

# Questions and Answers

## Disability Representative Organisations (DRO) Grant Opportunity

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### 1. What is the closing time and date for applications?

The Application Form must be submitted electronically by 2.00 pm Canberra local time (AEDT) on Friday, 6 October 2017. It is recommended that you submit your application well before the closing time and date.

### 2. If I am not able to submit my application by the due time and date, can I be granted an extension?

No, extensions will not be given.

If an application is late, or the Community Grants Hub is requested to approve a lodgement after the closing date, the [late application policy](#) available on the [Community Grants Hub](#) website will apply.

### 3. Are not-for-profit organisations eligible to apply?

Yes, not-for-profit organisations meeting the eligibility requirements in the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines are eligible to apply. Full details of eligibility found in **Section 3** and **Appendix I** and **III** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

### 4. What attachments do I need to include in my application?

This funding round requires one attachment per application which forms part of **Criterion 6** of the application. See also **Sections 6** and **7** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applicants who are proposing to be a Lead Organisation of a Consortium or to be part of an Alliance will, if shortlisted, be contacted by the Community Grants Hub to provide further information. There will be a three working day turnaround requirement. Details on these additional requirements are found in **Appendix IV** (for Alliance applications) and **Section 7.6** (for Consortium applications) of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Inclusion of the correct information for the application rests with the applicant. Neither the Community Grants Hub (of the Department of Social Services) nor any other area of the Department of Social Services is obligated to contact you concerning incomplete applications, including where an incorrect attachment is provided.

### 5. How much funding is available for this Program and how will it be paid to organisations?

Up to \$1.775 million per financial year (GST exclusive) is available under this DRO Grant Opportunity, which will run from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2020. The total amount is \$4,437,500 (GST and SACS exclusive) over 30 months. All funding, work plans and reporting will be by financial years. Payment instalments will be proposed in funding offers. For 2017-18 the funding will be for six months to 30 June 2018. Funding for 2018-19 and for 2019-20 will be for 12 month periods ending on 30 June of each year. **Please ensure to consider the need to consider this breakdown of funding by year when completing your application for funding.**

## 6. Is the funding on-going?

The DRO Program is on-going, however, this funding round is for a period of up to 30 months from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2020.

As noted in **Section 2** of the Guidelines, in 2020 the Decision Maker (the Minister) may decide to extend funding for up to a further two years. This would be at the discretion of the Government, and would require demonstrated high performance by those funded, value for money, and alignment with Government priorities at that time.

## 7. Can single organisations apply for funding under the DRO Program (without forming an Alliance with other organisations)?

Yes, individual organisations can apply for funding as detailed in the DRO Grant Guidelines. You must be able to meet eligibility criteria detailed in **Section 3** and **Appendix I and III**, and address **Section 6** (Assessment Criteria). Individual organisations must in their application identify their strengths in their specific areas of disability systemic advocacy. Your application will be considered on merit. The Department of Social Services is looking at applications to ensure that when decisions are made that the overall outcome will be to achieve DRO Grant Opportunity objectives. For example we will look at how individual applicants complement other applicants, to help address the breadth of disability priority issues that are detailed in **Appendix II**.

Funding for the DRO Program is limited. As such it is likely that the decision made on how funding is distributed might limit the number of organisations engaged. See also **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## 8. My organisation is part of a group of organisations, seeking to apply under one grant agreement. Can we submit a joint application through a Consortium (joint arrangement)?

Yes, two or more organisations can unite to submit a (joint) Consortium application, noting:

- The application can only be submitted by one member of the Consortium.
- That member will be the 'Lead Organisation' of the Consortium.
- If a (joint) Consortium application is successful, the Department of Social Services will enter into a Grant Agreement with the nominated Lead Organisation of the Consortium.
- The Lead Organisation will become the legal point of contact for the Department of Social Services, and you will enter into a comprehensive funding agreement with the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services will have no direct funding activity relationship with other members of the Consortium.
- **Sections 3** and **7** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines provide additional details for Consortium applications. **Section 2** provides details Consortium funding options.
- If identifying your application as being Lead Organisation for a Consortium, then specific information will be sought in the on-line application process on each Consortium member organisation.
- Should your application be shortlisted for consideration by the Community Grants Hub, the Department of Social Services **WILL** seek from the Lead Organisation further information on each member of the Consortium. Details of these requirements are in **Section 3** and **7** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines. If shortlisted you will be asked to provide to the

Department of Social Services a completed **Attachment C1** using the **Template Attachment C1** for each member of the Consortium.

