Community Languages Multicultural Grants Program – Stream Two Project Grants

General Feedback for applicants

Overview

The objectives of the Community Languages Multicultural Grants Program are to:

- Support the maintenance, development and acquisition of languages other than English.
- Connect young Australians to the languages and cultures of their community.
- Enhance cross-cultural awareness and respect for cultural diversity.

This program is comprised of two streams: Stream One and Stream Two.

This General Feedback contains information for Stream Two: Project funding only.

The Community Languages Stream Two funding opportunity will build the capacity of community language schools to deliver quality language education through the production of teaching resources or through the production of professional development programs that can be used by multiple community language schools and the community language sector more broadly.

Projects funded through this grant opportunity will contribute to:

- Enhanced capacity of community language school teachers to educate children in a second language through improved professional skills and knowledge.
- Enhanced capacity of community language school teachers to promote respect for cultural diversity and understanding of civics and Australian values.
- Increased access to curriculum and teaching resources that are specifically designed for community language school needs.
- Strengthened relationships between community language schools and greater information and resource sharing among schools.
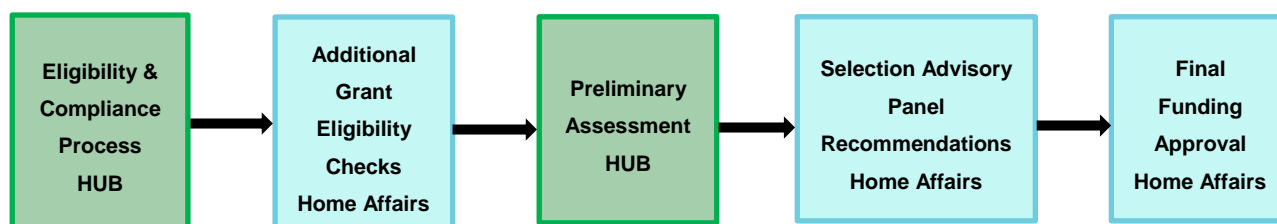
Selection results

The application period for the Community Languages Stream Two opened on 3 February 2020 and closed at 11:00 pm (AEDT) on 6 March 2020. Approximately $1 million of the $10 million available for the broader Community Language Multicultural Grants Program was available for this Stream Two opportunity.

One hundred and fifty applications were received. Forty-one organisations were successful in receiving funding totalling $846,244.00 (GST exclusive). Successful applicants may have received less funding than requested.

Selection process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) administered an open competitive selection process on behalf of the Department of Home Affairs. An 'open competitive' process ensured all eligible applicants had an equal opportunity to apply.

Eligibility & Compliance Process **HUB**	→	Additional Grant Eligibility Checks **Home Affairs**	→	Preliminary Assessment **HUB**	→	Selection Advisory Panel Recommendations **Home Affairs**	→	Final Funding Approval **Home Affairs**

All of these 150 applications underwent eligibility and compliance checks against the eligibility criteria as outlined in section 4 and section 7 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOG).

In particular, to be considered eligible, community language schools must:

- Teach a community language that is used by members of cultural/linguistic groups in Australia.
- Have been in operation for at least 12 months prior to the commencement of the grant activity.
- Be open to enrolments for school-aged students (including Australian citizens, permanent residents and Subclass 444 Special Category visa holders) from Kindergarten to Year 12, regardless of linguistic background or proficiency.
- Provide language tuition for at least 35 weeks of the year.

One hundred and twenty eight applications were identified as eligible to proceed to assessment. The Hub completed a preliminary assessment of the eligible applications' responses against the assessment criteria.

Following preliminary assessment by the Hub, all outcomes were referred to a Selection Advisory Panel (SAP) made up of 5 voting members, providing an appropriate mix of policy, program and industry knowledge, who made funding recommendations to the Decision Maker.

Members of the SAP considered whether the applications provided *value with relevant money*[1], having regard to:

- the initial preliminary score against the assessment criteria facilitated by the Hub
- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- whether the proposed project is in scope
- whether the application is from a consortium of organisations
- whether it has the support of local or national community language sector peak bodies
- whether it has broader application to multiple schools, teachers or the community language school sector
- the relative value of the grant sought
- extent to which the geographic location of the application matched identified priorities
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals
- how it will be applied to other schools or professional development courses
- the relative merit of each application.

