



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

National Early Childhood Program (NECP)

**Support and connection for young children
with disability or developmental concerns**

Feedback for applicants



Easy Read version



How to use this feedback



The Australian Government Department of Social Services (the department) wrote this feedback.

When you see the word 'we', it means the department.



We wrote this feedback in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 27.



This Easy Read document is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find more information on the Community Grants Hub website.

www.communitygrants.gov.au



You can ask for help to read this feedback.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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About this grant opportunity



A **grant** is money from the government to pay for important work that can help others.



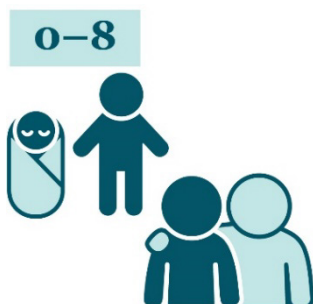
The National Early Childhood Program gives grants to organisations that support young children with disability and their families.

We usually call it NECP.



The NECP is run by the Department of Social Services (DSS).

It is part of the Australian Government.



NECP grants are for projects that aim to support:

- children aged 0 to 8 years old
- their parents and carers.



It's for children with:

- a disability
- **developmental concerns**
- **a developmental delay.**



These children might not develop at the same pace as other children of the same age.

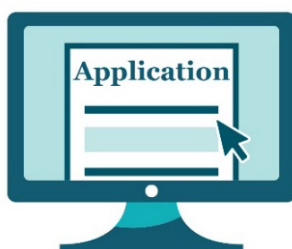
And they might need some extra help to do everyday things.



If we support these children when they are young, it can help them as they grow.

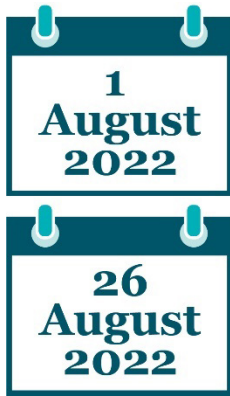


This grant is called 'Support and connection for young children with disability or developmental concerns'.



Organisations had to send a form in to apply for this grant.

We call this an **application**.



Applications for this grant:

- opened on 1 August 2022
- closed on 26 August 2022.



Organisations could apply for money from this grant to pay for activities they deliver.

We call this **funding**.



They deliver these activities over 3 years.



The activities from this grant will help young children get ready for:

- school
- early learning.



They will also help them play and get along with:

- other children
- any brothers or sisters they have.

What is this feedback about?



We received 35 applications for this grant.



We gave funding to 1 application.

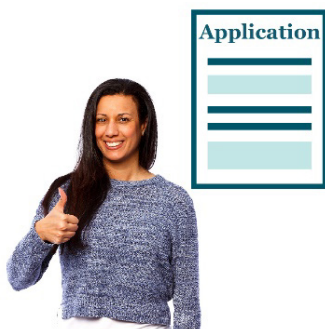


We gave \$6.9 million of funding.

In this feedback we explain:



- how we chose who we gave funding to



- what applications did well.



We also explain how applications could have been better.



We wrote this feedback to help organisations.

We want them to know how to make their applications stronger in the future.



We won't give feedback on individual applications.



You can find out about new grant opportunities on the GrantConnect website.

www.grants.gov.au



You can also find out more on the Community Grants Hub website.

www.communitygrants.gov.au

How we chose who to give the grant to

There are rules about:



- who could apply for this grant



- how we choose who got the grant.



There is a set of guidelines about this grant.



They explain the types of organisations that could apply.

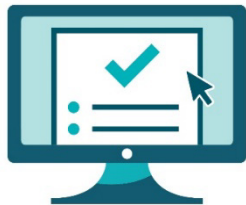


The guidelines also explain what organisations need to tell us in their application.



The guidelines also explain what **evidence** organisations need to give us.

Evidence is proof that something is true.



You can find these guidelines on the GrantConnect website.

www.grants.gov.au

You can search for 'GO5696'.



When we get an application, people from the department read it carefully.



After this, another group of people read the applications.



This group is called the Selection Advisory Panel.



They think about how the activities met the goals of the grant.

They also think about if organisations can:



- do what they say with the funding



- provide activities in the right places around Australia.

And they think about how organisations:



- showed how their project will help young children with disability



- would provide activities to important groups.

What strong applications were like

Strong applications showed how they could:



- work with other services that already exist



- help children and their families find other supports.



Strong applications also:

- explained which organisations they need to work with
- showed they have strong relationships with them.



And they showed they understand the **social model of disability**.



The social model of disability says that the things that stop people with a disability doing well are there because our society puts them there.

It is not because of the disability.

Strong applications showed how their project will:



- provide activities for all parts of the grant



- support families to learn more about supporting their children



- work across areas in Australia



- provide most activities in person.

Strong applications also showed us they:



- could start providing all their activities soon



- understand what children and their families need.

And they showed that their projects are safe for:



- First Nations peoples



- people from **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** backgrounds.



CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- may speak languages other than English.

How some applications could do better



Some organisations had good applications.

But they could only deliver the project for some parts of Australia.



Some applications included activities we already have.



