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# Native Title Anthropologist Grant Program

## 2022 to 2025

### Feedback for applicants

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the Native Title Anthropologist Grant Program 2022 to 2025 grant opportunity.

### Overview


The Native Title Anthropologist Grant Program 2022 to 2025 (the program) seeks to increase native title anthropology capacity by supporting native title anthropologists working in the system. This facilitates native title parties having access to qualified and experienced anthropologists, to support the resolution of native title claims, the effective management of native title, and post-determination and compensation efforts. This work supports the recognition and protection of native title for First Nations people.

#### The objectives of the program are to:

- support the native title sector by increasing its native title anthropology capacity through:
  - increasing the availability of qualified and experienced anthropologists
  - assisting junior and early career anthropologists develop skills useful to the native title sector
  - strengthening the sector as it shifts towards a post-determination stage
- further the objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including:
  - Priority Reform 2 – Building the Community-Controlled Sector
  - Outcome 15 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters.

#### The intended outcomes of the program are:

- greater future capacity for anthropological work in the native title sector
- stronger linkages between academic and applied anthropological work, to ensure anthropological skills are available to support the resolution of ongoing native claims and the effective management of native title into the future
- professional development and support for native title anthropologists, in particular to build skills in claims resolutions, post-determination and compensation, including court preparation and other legal writing and presentation skills to support these activities.



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The grant opportunity application period opened on 2 November 2022 and closed on 29 November 2022.

## Selection process

The applications were screened for eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the Native Title Anthropologist Grant Program 2022 to 2025 grant opportunity. If AGD determined your application did not meet the eligibility and/or compliance criteria, you were notified of the outcome and your application did not progress to assessment.

AGD established a Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel), which was composed of 3 individuals that are external to AGD and have experience within First Nations academia and/or the native title sector. The Panel declared conflicts of interest that were evaluated by an independent probity advisor to exclude any panel member from assessing a particular application.

The Panel considered all eligible and compliant applications through an open competitive grant process, and reached a consensus on funding recipients and funding amounts in the presence of an independent probity advisor.

Applications were assessed on merit, based on:

- how well it met the assessment criteria
- how it compared to other applications
- whether it provided value with relevant money.

Each applicant was required to address the following selection criteria:

**Criterion 1: Addressing needs** Outline how your proposal will address the needs of native title anthropologists and the needs of the native title system.

**Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes** Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve positive outcomes for native title anthropology and the native title system.

**Criterion 3: Organisational capability** Demonstrate your capability to effectively deliver the grant activity to the sector on time and within budget.

## Selection results

The grant opportunity received 8 applications. Following the Financial Delegate's decision, 3 applications were selected for funding, to a total value of \$0.9 million (GST exclusive).

The grant round was highly competitive with a strong interest in the program and applications of a very high standard. Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process above.

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.

The Panel sought to fund applications that would maximise benefits to the native title sector and its anthropological community. Applications that achieved this and represented value for money with respect to the objectives and outcomes of this program were ranked highly.

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Applications that proposed grant activities irrelevant to or beyond the scope of the program were ranked lowly.

The Panel acknowledged the needs of all applicants, noting that more appropriate funding sources may be available to some applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to seek funding through avenues better suited to the grant activities they proposed. For example, the National Indigenous Australians Agency provides broad capacity building funding to native title holding corporations known as Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs).

Applicants are further encouraged to confirm their entity status (for example, as a PBC or other First Nations organisation) prior to seeking further funding.

Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below. For specific feedback about your application, please contact the Attorney-General's Department at [native.title@ag.gov.au](mailto:native.title@ag.gov.au).



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## Criterion 1: Addressing needs

Outline how your proposal will address the needs of native title anthropologists and the needs of the native title system.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- demonstrate how your proposal will increase the capacity and/or availability of native title anthropologists
- demonstrate how your proposal will address the identified needs of the native title system
- address one or more of the grant objectives.

A suitable response would demonstrate a practical and in-depth understanding of the role of anthropology in the native title sector. An unsuitable response may fail to connect grant activities with the scope of this grant program and its intended objectives and outcomes as outlined in section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to demonstrate how their proposal would increase the capacity and/or availability of native title anthropologists	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a practical understanding of the role of anthropologists in the native title system, and pressing issues in the sector</li><li>• a motivation and ability to grow and support the native title anthropologist community.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to demonstrate how their proposal would address the identified needs of the native title system	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a gap or issue in the native title system, and how their proposal would address it</li><li>• a clear and compelling need for funding to support the proposal</li><li>• how their proposal could benefit the system beyond the needs of their organisation alone.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to describe a proposal that would address one or more of the grant objectives	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a <u>clear link</u> between grant activities and benefits to the grant objectives.</li></ul>



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## Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve positive outcomes for native title anthropology and the native title system.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- clearly explain the activities you will use to deliver your proposal (for example, training courses, professional development workshops, mentoring programs and so on)
- clearly explain how the implementation of your proposal will increase the capacity of native title anthropologists to sustainably support the native title system, which may include:
  - support for post-determination work, and/or
  - supporting Outcome 15 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- outline the risks associated with the development and implementation of the proposal and how you will mitigate and manage risks.

A suitable response would connect grant activities to positive outcomes on the native title system. An unsuitable response may demonstrate wider benefits for the native title sector, but not how grant activities support native title anthropology and/or anthropologists specifically.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe the activities they will use to deliver their proposal	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• grant activities that were well-considered, realistic and would help achieve the aims of the proposal.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to describe how the implementation of their proposal would increase the capacity of native title anthropologists to sustainably support the native title system	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an understanding of the needs of the native title sector into the future</li><li>• an understanding of the need for post-determination work, and/or a broader connection with the land and waters.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to outline the risks associated with the development and implementation of the proposal, and how they would be mitigated and managed	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• potential risks associated with their proposal</li><li>• a clear and reasonable risk management strategy.</li></ul>



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### Criterion 3: Organisational capability

Demonstrate your capability to effectively deliver the grant activity to the sector on time and within budget.

When addressing the criterion, strong applicants will:

- outline the infrastructure that you will use to deliver the activity
- describe the number of key staff that will manage and deliver the activity and outline their relevant capabilities (experience, skills and qualifications)
- outline how your activity demonstrates value for money
- demonstrate your proven ability to effectively develop, implement, manage and monitor activities to achieve positive outcomes that are relevant to this grant.

A suitable response would provide a practical and timely strategy to successfully develop and implement the grant activities proposed. An unsuitable response would fail to provide clear details on the infrastructure and key staff required to achieve grant activities.

Strength	Example
Strong applications were required to describe the infrastructure they will use to deliver the activity	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a clear and considered evaluation of infrastructure available had been made</li><li>• the capability to deliver the grant activities proposed.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to describe the number of key staff that will manage and deliver the activity and outline their relevant capabilities	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the capacity of existing staff to execute the grant activities, or support new staff that would be hired under the proposal</li><li>• the capability to deliver the grant activities proposed.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to describe how their proposal represents value for money	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a well-thought-out approach to their budget, including a consideration of the total funding available to the grant program</li><li>• grant activities could be beneficial to wider native title anthropology community, either directly or through the broader potential of the proposal.</li></ul>
Strong applications were required to demonstrate their proven ability to effectively develop, implement, manage and monitor activities to achieve positive outcomes	Strong responses demonstrated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• their ability to execute the grant activities proposed</li><li>• their ability to manage and monitor grant activities over the 3 years of funding.</li></ul>

