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# National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020 to 2025 Grant Program – Round One

General Feedback for applicants

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## Overview

The National Security and Criminal Justice Program: National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020 to 2025 Grant Program (the program) provides grants to civil society, business and industry groups, and academia to deliver community-based projects to combat modern slavery in Australia and research to support evidence-based policy on modern slavery in Australia.

The program will support the implementation of Australia's National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020 to 2025 (the National Action Plan) and sits within the Department of Home Affairs Portfolio's Outcome 1 (Program 1.7 National Security and Criminal Justice), which is focused on the protection of Australia's sovereignty, security and safety.

The Round One grant opportunity (this grant opportunity) aims to support and fund work to actively prevent and combat all forms of modern slavery in Australia.

The objective of this grant opportunity is to deliver projects that advance specific actions linked to the National Action Plan's 5 Strategic Priorities and contribute to achieving its key outcomes.

Reflecting priorities and actions set out under the National Action Plan, the grant opportunity has 4 streams:

- modern slavery in Australia and the global supply chains of Australian businesses
- criminal labour exploitation
- forced marriage
- research.

The funding round for the program opened 10 March 2021 and closed on 15 April 2021.

The grant opportunity received 24 eligible applications. Following the Delegate's decision, 7 applications were selected for funding.

Successful applications were of a high standard. All eligible applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs) and outlined in the selection process below.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what was generally considered a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criteria for this grant opportunity.

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## Assessment process

The Australian Border Force used a targeted competitive grant selection process to recommend 7 organisations to the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs for approval under Round One of the program.

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

The grant opportunity consists of 4 funding streams:

- **Stream one:** Modern slavery in Australia and the global supply chains of Australian businesses
- **Stream two:** Criminal Labour Exploitation
- **Stream three:** Forced Marriage
- **Stream four:** Research

The grant opportunity received 8 applications for Stream one, 3 applications for Stream two, 5 applications for Stream three and 8 applications for Stream four (24 applications in total). Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

### **Streams one – 3 Selection Criterion:**

Criterion 1 – Preventing and combating modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses

Criterion 2 – Need within a particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality

Criterion 3 – Expertise, capability and capacity

### **Stream four Selection Criterion:**

Criterion 1 – Preventing and combating modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses

Criterion 2 – Research methodology and collection of primary data

Criterion 3 – Expertise, capability and capacity

Applicants were recommended based on the strength of their responses to the selection criterion, comparison to other applications, and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## Selection results

Seven organisations were approved by the Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety and Multicultural Affairs for funding under Round One of the program.

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

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## Streams 1-3

### Criterion 1

#### Preventing and combating modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses

Describe how the proposed grant project will contribute to preventing and combating modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses (40% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- outline the project you intend to undertake and detail how many people you expect will participate in, or benefit (both directly and indirectly) from the project
- describe how the project will deliver one or more of the outputs listed in sections 2 and 2.1 of the guidelines
- describe the delivery method of the project, identify the proposed geographical location/s for implementation, and/or for any digital components to describe the intended audience and reach
- describe the method of measuring the success of the project. Consideration should be given to changes effected in the cohort, community or group, such as the level of engagement, usage or impact
- describe how you would safely manage possible reports of modern slavery or reports of other abuse received in the course of the project.

Strength:	Quality responses clearly provided:
Strong applications clearly described how many people are expected to participate in, or benefit from the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a specific number of people who would directly benefit from the project</li><li>▪ a significant number of people who would directly or indirectly benefit from the project</li><li>▪ the significant and long term benefits of the project to the intended audience.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly described how the project would deliver one or more of the outputs listed in sections 2 and 2.1 of the guidelines.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how benefits of the projects were clearly linked to the grant objectives and outputs of the grant opportunity.</li></ul>



