



Australian Government  
Department of Social Services

# National Early Childhood Program (NECP)

**Support and connection for parents and  
carers of 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.



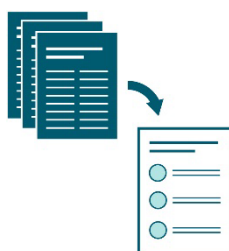
We wrote this feedback in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**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 31.



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](http://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.

0-8



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.

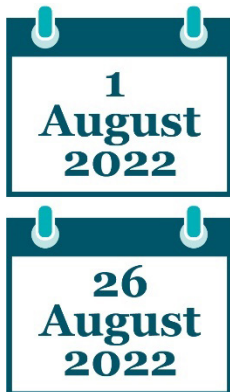


This grant is called 'Support and connection for parents and carers of young children with disability or developmental concerns'.



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.



This grant aims to support parents and carers when they:

- first find out their child has a disability
- are concerned about how their child is developing.



The activities from this grant will provide information for parents and carers.

This includes information about how:



- to find and use services



- they can support their child to learn.





And it includes information about how young children usually develop.



The activities from this grant will also include:

- group information sessions
- workshops.



## What is this feedback about?



We received 45 applications for this grant.



We gave funding to 1 application.

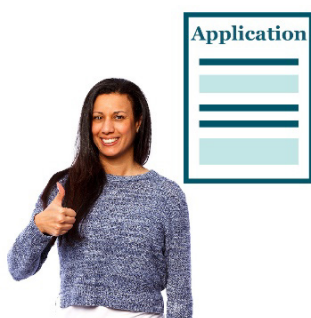


We gave almost \$6.89 million of funding.

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](http://www.grants.gov.au)



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

[www.communitygrants.gov.au](http://www.communitygrants.gov.au)

## How we chose who to give the grant to

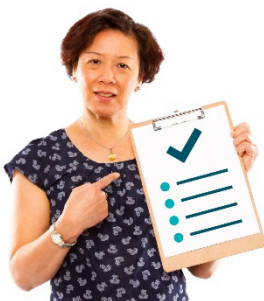
There are rules about:



- who could apply for this grant



- how we choose who got the grant.



There is a set of guidelines about the 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](http://www.grants.gov.au)

You can search for 'GO5693'.



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 grant funding



- provide activities in the right places around Australia.

And they think about how organisations:



- showed how their project will help parents and carers of young children with disability



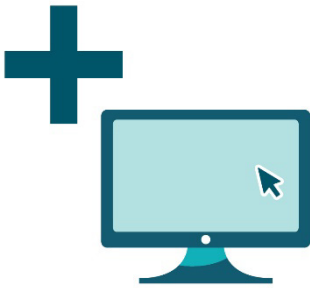
- would provide activities to important groups.

## What strong applications were like

Strong applications showed how they could:



- provide most of the project in person



- support their project with online sessions.

Strong applications also explained how they would:



- work with other services that already exist



- help families find other supports.





Strong applications also showed they understand the **social model of disability**.



The social model of disability says that the things that stop people with disability from 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.

They also showed us they:

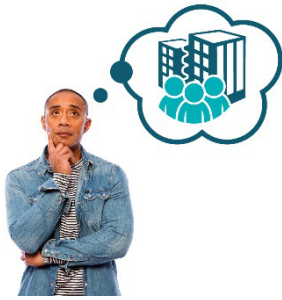


- could start providing all their activities in a short time



- understand what parents and carers need.





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 Community Grants Hub website.

[www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)

You can search for 'GO5693'.

## Assessment Criterion 1

Strong applications talked about how they would:



- provide their activities across areas in Australia



- find areas with people who need their activities



- provide most activities in person.



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 also 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



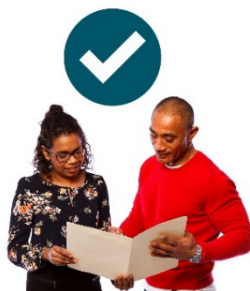
Strong applications explained how they would find out who needs their services.



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 families.



Strong applications shared how they would support First Nations families.



This includes how they would make their project safe for First Nations peoples and communities.



Strong applications also explained how they would support **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** families in a safe way.



CALD people:

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



Strong applications showed they know how to help parents and carers 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 also explained how they would provide activities across areas in Australia.

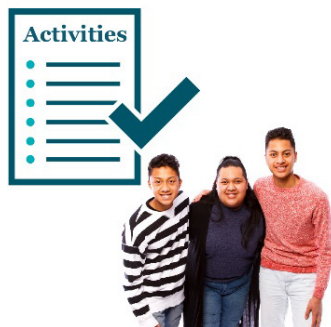
This includes places far away from cities and towns.

### 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



- gather information about local communities

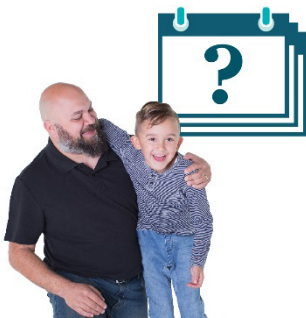


- connect with people through community services, like libraries.

Strong applications understand:



- how early childhood services work



- when parents and carers are likely to start to need support for themselves and their child.

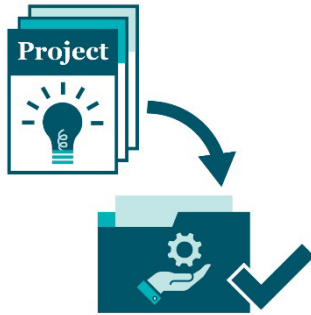


Strong applications shared a plan about how to work with other services to connect parents and carers with their activities.

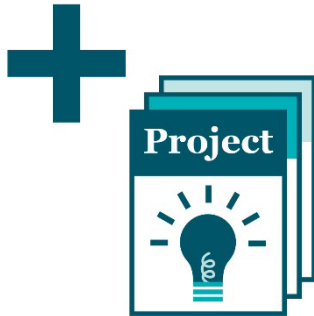


They also explained how they would do this across Australia.

Strong applications also explained how their project:



- works with services that already exist

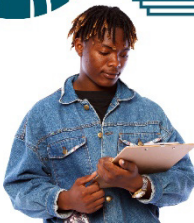


- is different from services that already exist.

## Assessment Criterion 4



Strong applications explained how they will check how well 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



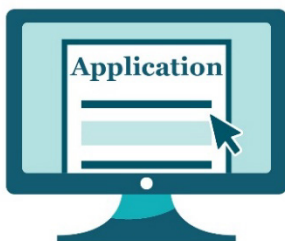
- check people are happy with the activities



- 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
- might 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 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 disability from doing well are there because our society puts them there.

It is not because of the disability.



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