- The shortlisting process will be time critical, and any request made to the Lead Organisation will be given at very short notice, with a three working day turnaround requirement. The Department of Social Services recommend that for this reason the **Attachment C1**, is completed by all members of the Consortium well in advance. Noting that **Attachment C1** information should **not be sent to the Department of Social Services** unless requested during the shortlisting process.
- The Community Grants Hub may ask for further information regarding the members of the Consortium before any funding agreement is finalised with the Lead Organisation. See also **Question 9** concerning member organisation obligations.

If the Lead Organisation of the Consortium does not meet eligibility in the initial part of the application process, then all consideration of the Consortium application will cease.

The Department of Social Services may both fund a Consortium and separately fund another organisation(s) and/or Alliance(s) to fill any roles that a Consortium is not able to cover due to the selection decisions made.

Funding for the DRO Program is limited. As such it is likely that the decision made on how funding is distributed might limit the number of organisations engaged. See also **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## **9. What is the 'lead organisation' of a Consortium**

If a collective group of Disability Representative Organisations wish to submit a (joint) application for funding, they must nominate a lead organisation for carriage of this application. The lead organisation of the Consortium must be an incorporated body which is able to enter into the Grant Agreement with the Department of Social Services.

If the application is successful, then the lead organisation will:

- sign the Grant Agreement with the Department of Social Services
- receive the grant funding and
- take full legal responsibility for achieving the activities and outcomes sought under the Grant Agreement.

The lead organisation must be registered with an Australian Registered Business Number (ARBN). This requirement reflects an expectation that the lead organisation is able to provide a whole of country coverage for the delivery of Consortium activities funded under the DRO Program.

Further details are provided on the management of Consortia, including obligations the lead will undertake with the Department of Social Services on behalf of other members, and arrangements should the composition of membership change in **Section 7.6** of the DRO Grant Guidelines.

If the lead of the Consortium does not meet eligibility in the initial part of the application process, then all consideration of the Consortium application will cease.

The Department of Social Services may separately fund another organisation or Consortium to fill a role that a Consortium is not able to cover due to the selection decisions made.

Funding for this Program is limited. The likelihood of how funding might limit the number of organisations engaged either within an Alliance or separately, or as a Consortium is detailed in **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Guidelines.

## **10. What does it mean to be an organisation in an Alliance arrangement (with other applicants)?**

There is an option for individual organisations to separately apply under this process and to also separately indicate a willingness to work together in an Alliance with other applicants. An Alliance is where two or more applicants agree to work together in collaboration.

Alliance members must apply for funding separately. Each applicant is assessed separately for core eligibility and meeting the criterion of this Grant Opportunity, and if successful will be separately funded. However, the Department of Social Services will also consider the merits of the Alliance at time of shortlisting. If shortlisted it will examine the Alliance proposal and how the collaboration arrangements will enhance the overall achievement of Grant Opportunity objectives.

The Department of Social Services will contact those organisations in an Alliance that have been recommended for shortlisting through the assessment process. Those Alliance members will be requested to provide further details of how the Alliance will operate within three working days. See also **Appendix IV**.

Key things to note:

- Each member of the Alliance is directly and separately funded, and will be directly accountable to the Department of Social Services and required to complete separate work plans and provide performance reports.
- One member of the Alliance must be designated as a Lead Coordinator for the Alliance, and will agree to provide (coordinate) for Department of Social Services regular strategic reports and work plan documentation to assist in measuring the performance and success of the overall Alliance.
- The Lead Coordinator role can be rotated between funded Alliance organisations on an annual basis, at the discretion of Alliance members. The Department of Social Services must be kept informed of such changes.
- As indicated above, those shortlisted through the assessment process will be contacted. Alliance members will be requested to provide proof of intention to form or maintain the Alliance. This proof **must** be in the form of a document co-signed by all Alliance members, following the guidance set out in **Appendix IV** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- If the Department of Social Services does not propose to fund all Alliance members who applied, then the remaining members of that Alliance will be offered funding on the expectation that the Alliance will still be formed to the extent that is then possible.
- The Department of Social Services may separately fund other individual organisations, or a Consortium to fill any role that a funded Alliance is not able fulfil, arising from selection assessments and decisions made by the Delegate.
- Funding for the DRO Program is limited. As such it is likely that the decision made on how funding is distributed might limit the number of organisations engaged. See also **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## **11. Can an Alliance nominate a spokesperson to represent the interests of the Alliance in dealings with the Department of Social Services: where they are not the Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent) of one of the funded Alliance organisations?**