<b>Strength:</b>	<b>Quality responses clearly provided:</b>
Strong applications clearly described the delivery method of the project, identified proposed geographic locations/s for implementation and/or any digital components to describe the intended audience and reach of products.	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ specific geographic locations that would benefit from the project</li> <li>▪ varied geographic locations that would benefit from the project</li> <li>▪ a clear process for delivery based on previous successful projects</li> <li>▪ plans to address potential delivery issues relating to COVID-19.</li> </ul>
Strong applications clearly described the method of measuring success of the project, with consideration given to changes effected in the cohort, community or group, such as the level of engagement, usage or impact.	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a clear process for monitoring and evaluation to ensure the successful delivery of the project</li> <li>▪ a focus on building staff capability to ensure the delivery of the program in the long term</li> <li>▪ the measures of success for evaluating the effectiveness of the project</li> </ul>
Strong applications clearly described how possible reports of modern slavery or reports of other abuse would be safely managed in the course of the project.	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a clear process for managing potential modern slavery reports in culturally sensitive ways</li> <li>▪ methods for risk and safety assessments to ensure the safety of potential victims</li> </ul>

## **Criterion 2**

### **Need within a particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality**

Demonstrate the need for the grant project in the particular cohort/vulnerable group/ community/locality (30% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- describe the characteristics of the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality your project seeks to target. Characteristics may include the size of a community, their geographical location, ethnic, cultural or religious background, and visa subclass/citizenship status
- describe and provide evidence of the issues facing the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality your project seeks to target
- explain how your project is an innovative or previously proven successful approach to engaging with the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality
- outline how your project will involve individuals, groups or communities in the design, implementation and/or evaluation of the project.



Strength:	Quality responses clearly provided:
<p>Strong applications clearly described the characteristics of the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality the project sought to target.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the specific target cohort and any relevant sensitivities.</li> </ul>
<p>Strong applications clearly described the issues facing the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality the project sought to target.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the challenges facing the target cohort with evidence to support this, and detail of how the project will address these challenges</li> <li>▪ the vulnerabilities of the target cohort with evidence and how these are accommodated by the project.</li> </ul>
<p>Strong applications clearly described how the project is an innovative or previously proven successful approach to engaging with the particular cohort/vulnerable group/community/locality.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ project proposals that were new and innovative to an Australian context</li> <li>▪ previous experience and success delivering similar projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Strong applications clearly described how the project would involve individuals, groups or communities in the design, implementation and/or evaluation of the project.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the specific cohorts to be directly involved in the project</li> <li>▪ the specific roles the cohorts would play in the project</li> <li>▪ the benefits of including the cohorts in the project.</li> </ul>



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### Criterion 3

#### Expertise, capability and capacity

Demonstrate your organisation’s expertise, capability and capacity to successfully undertake the grant project on schedule and achieve value with relevant money (30% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- demonstrate your organisation’s success in delivering, or ability to deliver, similar projects on schedule
- outline the relevant skills, qualifications and/or experience of project staff
- outline the risks associated with implementing your project and explain how you will mitigate and manage the risks
- demonstrate how the project represents value with relevant money in achieving the outcomes of the grant opportunity.

<b>Strength:</b>	<b>Quality responses clearly provided:</b>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the applicant’s success in delivering or ability to deliver similar projects on schedule.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ past projects undertaken that were completed on schedule with evidence of success</li><li>▪ quality frameworks which ensured compliance with legislative standards in business administration and service operation.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the applicant’s relevant skills, qualifications and/or experience of project staff.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ highly relevant qualifications and experiences of all staff involved with the project.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the risks associated with implementing the project and explained how the risks will be mitigated and managed.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ appropriate risks associated with the project</li><li>▪ a method for undertaking risk assessments</li><li>▪ an appropriate strategy to manage and mitigate specific risks identified.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project represented value for money in achieving the grant opportunity outcomes.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how the project offered maximum impact through coverage, targeted need, risk, applicant expertise and cost effectiveness and efficiency.</li></ul>



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## Stream 4

### Criterion 1

#### Preventing and combating modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses

Demonstrate how your research will inform evidence-based policy responses to address modern slavery in Australia and/or the global supply chains of Australian businesses (40% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- explain how your research will make a valuable contribution to knowledge and address policy relevant needs in the area of modern slavery in Australia
- describe how the project will contribute to the key priorities listed under stream four in section 2.1 of the guidelines
- confirm the proposed grant project will produce the required reports and products listed under stream four in section 2.1 of the guidelines.

