA?**

To be eligible for funding the applicant **must be the conference organiser** for a conference to be held in the 2021–2022 financial year. In addition, the applicant (conference organiser) must be an eligible entity as set out in the following categories:

- Indigenous Corporation
- Company
- Cooperative
- Incorporated Association
- Statutory Entity
- Trustee on behalf of a Trust
- Unincorporated Association.

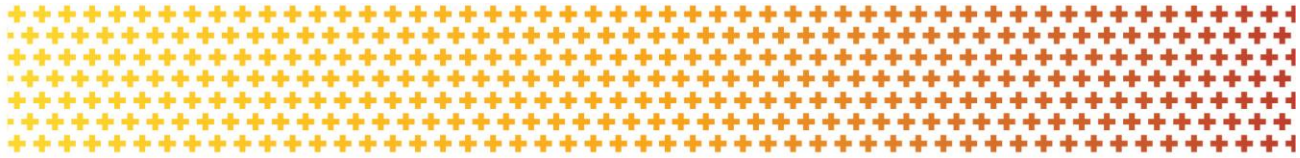
## **Activity Stream 2 – Mainstream Conference Inclusion Activity (MCIA)**

Note: The following questions are relevant to Activity Stream 2 – MCIA only.

## **8. Who can apply for a grant under the MCIA?**

To be eligible to apply for this activity stream you must be a Disabled Peoples Organisation or Families Organisation (refer to Question 9). You must also be one of the following entity types:

- Indigenous Corporation
- Company
- Cooperative
- Incorporated Association
- Statutory Entity
- Trustee on behalf of a Trust
- Unincorporated Association.



**9. What is the definition of Disabled Peoples Organisations/Families Organisations?**

Disabled Peoples Organisations/Families Organisations (DPO/FOs) are organisations that include all of the following:

- actively demonstrate their commitment to the Social Model of Disability, which seeks to remove barriers for people with disability to access mainstream services and live an ordinary life
- are run by and for people with disability and/or their families
- are led and controlled by people with disability and/or their families with a minimum membership of 50% of people with a disability and/or their families making up the organisation’s board, staff, volunteers or members.

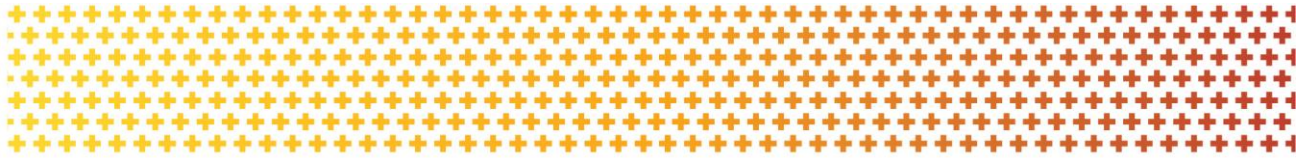
**10. What can I use the MCIA grant for?**

Eligible applicants may apply for funding of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) to:

- arrange, develop or run disability topics/content/presentations/workshops that will be integrated into a mainstream conference and/or
- improve accessibility and facilitate inclusion of people with disability so they can participate in mainstream conferences (for example, by funding accessible materials, assistive computer devices or software, technology enhancements so people with disability can participate remotely, Auslan interpreters, aids or appliances or other costs of ensuring venue accessibility) and/or
- provide assistance to a person presenting disability-related content at a conference with the costs related to attending the conference (for example, conference fees, accommodation, travel (domestic travel only) and if required:
- provide assistance for family members or carers providing support to a person with disability to attend a conference (for example, with costs associated with conference fees, accommodation, travel for domestic participants).

**11. Can I apply for a grant under the MCIA before having an agreement in place with a mainstream conference organiser?**

No. Prior to submitting an application under MCIA, DPO/FOs will need to have proposed collaboration arrangements in place with a mainstream conference organiser pending a successful grant outcome.



**Note: The following questions are relevant to Activity Streams 1 and 2**

Application process

**12. Can I apply for both activity streams?**

Yes. Eligible organisations are able to apply for one or both activity streams, however you can only submit one application per stream for this grant opportunity. If more than one application per activity stream is submitted, the latest accepted application form in each stream will progress.

**13. What if I am having issues accessing or completing the online application?**

Please contact the Community Grants Hub if you are having difficulty accessing or completing the form. Please email your enquiries to [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au) or call 1800 020 28 (option 1) or TTY 1800 555 677.

**14. What do I do if I find that I've made a mistake in my application?**

If you find a mistake in your application after it has been submitted, you should immediately contact the Community Grants Hub by phone on 1800 020 283 (option 1) or by email at [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au).

The Community Grants Hub may ask you for more information, as long as it does not change the substance of your application. The Community Grants Hub does not have to accept any additional information or requests from applicants to correct applications after the closing date and time.