Alliance organisations must at all times have a Lead Coordinating organisation identified to be responsive to the Department of Social Services in respect to communications necessary under

Alliance member funding arrangements. This includes the coordination of Strategic Alliance Work Plans and Strategic Performance reporting.

Unless otherwise specified in the application process, the Department of Social Services will assume that the organisation identified as the Lead Coordinator of the Alliance will also have primary leadership and spokesperson roles for the Alliance for at least the first year of funding.

The Lead Coordinator organisation will nominate a spokesperson, the default being the Lead Coordinator organisation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or equivalent, to speak on behalf of the Alliance.

If the Lead Coordinator role rotates, then the default is that the spokesperson role should also rotate to the new Lead Coordinator CEO or equivalent. Rotation should not occur more than annually to assist with consistency of relationship management.

If a proposed Alliance spokesperson is someone other than the initial Lead Coordinator CEO (or equivalent), then details of that person should be provided to the Department of Social Services as part of the shortlisting process. Further details are in **Appendix IV**.

A non-CEO spokesperson must be an employee or a person contracted to a funded Alliance member organisation and their role must be articulated in any comprehensive funding agreement negotiated (and re-negotiated if the person changes) between that organisation and the Department of Social Services.

If a non-CEO spokesperson for an Alliance is identified after commencement of funding agreements, then such changes must be agreed by the Department of Social Services and form part of a funding agreement amendment with the relevant organisation who will fund that spokesperson.

Should concerns arise between the spokesperson and the Department of Social Services, the Department will refer the matter for resolution through the Lead Coordinating organisation in the first instance.

## **12. Would the Department of Social Services prefer to fund Consortium (joint) arrangements, Individual organisations in an Alliance, or individual organisations?**

Individual, Alliance and Consortium (joint) applications will all be considered equally and on merit. All applications will need to meet eligibility requirements and demonstrate how an organisation (solely or as part of an Alliance), or as Lead Organisation of a Consortium, will deliver systemic disability advocacy nationally.

Funding for this Program is limited. As such it is likely that the decision made on how funding is distributed might limit the number of organisations engaged. See also **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## **13. What are the contract conditions for this grant?**

A copy of the Terms and Conditions for the Comprehensive Grant Agreement – General Grant Conditions is included in the Application Pack. There will be also a special schedule concerning arrangements for collaboration and cooperation based on **Appendix V** of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

#### **14. 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 and 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.

#### **15. Where should I go for further information?**

Please email your enquiries to [support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au) or for general enquiries call the Grants Hotline on 1800 020 283. GrantConnect will also contain information. The Application Pack is available on both the [GrantConnect](#) and [Community Grants Hub](#) websites.

#### **16. What Feedback will be available for this funding round?**

A *Feedback Summary* will be published on the Community Grants Hub website following the finalisation of the funding round.

The *Feedback Summary* will provide general round-specific information and will include main strengths and areas of improvement for the applications received in this round.

Individual feedback is not available for this funding round.

#### **17. Please explain for who can access this funding and for what purposes? (Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 refer of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines)**

The DRO Grant Opportunity contributes to Department of Social Services' Outcome 3: Disability and Carers – Program 3.1: Disability, Mental Health and Carers.

Grants under the DRO Grant Opportunity aim to:

- Support National Disability Representative Organisations (DROs) for people with disability, and/or represent disability service providers who support people with disability, to ensure that disability issues and a diversity of voices are represented in Australian Government decision-making and policy outcomes.
- Deliver this DRO Grant Opportunity for domestic representation of Australians with disability, consistent with Australia's obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines detail in **Section 3** both the types of organisations that can apply for funding. **Section 2** details the amount of funding available and for what period.

