



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The objective of the Saluting Their Service (STS) Commemorative Grants Program is to preserve Australia's wartime heritage and to involve people around the country in a wide range of projects and activities which highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations. Projects and activities should promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and the roles which those who served have played in shaping the nation.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to provide funding for commemorative projects and activities which:

- directly commemorate the involvement, service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations
- promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service and roles which those who served have played in shaping the nation
- add to the sum of knowledge on a particular topic or provide access to information about Australia's wartime heritage.

The application period for the 2021–22 STS Program round opened on 12 February 2021 and closed on 8 February 2022, with assessment of applications divided into 3 batches during this period.

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

Selection process and results

The grant opportunity received 432 applications across the 3 batches. There was \$3.5 million available to distribute. Using an open competitive selection process, 276 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$3,498,163 (all figures are GST excluded).

There was a strong interest in STS and successful applications were of a very high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in below.

The Community Grants Hub screened all applications for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Applications were then initially assessed on merit by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), based on:

- how well they met the criteria
- how they compared to other applications
- whether they provided value with relevant money.

The Commemorative Grants Advisory Committee (CGAC) then considered each eligible and compliant application and the assessment, having regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrated it will contribute to meeting the program outcomes/objectives
- how the grant activities will be promoted or distributed to reach target groups.

The CGAC is chaired by the Repatriation Commissioner of the DVA and comprises representatives from the Returned Services League of Australia, Australian Local Government Association, Australian War Memorial, Office of Australian War Graves and policy staff within DVA.

The CGAC made funding recommendations to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, who was the final decision maker.

General feedback

Overall, successful applicants proposed projects and activities which were eligible, appropriate and considered effective for achieving the program objectives. Successful applicants demonstrated strong alignment to the aim of the grant to acknowledge and commemorate those who served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

Applicants who were unsuccessful could have strengthened their application by ensuring their proposed project:

- clearly demonstrated, based on the material in the application, how their project met the aim of the grant to acknowledge and commemorate the active service of those who served Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peace operations
- was an eligible project or activity type (as per section 5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines)
- requested funding for eligible items only (as per section 5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines)
- represented value with relevant money
- was ready to proceed and could be completed within 12 months of the funding agreement being executed, for example, had a clear plan about the steps of the project, had sufficient other funds to cover any outstanding balance of the project (that is not seeking seed funding), had all required permits/licenses in place, had consulted with and received support from stakeholders
- clearly demonstrated how the community or other stakeholders would access/use the project for commemorative purposes
- had sufficient detail in the application to allow the CGAC and Minister to understand the scope and relevance of the project.

Read the supporting information before applying.

- It is important to read all available information provided when applying for funding, especially the Grant Opportunity Guidelines provided on the Hub's website.
- The grant opportunity documentation is specific to each round and contains important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, eligible items, timeframes and how to apply.
- The application form includes helpful information and details on questions relating to eligibility, and mandatory information required by the Hub and DVA for the selection process.