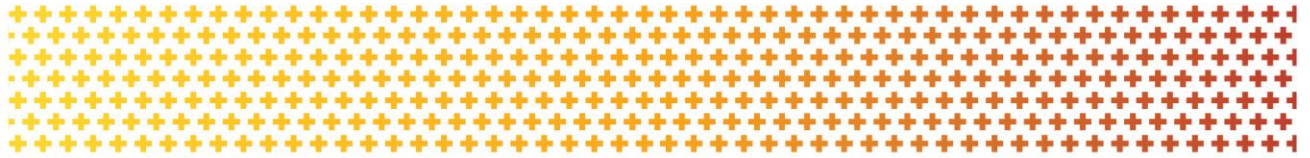
**15. Who is undertaking the assessment of applications?**

The Community Grants Hub will review applications against eligibility criteria. Only eligible applications move to the next stage and will be considered through an open competitive grant process. The Department of Social Services (the department) will assess the applications.

The department will provide advice to a Selection Advisory Panel on the outcomes of the assessment and other matters, including risk. The Selection Advisory Panel considers the overall value with relevant money of proposals and provides a list of recommended applicants to fund to the decision maker for final decision. Refer to section 8 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

**16. Are the grant applications assessed against other applications?**

Yes. Grant applications are assessed on how well they address the selection criteria, if it represents value with relevant money, and how it compares to other applications.



### **17. 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. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the status of individual applications during the assessment process.

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

Certain non-legal entity types can be considered eligible for the NDCI grant opportunity. The following non-legal entity type is eligible for this grant opportunity:

- Unincorporated associations.

### **19. Can I apply for the 2021–22 NDCI as an individual?**

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

### **20. Can a group of organisations apply for funding?**

Applications from consortia are acceptable, as long as you have a lead applicant who is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the lists above, noting that:

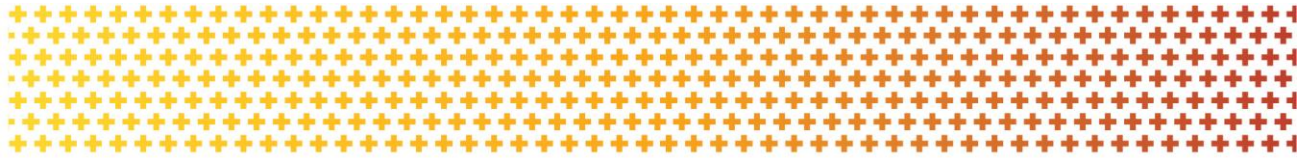
- For **Activity Stream 1 – DCA**, the lead applicant must be the organiser of the conference specified in the application.
- For **Activity Stream 2 – MCIA**, DPO/FOs or consortium applying for grant funding in this activity stream should confirm with their mainstream conference partner that they are not collaborating with any other DPO/FO or consortium.

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

You may be able to develop a conference proposal with an established organisation that has public liability insurance. The established organisation, with the public liability insurance cover, would be responsible for submitting the application as the conference organiser, receiving and managing the grant, making sure the project is completed and complying with the terms of the letter of agreement.

### **22. Can I use the funding to attend an overseas conference?**

No. NDCI funding can only be used for conferences held in Australia.



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**23. 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.

**24. 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 11:00 pm AEDT Wednesday 20 January 2021. The Community Grants Hub, on behalf of the department, may reject any application that is lodged after the stated closing date.

The Community Grants Hub will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances preventing the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles. Information on the Community Grants Hub [late application policy](#) is available on the Community Grants Hub website.

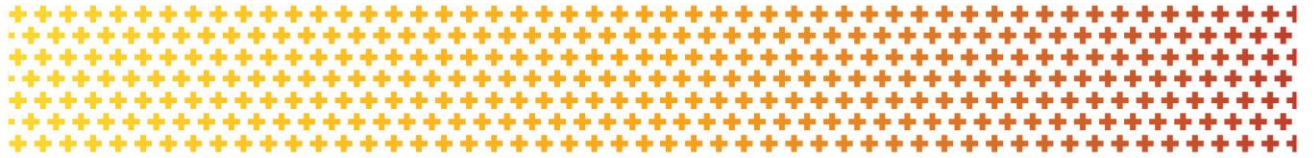
**25. What feedback will be available for this funding round?**

A feedback summary will be published on the Community Grants Hub website to provide all organisations with easy to access information about the grant selection process and the main strengths and areas for improving applications. Individual feedback on applications is not available for this grant opportunity.

Other

**26. 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.



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**27. What happens if my organisation is affected by further COVID-19 developments or a natural disaster?**

If your funding application is successful, and you experience delays due to COVID-19 or a natural disaster, we will provide flexibility and work with you to enable you to progress your activity within the parameters of the program. Any agreed changes will be reflected in individual grant agreements.

**28. Where should I go for further information?**

Please email your enquiries to [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au).