**Section 4** details what activities can (and cannot) be undertaken with the grant funding.

Further details on grant eligibility and activities are also covered in **Appendix I** and **III** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

#### **18. How were the Department of Social Services disability priority areas chosen? Why must my application address these priorities? (Appendix II of DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines refers)**

There are many dynamic issues concerning people with disability at this time. The Australian Government and state and territory counterparts have all identified important elements for priority action and response. Highlighted priorities in **Appendix II** of the DRO Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines have been particularly informed by the following:

- 1) The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Disability Reform Council (the Council) has identified as high priority the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) transition and the implementation of the National Disability Strategy.
  - Significant efforts have been made to ensure that implementation of the NDIS delivers on outcomes for people with disability, their families and carers, and that transition from state and territory systems to the NDIS is efficient and effective.
  - In September 2016 the Council has agreed to reinvigorate all governments' effort to drive progress under the National Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020. The Council has agreed to a particular focus on mental health, health and the criminal justice systems to ensure that these systems are effectively supporting all people with a disability in Australia.
- 2) The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for Australians with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS will provide about 460,000 Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life.
- 3) The Australian Government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving employment outcomes for people with disability and announced changes to the Disability Employment Services (DES) program in the 2017 Budget.
- 4) As part of the 2015-16 Budget, the Australian Government announced the development of carer supports and services. There are many intersections between support for carers and achieving improved outcomes for people with disability, hence the need to maintain policy engagement between systemic disability issues and carer reform initiatives.
- 5) The Government has also launched the National Disability and Carers Advisory Council. The work of the Council will help inform government policy for people with disability, carers and industry. The work of the Council will provide opportunity for disability peaks to engage and complement the work of the Council.
- 6) There has been a Review of the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) as part of an on-going, continuous improvement and reform process. The *Review of the National Disability Advocacy Program Consultation Report* was released on 9 August 2017. This will inform Advocacy reforms which will be phased in over the next two years and will include:
  - a move to a more person centred approach
  - improved coordination of people's systemic issues
  - a greater focus on helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability
  - improved reporting of advocacy outcomes.

**19. How will Appendix V of the DRO Grant Guidelines “Guidance on the Department of Social Services expectations and values on collaboration and cooperation by all funded parties under DRO Program” impact on the application process?**

All successfully funded organisations, whether individual organisations, organisations forming an Alliance, or a Lead Organisation of a Consortium, must be able to demonstrate a capacity to effectively represent the interests and views of all people with disability and/or disability service providers, including:

- promoting an understanding of the lives of people with disability
- promoting and protect the rights and dignity of people with disability
- supporting service providers in delivering services to people with disability

- providing systemic advocacy for people with disability residing in Australia
- fostering support for the participation of people with disability in all aspects of community life.

As detailed in **Section 1**, all successful grant recipients must be collegiate and consultative across the disability sector, within the community of people with disability, with government, carer bodies, and disability service providers.

**Appendix V** provides details of what is expected in respect to the values of collaboration and cooperation. See also **Section 10** regarding the funding agreement special conditions that will also form part of all funding agreements.

## **20. Is it possible that government will consider funding both Alliance and Consortium arrangements at the same time?**

In the 2014-15 funding round, the Government was mindful to listen to the sector's advice that the funding for disability peak representation was stretched to breaking point, resulting in individual organisations struggling to maintain their presence, to communicate with their members and to provide adequate policy advice to Government.

The Government continues to recognise that a number of sectors of people with disability remain under-represented.

While it is not the intention of Government to fund a peak body for each type of disability that exists, and ones that are yet to emerge, it will favourably consider Consortia or Alliances of organisations representing people with disability: especially those applications which demonstrate greater efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of outcomes combined with lower overheads or administrative costs.

In respect of whether only one model or the other will be funded, the Government will keep an open mind. It may choose to only fund one model or it might fund multiple models. However, as funding is capped there would be clear limitations in funding both Alliance and Consortium arrangements in parallel.

The likelihood of how funding might limit the number of organisations engaged either in an Alliance, or separately, or as a Consortium, is detailed in **Section 2** of the DRO Grant Guidelines.

Please also refer to **Questions 8, 9, 10** and **11**.