Strength:	Quality responses clearly provided:
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the applicant's research would make a valuable contribution to knowledge and address policy relevant needs in the area of modern slavery in Australia.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how the research would address a critical policy need supported by evidence</li><li>▪ how the research would provide a long-term benefit to knowledge.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project would contribute to the key priorities listed under stream four in section 2.1 of the guidelines.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how the research would contribute to, and was clearly linked to grant objectives, key priorities and outputs, with wide ranging application and benefits.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the proposed grant project confirmed it would produce the required reports and products listed under stream four in section 2.1 of the guidelines.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a research plan outlining the specific stages of the research and the reports and products produced.</li></ul>



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## Criterion 2

### Research methodology and collection of primary data

Demonstrate how your research will be undertaken (30% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- explain how your research design is suited to the problem under investigation
- demonstrate your familiarity with the sources through a literature review, and reliability of data and techniques of data analysis appropriate to this project
- explain how your research will collect primary data on this project and contribute to existing data holdings
- demonstrate what steps will be undertaken to protect the confidentiality of data and the privacy of subjects, consistent with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

<b>Strength:</b>	<b>Quality responses clearly provided:</b>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project’s research design is suited to the problem under investigation.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the links between the research subject matter and the lack of existing data</li><li>▪ the links between the research subject matter and the potential benefit for practical applications.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the applicant’s familiarity with the sources through a literature review, and reliability of data and techniques of data analysis appropriate to this project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ previous successful research projects that the applicant has conducted on the subject matter</li><li>▪ an understanding of existing research on the subject matter.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how research would collect primary data on this project and contribute to existing data holdings.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ clear, methodical and detailed research design that is appropriate and achievable</li><li>▪ existing gaps in data holdings that research would address</li><li>▪ the practical benefits and applications of addressing gaps in existing data holdings.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated what steps would be undertaken to protect the confidentiality of data and the privacy of subjects, consistent with the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> .	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ specific actions to address ethics, confidentiality, security and privacy considerations, such as a data management plan.</li></ul>





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### Criterion 3

#### Expertise, capability and capacity

Demonstrate your expertise, capability and capacity to successfully undertake the grant project on schedule and achieve value with relevant money (30% weighted).

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- outline the relevant skills, qualifications and/or experience of project staff
- advise where support of an external agency, institution or organisation is required for the project
- outline the level of risk associated with the project and explain the risk management approach
- demonstrate how the project represents value with relevant money in achieving the outcomes of the grant opportunity
- demonstrate you are able to obtain approval of a National Health and Medical Research Council-approved institutional human research ethics committee (usually the one attached to the institution with which you are affiliated) if you are conducting research with human subjects or on ethically sensitive topics or, where applicable, of the host institution under whose auspices you propose to conduct research.

Strength:	Quality responses clearly provided:
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the relevant skills, qualifications and/or experience of project staff.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the highly relevant skills, qualifications and experience of all staff involved with the project.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated where support of an external agency, institution or organisation is required for the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ existing partnerships relevant to the project, including providing evidence of support.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the level of risk associated with the project and explained the risk management approach.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ appropriate risks associated with the project</li><li>▪ a method for undertaking risk assessments</li><li>▪ an appropriate strategy to manage and mitigate specific risks identified.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the project represented value for money in achieving outcomes of the grant opportunity.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how the project offered maximum impact through coverage, targeted need, risk, applicant expertise, and cost effectiveness and efficiency.</li></ul>



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<b>Strength:</b>	<b>Quality responses clearly provided:</b>
<p>Strong applications clearly demonstrated the applicant was able to obtain approval of a National Health and Medical Research Council-approved institutional human research ethics committee if conducting research with human subjects or on ethically sensitive topics.</p>	<p>Strong responses clearly described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a specific plan outlining steps to obtain ethics approval</li><li>▪ evidence of ethics approval for previous similar research projects.</li></ul>