



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Grants-in-Aid

General Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program aims to support the role of national ex-service organisations (ESOs) to provide coordinating and representational support for the Australian veteran and Defence community.

The objective of the program is to fund discrete projects or activities that address a specific problem or issue and will achieve a clear national benefit to the Australian ex-service and Defence community.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

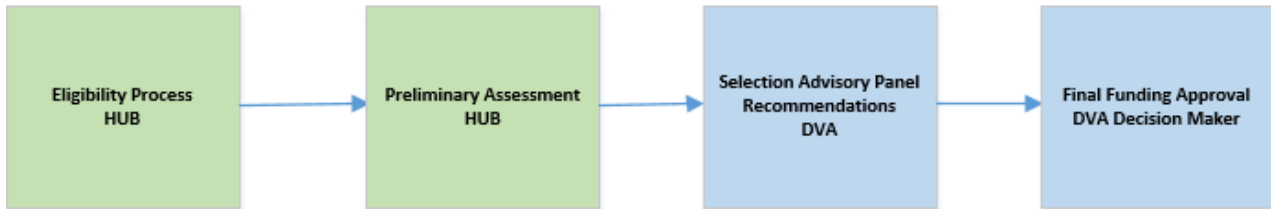
- encourage co-operation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government
- assist ESOs to:
 - support their branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations in performing compensation or wellbeing advocacy or other welfare work
 - advance the objectives of all ESOs more generally, including improved co-operation and communication between national bodies, branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations on repatriation and military compensation matters.

Selection results

The application period opened on 27 March 2019 and closed on 1 May 2019. A total of \$145,000 was available to applicants for the 2019-20 financial year. A total of 26 applications were received and 15 organisations were successful in receiving funding.

Selection process

The Hub administered a targeted competitive selection process on behalf of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). 'Targeted competitive' funding rounds are open to a small number of potential grantees based on the specialised requirements of the grant activity to ensure all eligible organisations have an equal opportunity to apply.



Eligible applications were assessed on how strongly they met the following priorities:

- The extent to which the funding will support discrete projects or activities that will meet one of more of the program outcomes
- The number and range of services to be provided for the benefit of the Australian veteran community through specific activities such as:
 - annual general meetings
 - annual reports
 - events that foster camaraderie
 - liaison with DVA
 - liaison with the office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs
 - newsletters

Following preliminary assessment by the Hub, all outcomes were referred to a Selection Advisory Panel (SAP), made up of DVA employees from relevant business areas, who made funding recommendations to the Decision Maker. In making their recommendations, the SAP considered whether the application provided *value with relevant money*¹, having regard to the:

- overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives.

The Minister for Veterans and Defence Personnel approved the funding to the successful grant recipients.

General feedback

The successful applicants proposed activities that were eligible, appropriate and considered effective for achieving the program objectives. Successful applicants demonstrated strong alignment to the aim of the grant to support the role of national ESOs to provide coordinating and representation support for the Australian veteran and Defence community.

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

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.

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- meets the aim of the grant to support the role of national ESOs to provide coordinating and representational support for the Australian veteran and Defence community
 - relates to the ESO's role as a co-ordinating and representative body
 - addresses a specific problem or issue, rather than everyday business-as-usual costs
 - aims to benefit members nationally
 - is eligible (as per section 5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines)

Guidance for future GIA grant applications

The following guidance may assist applicants in completing applications for GIA grant funding.

Read the supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about GIA grants when applying for funding, especially the Grant Opportunity documentation provided on the Hub's [website](#).
- The Grant Opportunity documentation is specific to each GIA 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 and DVA for the selection process.

Eligibility and compliance

- Only bona fide national incorporated ESOs are eligible to apply for a GIA grant. A bona fide national incorporated ESO is considered to be an organisation:
 - which has direct links to the ex-service community
 - whose membership consists primarily of veterans, past and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and/or their dependants
 - which is established primarily to provide pensions, advocacy and/or welfare assistance to veterans, past and present members of the ADF and/or their dependants
 - which does not charge any fee for acting on behalf of the veterans, past and present members of the ADF and/or their dependants in the provision of claims or welfare services
 - which has objectives that aim to benefit the welfare of its members nationally
 - which is incorporated
 - To be eligible an application must support a discrete project that addresses a specific problem or issue, rather than supporting business-as-usual running costs.
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- Requested items should relate to the role of national ESOs as co-ordinating and representative bodies. These eligible items could include but are not limited to, costs associated with:
 - accommodation expenses (interactions with local, state/territory and Commonwealth government bodies or attendance at conferences, etc.)
 - travel expenses (interactions with local, state/territory and Commonwealth government bodies or attendance at conferences, etc.)
 - venue hire (hosting AGMs or other meetings, etc); and
 - organisational improvements (e.g. training in representational skills for key spokespeople in the organisation etc).
 - The grant money cannot be used for:
 - wages
 - business-as-usual costs
 - the covering of expenditure made outside the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020
 - costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
 - subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as utilities (e.g. electricity, phone and rent)
 - major construction/capital works
 - overseas travel
 - activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.