The SAP also took into consideration a fair and equitable distribution of funded activities across types of activities, delivery locations and recipient communities, to best support those communities facing the greatest challenges in relation to their integration into the broader Australian society.

Following recommendations from the SAP, the Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs approved those projects and amounts of funding to be awarded to successful grant recipients.

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[1] 'Value with relevant money' is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.

Criteria specific feedback to assist Community Languages Stream Two applicants

Criterion 1: Need

Demonstrate a strong need for a capacity building project within your target community language school community.

In demonstrating the need, you had to answer the following questions:

- Who does your project seek to target? Describe their characteristics, which may include the number of students/schools, their geographical location, language, length of time in Australia, length of time in operation as a school, etc.
- Why does your target community require assistance? Describe and provide evidence of the issues or gaps in resources facing your target community that you are seeking to address.

Strong responses included:

- Evidence specific to the particular target group as opposed to general information about students or a geographical area.
- A clear indication of the number of students/schools/teachers to be targeted, location, language, length of time in Australia and length of time the school has operated.
- Quantitative evidence from relevant and recent data sources such as an Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation; and/or strong anecdotal evidence including why the target group needs assistance.
- Relevant and current evidence to support the need of the target community, detailing the issues and gaps facing the target community, including specific identification of teaching materials and/or professional development resources.
- Relevant evidence of historical issues facing the target area/group.

Criterion 2: Project

Describe the project in detail including how it will be delivered and how it will address the grant objectives.

In describing the project, you had to answer the following questions:

- What activities will you undertake/how many products/resources will you develop and how many people do you expect will participate in, or benefit from, each activity?
- List/detail how the proposed project will build the capacity of the community language school sector and how it will contribute to the program objectives and outcomes in section 2?

Strong responses included:

- A detailed outline of the project/activity and how it will be delivered, such as how many products/resources will be developed, number of participants expected to participate or benefit.
- The specific outcome(s) the proposed activity would address and how these outcomes closely aligned with, and will contribute to, the program objectives, and also benefit the broader community language school sector.
- An indication of how the project will build capacity of the community language school sector. Examples include improvements to curriculum, enhancing the capacity of teachers, increasing access to teaching resources and strengthening relationships between schools.

Criterion 3: Reach

- How will you ensure your project benefits your target community or the wider community language schools sector? What strategies do you have in place to promote or share your product and ensure it is accessible to your target community?
- How will the project and/or outcomes continue beyond the grant period?

Strong responses included:

- Information which demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of the target community with strategies to promote the project and ensure its accessibility to this community.
- Details on the project benefits for other community language schools and strategies to promote and share the resources.
- Details on how the project and outcomes will continue beyond the grant period such as the availability of resources online for use by other community language schools and/or developing additional resources after the grant period.

Criterion 4: Organisational capacity

Describe your organisation's skills and experience in delivering projects to support the community language school sector.

In describing your organisation's experience, you had to answer the following questions:

- Have you consulted with other community language schools and/or relevant stakeholders in the design of this project?
- What expertise and experience does your organisation (including consortium members) have in undertaking the deliverables outlined in Criterion 2?
- What is your organisation's experience in managing a grant agreement?

Strong responses included:

- Details of consultation and collaboration with other teaching organisations and/or community language schools.
- Strong links with other community language schools.
- Detailed information demonstrating experience in delivering projects supporting the community language school sector including project management, strong governance, details of staff members' relevant qualifications and experience with similar projects.
- Experience in financial management and successfully managing grant agreements.

Guidance for future Grant Round Processes

Read the supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about grants when applying for funding, especially the Grant Opportunity documentation provided on the Hub's website.
- The Grant Opportunity documentation is specific to each grant 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, priority for funding, and mandatory information required by the Hub for the selection process.

Check the application before it is submitted

Applicants are encouraged to check the application form for completeness prior to submission.

- Check all fields in the application form have been completed in full.
- Check all answers to questions have been entered correctly.
- Check responses to criteria are accurate, clear and easy to read.
- Check the application provides a level of detail that is in proportion to the amount of funds requested and the complexity of the project.