



Australian Government

**Community  
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# Information, Linkages and Capacity Building Economic and Community Participation Program Social and Community Participation Stream

## Feedback for applicants

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### Overview

The Social and Community Participation (SCP) Stream aims to support and enable people with disability, and ensure their families and carers are supported to participate in, contribute to and benefit from the same community activities as everyone else.

This grant round seeks to support community inclusion for people with disability, their families and carers during the current COVID-19 restrictive social environment and through recovery support to reengage in community participation as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

This grant opportunity is intended to provide for inclusive practices to create opportunities for people with disability to participate in community life, with a focus on arts, culture, sport and recreation.

Up to \$35.9 million (GST exclusive) over 12 months is available for this grant opportunity, starting from 10 June 2021 and ceasing on 9 June 2022.

The application period opened on 28 October 2020 and closed on 8 December 2020. Applicants could apply for up to a maximum of \$50,000 for a Small Grant and a maximum of \$350,000 for a Large Grant in funding over the funding period. Successful organisations may have received less funding than requested.

This feedback is provided to help grant applicants understand what made a strong application for this grant round, and how to strengthen future applications.

### Selection Process

An open competitive selection process was used, allowing a range of organisations that meet the eligibility criteria to apply.

Applications were first screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

All eligible and compliant applications were then assessed against the assessment criteria. Information on what made a strong response to each criteria is provided below.

Following assessment, a Selection Advisory Panel (the panel) with a mix of relevant policy, program and delivery expertise from the Department of Social Services made final funding recommendations.

474 applications were received, making the selection of successful grant recipients competitive.

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## Selection Results

The panel recommended applicants based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria and their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Specifically, the panel recommended applicants that best:

- aligns with the objectives of the Social and Community Participation grant
- demonstrated the need for services in their area
- demonstrated the applicant's experience and expertise necessary to deliver the program objectives
- will address known gaps in the disability sector.

The panel recommended 135 organisations to the delegate for funding. The delegate made the final decision to approve the grant, including the grant funding amount to be awarded.

## General Feedback

The following is general feedback that is relevant to all applications:

- Demonstrating the need – the case for funding would have been strengthened if the applicant had provided more specific details of the need their project would address, including providing activity deliverables and supporting evidence of the need.
- Demonstrating effectiveness – the case for funding would have been strengthened if the applicant had provided evidence that the proposed approach would be effective and contribute to improved social connectedness and program outcomes as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- Alignment to the SCP grant objectives – the activities proposed in some applications did not align with the grant objectives as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and/or were not eligible activities. To avoid this happening in future, applicants are encouraged to closely read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines to determine if the proposed activity is eligible for funding.
- Several applicants appeared to have applied for funding under another Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) stream, meaning that their responses did not align with the relevant criteria.
- The case for funding would have been strengthened if the applicant had addressed all sub-criteria in their responses and utilised the majority of the allowable word count.
- Value for money could have been better addressed and supported with relevant evidence.
- Major capital works applications were not eligible for funding. However the applications seeking to modify existing equipment or infrastructure for the benefit of people with disability were considered on merit within the grant opportunity.



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## Criteria Specific Feedback

The following feedback outlines how individual responses to specific assessment criteria could have been strengthened.

### Criterion 1

**Describe the need and suitability of the proposed social and community participation activities and why these are needed in the proposed locations.**

The response is to demonstrate this through identifying:

- the activities to be delivered (what will be done?)
- the people that the activities are expected to support (who will it assist?)
- where the activities will be delivered and why these are needed in the proposed location/s.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the activities to be delivered</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ what the activity to be delivered was in a clear and logical manner</li><li>▪ identified the issue being addressed and why it is important</li><li>▪ milestones for when the activity will be completed within the 12 month duration.</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the people that the activities are expected to support</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ identified who the activity will assist, primarily benefiting people with disability</li><li>▪ indicated how the activity will support priority cohort/s.</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated where the activities will be delivered and why these are needed in the proposed location/s</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ identified the location/s where the activities will be delivered</li><li>▪ identified a direct need for this activity in this location.</li></ul>



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## Criterion 2

**Describe the outcomes expected from the social and community participation activities and how they will improve the participation of people with disability in the community.**

The response is to demonstrate this through identifying:

- how the activities will achieve outcomes and result in people with disability being able to participate and contribute in the community
- evidence of the current capacity (capability and opportunity) of the target community and how the progress and success of the activities will be monitored and evaluated
- how the project outcomes will be made sustainable beyond the life of the grant agreement.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the activities will achieve outcomes and result in people with disability being able to participate and contribute in the community</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ described how the activity will result in more people with disability participating in social and community life</li><li>▪ identified a clear link between the outcomes described and the proposed activity.</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated evidence of the current capacity (capability and opportunity) of the target community and how the progress and success of the activities will be monitored and evaluated</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ described an understanding of the target group and an understanding as to what extent can the target group currently participate in social and community life</li><li>▪ described how will the proposed activity create a change for the target group</li><li>▪ provided evidence of collaboration with people with disability and how they contributed to development of the proposal</li><li>▪ identified evaluation methodology relevant to the proposed activity and did not just list evaluation activities.</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project outcomes will be made sustainable beyond the life of the grant agreement</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ demonstrated how the proposed activity will be sustainable after the life of the agreement.</li></ul>



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### Criterion 3

#### **Demonstrate the organisation’s experience and capability in successfully implementing, managing and delivering social and community participation activities.**

The response is to demonstrate this through identifying:

- the extent to which the activities will be developed, designed and delivered in collaboration with people with disability (including employment)
- the role of the organisation’s management (such as board or committee members) in oversight of the activities, as well as the management/implementation of the activities
- any partnerships, collaborations or established relationships that may be utilised or leveraged on.

Strength	Example
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the extent to which the activities will be developed, designed and delivered in collaboration with people with disability (including employment)</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how will people with disability will be involved in the planning, delivery and oversight of project</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the role of the organisation’s management (such as board or committee members) in oversight of the activities, as well as the management/implementation of the activities</b>	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ described the organisation’s management structure for governance and oversight, including relevant skill sets of staff and members</li><li>▪ provided evidence of planning and detailed project management</li></ul>
<b>Strong applications clearly demonstrated any partnerships, collaborations or established relationships that may be utilised or leveraged on</b>	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ partnerships and collaborations of the project, how the organisation would use its existing networks to improve the outcomes of the proposal</li></ul>

**Please note: individual feedback will not be provided.**