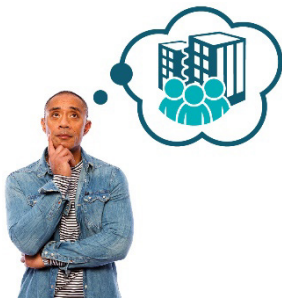
Or they focused on disability as a medical issue.

For example, doctors and treatment.



But the grant is about supporting children and their families to take part in:

- their communities
- learning.



Some organisations explained their plans to work with other organisations if they got the grant.



But we wanted them to show us they already have those relationships.



Some organisations explained how they would focus on one part of the grant, instead of all of it.



Or they explained how they would use a lot of online supports.



But this grant was about providing as much in person support as possible.

Important parts of strong applications

4



There were 4 **Assessment Criterion** in the application form.



An Assessment Criterion is a question that you need to answer.



If you applied for a grant, you had to answer all the Assessment Criterion.

You can find the Assessment Criterion in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



You can find the Guidelines on the GrantConnect website.

www.grants.gov.au

You can search for 'GO5696'.

Assessment Criterion 1

Strong applications talked about how they would:



- provide their activities across areas in Australia



- work out what places need their activities.



Strong applications also talked about how the project would meet the goals of the grant.



And how soon they would start their activities.



Strong applications had good evidence.

Strong applications also explained:



- the experience they have with other projects like this

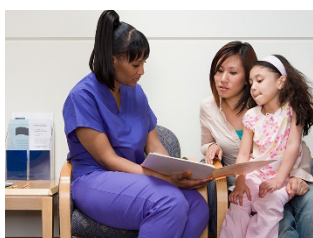


- how their skills show they can do what they say.

Assessment Criterion 2



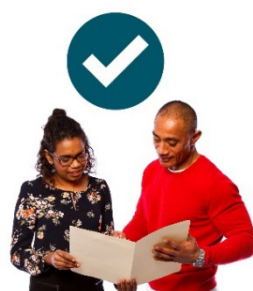
Strong applications explained how they would find out who needs their services.



For example, working with child health nurses to work out which families need support.

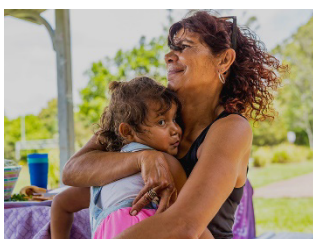


Or using research to work out what cities or towns need the project.



They also shared how they have already worked with services that support these children and their families.

Strong applications showed they can support:



- First Nations families in a safe way



- CALD families in a safe way.



They also showed they know how to support children with different types of disability.



This includes **autism**.

Autism is a disability that affects how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect with others.



Strong applications explained how they would provide activities across areas in Australia.

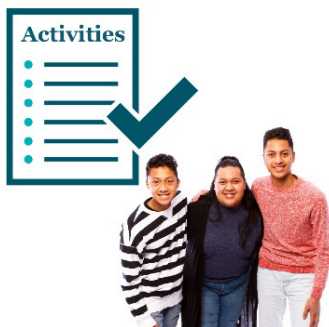
This includes places far away from cities and towns.

Assessment Criterion 3



Strong applications explained how they had strong relationships:

- with local organisations
- across Australia.



They also explained how they could use their relationships to bring people into their activities.

Strong applications explained how they will have staff:



- working in local communities



- gathering information about local communities



- connecting with people through community services, like libraries.

Strong applications understand:



- how early childhood services work



- when children are likely to start to need support.



Strong applications shared a plan about how to work with services to get children and their families to take part in their activities.

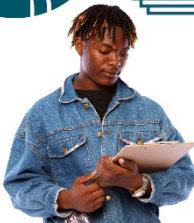


They also explained how they would do this across Australia.

Assessment Criterion 4



Strong applications explained how they will check how well their project works.



This includes thinking about:

- who will check the project
- when they will check the project.



Strong applications shared how they would check that the activities make things better for people.

For example, by using surveys.

Strong applications also shared their plan to:



- make sure the right amount of people take part in their activities



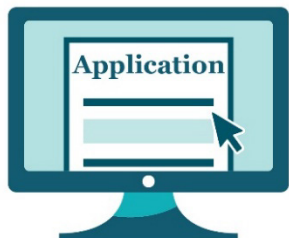
- check people are happy with the activities



- change parts of the activities if they are not working the way they should.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in the document mean.



Application

Organisations had to send a form in to apply for this grant.

We call this an application.



Assessment Criterion

An Assessment Criterion is a question that you need to answer.



Autism

Autism is a disability that affects how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- connect with others.



Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)

CALD people:

- come from different backgrounds
- may speak languages other than English.

Developmental concerns or delay



Children with developmental concerns or developmental delay might not develop at the same pace as other children of the same age.

And they might need some extra help to do everyday things.



Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is true.



Funding

Organisations could apply for money from this grant to pay for activities they deliver.

We call this funding.



Grant

A grant is money from the government given to organisations to pay for important work that can help others.



Social model of disability

The social model of disability says that the things that stop people with a disability doing well are there because our society puts them there.

It is not because of the disability.



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