



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Grants in Aid 2022–23

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the Grants in Aid 2022–23 program (the program).

Overview

The 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. This program is open to national ESOs by invitation and provides funding to encourage cooperation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government. Funding for national ESOs aims to encourage the national advancement of the objectives of ESOs.

The objective of the grant opportunity is to fund discrete projects or activities by national ESOs which address a specific problem or issue and achieve a clear benefit to the ex-service and Defence community. The Department of Veterans' Affairs recognises, due to the dispersed nature and regional focus of state and smaller sub-branches, they are often separated from the national head office. As a result, additional solutions and supports are needed to build greater communication and collaborative efforts.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:


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

Grants in Aid funding forms part of Program 2.4 Veterans' Community Care and Support.

The Community Grants Hub administers the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017](#).

The grant opportunity application period opened on 14 April 2022 and closed on 16 May 2022.

The grant opportunity received 15 applications. Following the Delegate's decision, 15 applications were selected for funding, to a value of \$145,000 (GST exclusive).



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 Community Grants Hub undertook the screening for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the program. DVA determined all applicants and proposals were compliant, and were then assessed by DVA.

DVA used a closed non-competitive selection process to select 15 providers to deliver the Grants in Aid 2022–23 grant.

Applications were assessed on merit, based on:

- how well an application met the criteria, and
- whether it provided value with relevant money.

‘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 in the context of the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity.

Assessing value with relevant money includes consideration of the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:

- the relative value of the grant sought
- evaluation of the assessment criteria
- the quality of the project proposal and activities
- evaluation of the assessment criteria
- if the proposal is fit for purpose in contributing to program outcomes
- whether the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved
- the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

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 national ex-service and Defence community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes.

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

Selection Results

Fifteen organisations were selected to deliver the Grants in Aid 2022–23 grant.

The selected organisations addressed 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 must address the following:

- What is the specific problem or issue you have identified?
- What is the discrete project or activity you will undertake to address the identified issue, and how many people do you expect will participate (what will you do and who will it help)?

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe the specific problem or issue the organisation has identified.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the problem or issue▪ how the project addressed the specific problem or issue.
Strong applications were required to describe what the discrete project or activity the organisation will undertake to address the identified issue, and how many people expected will participate.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the proposed project▪ who it will help▪ why the project was needed and how it addressed a specific issue.



Criterion 2

Achieving outcomes

Describe how the national ex-service and Defence community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes

- What outcomes do you expect to achieve from your project, and how do these relate to the Grants in Aid program outcomes (why is it important and what will change)? The intended outcomes of the program are to:
 - assist national ESOs to support their branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations in performing compensation or wellbeing advocacy or other welfare work
 - assist national ESOs to advance the objectives of all ESOs more generally
 - assist national ESOs to improve co-operation and communication between national bodies, branches, sub branches and affiliated organisations on repatriation and military compensation matters
 - encourage co-operation and communication between the ex-service community, ESOs and the Australian Government.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to /describe what outcomes will be expected to be achieved from the project, and how the outcomes relate to the Grants in Aid outcomes.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the project outcomes, why they are important and what will they change▪ how the project outcomes achieve the intended Grants in Aid program outcomes.