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# Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV)

Feedback for applicants

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## Overview

The objectives of the Supporting Younger Veterans (SYV) program are to:

- deliver services to the younger veterans' community which can build community capacity for the future and complement services already provided by the Commonwealth
- expand on existing or well-established services offered to the younger veterans' community to new regions within Australia or in development of new services which will be offered in more than one location
- raise awareness of the important issues faced by the younger veterans' community.

The intended outcomes of the SYV program are to:

- support the development of well-researched and tailored services for the younger veterans' community, with a particular focus on services supporting those at risk of experiencing poor mental health
- develop capability within the veteran community which services the unique needs of the younger veterans' community
- fund organisations which can sustainably deliver services to the younger veterans' community now and into the future
- increase collaboration amongst organisations to expand services and harness existing expertise for the benefit of the younger veterans' community
- increase awareness of younger veterans' community issues and/or services within the Australian and veteran communities, where doing so would benefit the younger veterans' community.

Under this grant opportunity, smaller scale community level projects which can support the younger veterans' community are encouraged.

The grant opportunity application period opened on 30 November 2020 and closed on 5 February 2021.

The grant opportunity received 68 applications. Following the decision maker's decision, 21 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$1 million (GST exclusive).

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There was a strong interest in the program 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 the Selection Process below.

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

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) used a targeted competitive selection process to select 21 providers to deliver the SYV grant.

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

Applications were assessed on merit, based on:

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

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria.

- Criterion 1: Project need and suitability - ***Describe your project and why it is needed.***

Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes - ***Describe how the younger veterans' community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes.***

Criterion 3: Ability of organisation to deliver - ***Describe your organisation's experience delivering projects that benefit the younger veteran community.***

The preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria and their demonstrated ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

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## Selection Results

21 organisations were selected to deliver the SYV grant.

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

### Criterion 1: Project need and suitability

#### *Describe your project and why it is needed*

A strong response will address:

- what activities will be undertaken and how many people are expected will participate in the activities (What will you do?)
- who the target group is and why do the target group need this project. Provide data, research, community feedback, surveys etc. (Who will it help?)
- how the activities attend to the particular needs of the younger veteran community? (How will it help?)

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated the activities to be undertaken, and how many participants were expected.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ the specific need being addressed and how the activities would address this need</li><li>▪ data regarding the need being addressed</li><li>▪ data about the number of younger veterans who would benefit from the program.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly addressed the target group, and why this particular target group would benefit from the proposed project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• how the proposed program was focussed on younger veterans</li><li>• supporting data, research, community feedback, surveys etc in support of the application.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how the particular activities catered to the needs of the younger veteran community.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ expansion of existing well-established programs proven to assist young veterans</li><li>▪ the aim of reducing mental health impacts on young veterans through social connection and how this would be achieved through the project.</li></ul>



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## Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

### ***Describe how the younger veterans' community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes***

A strong response will address:

- what outcomes are expected to be achieved by the project, and how these relate to the SYV program outcomes (Why is it important and what will change?)
- how it will be known if the project has been successful (How will you evaluate it?)

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated outcomes expected from the project, and how they relate to SYV program outcomes.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ how the project would build capability</li><li>▪ how the project was sustainable</li><li>▪ how the program would be attractive for younger veterans.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated how success will be measured.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ contact with ex-service organisations (ESOs) and younger veterans</li><li>▪ how the program was targeted to younger veterans and their families</li><li>▪ how the engagement of the targeted audience would be measured.</li></ul>



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### Criterion 3: Ability of organisation to deliver

#### ***Describe your organisation's experience delivering projects that benefit the younger veteran community***

A strong response will address:

- the organisation's experience in delivering similar projects, including the outcomes achieved (what your organisation offers)
- the organisation's community knowledge, links networks and partnerships and outline how you will use these to successfully deliver the project (how your organisation is connected to the younger veteran community)
- how the organisation will engage suitably qualified and experienced people to undertake the project
- the project risks and how they will be managed (how your organisation plans for success).

Strength	Example
Strong applications clearly demonstrated experience in delivering similar projects and demonstrating outcomes.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ an evidence base</li><li>▪ building and improving on previous activities</li><li>▪ evidence that the project meets an identified need.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated community knowledge, links, networks and partnerships, and explained how these would be used to successfully deliver the project.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ various activities and community engagement for younger veterans and their families being provided</li><li>▪ programs for younger veterans and their families transitioning to civilian life.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated their approach to engaging suitably qualified and experienced people to deliver the project outcomes.	Strong responses clearly described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ information on accredited personnel/businesses to deliver the project.</li></ul>
Strong applications clearly demonstrated risk management.	Strong responses clearly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ described good governance structures within the organisation to deliver the project</li><li>▪ provided evidence of funding provided by other sources to contribute to the project</li><li>▪ included a Business and Risk Management Plan.</li></ul>