## **21. Can an Organisation make multiple applications under the individual, Alliance and Consortium Models?**

As detailed in **Section 7**, there can only be one direct application per organisation. So you may apply:

- Individually or
- individually, while identifying to be part of an Alliance or
- as the Lead Organisation of a Consortium.

However also raised in **Section 7**, it is allowable to apply for direct funding as an Individual Organisation (solely or as part of an Alliance), and then to also have your organisation separately listed as a member of a Consortium as part of a Consortium Application.

Please note:

- That as you have already applied individually, your Organisation cannot be also the organisation applying as the Lead of that Consortium.



- If successful both as an individual applicant (whether in an Alliance or not) and also successful as a member of a Consortium, then you will need to choose which funding offer to proceed with as you can only be funded under one funding arrangement, and cannot benefit from dual funding under this Grant Opportunity.

## **22. Where an Alliance is formed, will each member of the Alliance receive the same level of funding (up to \$300,000 each)?**

Not necessarily, each application will be assessed on merit and value for money and as such, there is no guarantee that every successful member of an Alliance selected for funding will necessarily receive the same level of funding in their offer.

Each organisation will need to operate independently, and undertake activities that are not contradictory or in competition with other Alliance applicants. If shortlisted, the Department of Social Services will query the applicant to clarify details of the Alliance, see also **Appendix IV** of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

## **23. Would the Government consider funding at more than \$300,000 (excluding GST) per organisation per year?**

Should applications received indicate that the disability sector has proposed to organise itself in a way that meets the defined criteria, where the potential funding might engage fewer organisations to achieve a better outcome under the objectives of this Grant Opportunity, then a case might be made to the Delegate to consider reconfiguration of the maximum funding per organisation, so long as overall budget limits can be maintained.

As indicated in **Section 7** of the DRO Grant Opportunity Guidelines, a large Consortium is one such example where the Government may consider higher overall levels of funding.

Similarly the Government may choose not to offer funding up to the \$300,000 envelope depending on the activities in the application, the assessment process, and the number of organisations that it may wish to fund.

## **24. International travel does not appear to be funded under these arrangements, why is that so?**

This funding is for domestically focussed systemic advocacy. Funding is allowed under this Grant Opportunity for the cost of staff salaries and wages to undertake international representation as part of Australia's obligations under the United Nations Convention for Persons with Disabilities and similar fora. The Department of Social Services with the Australian Human Rights Commission also funds a separate activity to promote international travel opportunities called "Supporting participation by representatives of people with disability in key international forums on human rights" which DROs can apply for in the funding rounds.

It is understood that for logistic reasons an organisation might need to make advance bookings for overseas travel and accommodation costs, but should only utilise DRO funding where these costs will be reimbursed if successful under the international travel activity noted above. The DRO grant funding should not otherwise be used for international travel. Your organisation may of course source funding from other government, non-government or private sources, for its own overseas travel purposes.

See **Sections 4, 10** and **Appendix I** for more details on international travel.

## **New Question and Answers added on 5 September 2017**

### **25. What is the role of the Community Grants Hub Assessment Centre?**

Each application will be initially assessed by the community grants hub assessment centre against Eligible applications are then assessed against the criteria set in Section 6 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and ranked against other applications. Each application will be considered on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria as detailed in this Grant Opportunity
- how it compares to other applications, taking referees also into consideration as necessary, and
- whether it provides value for money.

In assessing the extent to which the application represents value for money, the Department of Social Services will have regard to the following:

- the relative merit of each application
- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the funding
- the relative cost of the proposal, or of elements of the proposal
- the extent to which the applicant has demonstrated a capacity to fund the proposal taking into consideration all possible sources of finance, including debt finance
- the geographic location of the proposal
- Fully addressing all criteria in Section 6, including Attachments or documentation where sought in Sections 6 and/or 7 and also Appendix IV if part of an Alliance. Please note that the attachment provided under Criterion 6 is not viewed by the Community Grants Hub assessment team, and will not form part of the initial scoring that will determine which applications will be included in the shortlist recommended to the Expert Panel.

Following the Assessment Centre process, shortlisted organisations that are part of an Alliance application, or applying as a lead of a Consortium, will be contacted to provide additional information. This additional information must be provided by 5.00 pm (AEDT) three working days after the request is made. Failure to comply with this request will exclude further consideration under the application process.

Both the Community Grants Hub and the Expert Panel may make use of referees provided by applicants or may independently contact referees of their own choosing, and such contacts may be incorporated within assessment and shortlisting processes.

### **26. What is the role of the Expert Panel?**

Following the assessment process, recommended applications and relevant attachments are given to the Expert Panel for further deliberations.

The Expert Panel tests each shortlisted application for value for money with the grant funding:

- for its relative merit
- that it seeks to achieve the Program's overall objectives, and
- for its capacity for national coverage

The Expert Panel may seek information about an application, including additional information for Consortium and Alliance related applications. This information must be provided by 5.00 pm (AEDT) three working days after the request for additional information was made. Failure to comply with this request will exclude further consideration under the application process.

The Expert Panel will review shortlisted applications, taking into consideration, among other things, the attachment provided under Criterion 6 and any other additional information requested. The information provided in these attachments, as well as any additional information sought will complement the on-line application against all criteria. The Expert Panel will use the material provided to help make final recommendations of preferred applicants to the Delegate.

The Expert Panel will make recommendations having regards to:

- overall objectives for each Grant Opportunity application that has been shortlisted
- conformance of shortlisted applications with eligibility criteria
- coverage and expertise of service providers and overall coverage of providers to ensure no service gaps
- capacity for providers to achieve outcomes at a national level
- agree prioritisation for how the services and/or projects will be delivered to maximise effectiveness of the Grant Opportunity objectives
- confirm that shortlisted applicants have passed risk assessment for financial viability
- that shortlisted applications represent best value for money
- (if known) minimising possible duplication with other Commonwealth/State/Territory government programs/service delivery in funding recommendations to the Delegate.

The outcomes from this Expert Panel review of the assessment outcomes and attachment information provided could determine the following aspects of the shortlist:

- substantiate the application and acceptance of the claim. Note that the Expert Panel will pay particular attention to eligibility, reputation, expertise, and focus on government priorities for the disability sector, capability, the best value for money and viability.
- substantiate or revise the assessment ranking
- review the level of possible funding overall, and in respect of individual preferred applicants base the allocation of funding on detailed assessment of the application and available information
- determine the acceptability of the structure and members of the arrangements being proposed by applicants in respect to proposed: Alliances, Consortium, individual applications and/or any combination of the above. For example the Expert Panel may prefer one or more organisations, and/or a Consortium, and/or an Alliance, but propose to the Delegate that:
  - one or more proposed members of a Consortium or members of an Alliance should not be included in as part of an offer for funding for that Alliance or Consortium; and/or
  - one of more of the proposed activities of an organisation, Consortium or Alliance should not be accepted for inclusion in an offer for funding; and/or
  - one or more additional activities be proposed to be additionally undertaken by an organisation, Consortium or Alliance in an offer for funding.

The Expert Panel may advise the Delegate of a preferred configuration of applicants that may alter the appearance of funding or organisational arrangements for a preferred offer of funding to an Alliance and/or Consortium. This may occur if the Expert Panel determines that altering the composition of an Alliance and/or Consortium will result in better outcomes for these funded activities, for instance, if it addresses a gap in representation, or provides better value for money by removing duplication of representation. The Delegate will determine the specific parameters for any subsequent negotiations associated with funding offers to successful applicants.

Both the Community Grants Hub and the Expert Panel may make use of referees provided by applicants or may independently contact referees of their own choosing, and such contacts may be incorporated within assessment and shortlisting processes.

## **27. Why is there a requirement for Organisations operating in more than one state or territory to have an ARBN or an ACN?**

Some organisations, like associations, can only conduct business in their “home” state or territory. By becoming a registered Australian body, these organisations can trade throughout all states and territories within Australia.

It is recommended that if you intend to apply for grant funding, and do not have an ARBN or ACN, you apply for one so as soon as possible.

More information about ARBN and ACN is available at: <https://www.business.gov.au/>

## **28. What if I have applied for an ARBN or ACN and have not received it before the closing date for applications?**

It is recommended that if you intend to apply for grant funding, and do not have an ARBN or ACN, you apply for one as soon as possible.

If your organisation has not yet received its ARBN or ACN by the closing date of applications, it will impact the assessment of your application.

More information about ARBN and ACN is available at: <https://www.business.gov.au/>