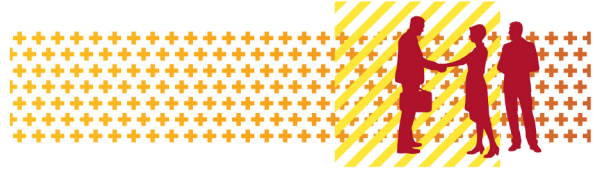




Australian Government

**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



2022–23 Volunteer Grants

Feedback for applicants

Overview

The Department of Social Services (the department) thanks you for taking the time to apply for the 2022–23 Volunteer Grants round. Feedback from the 2022–23 Volunteer Grants round may help you in developing an application for future Volunteer Grants opportunities.

Selection results

More than 3,600 organisations from across 151 electorates have been successful and will receive funding from the 2022–23 Volunteer Grants round.

Selection process

The electorate based, closed, non-competitive selection process was designed to ensure grant funding addresses local priorities and achieves an equitable geographic distribution of funding.

Members of Parliament (MPs) in collaboration with their Community Committees nominated organisations from within their electorate to apply for funding. The department subsequently invited the nominated organisations to submit an application. The department then considered all applications in line with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

General feedback from the 2022–23 Volunteer Grants round

The following feedback was consolidated to provide guidance on why some organisations were or were not successful in receiving Volunteer Grants funding. Organisations are recommended to:

Read supporting information before applying

- It is important to read all available information provided about Volunteer Grants when applying for funding, especially the grant opportunity documents provided on the [GrantConnect](#) website. The grant opportunity documents are specific to the Volunteer Grants round and contained important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, timeframes, and how to apply
- The application form included helpful information and details on questions relating to priorities for funding and mandatory information required for the selection process

Check the application before it is submitted

- Applicants were encouraged to check the application form for completeness and accuracy prior to submitting the form, including:
 - All fields in the application form had been completed in full, in particular the correct bank and contact details
 - All answers to questions had been entered correctly and saved into the application form
 - Any required attachments had been completed in full and correctly saved into the relevant section/s on the application form
- Please note the lack of information, or missing information, may have impacted on the overall consideration of an application
- The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) Hotline was available via support@communitygrants.gov.au to provide assistance. Applications which were not completed correctly and in full may have been deemed as non-compliant or ineligible and may not have been considered

Submit an application before the closing date and time

- Organisations were encouraged to prepare early and allow plenty of time to complete and submit the application in order to meet the closing date and time specified in the published information on the [GrantConnect](#) website:
 - It was the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application was received by the department on time
 - Application deadlines were in Australian Eastern time zone. This needed to be taken into account to ensure applications were submitted on time
- Organisations needed to clearly establish their legal entity status to ensure they had the required legal status to apply for Volunteer Grants:
 - Organisations were encouraged to seek information as to whether their legal entity name and/or trading name was registered for use under the ABN they provided on the application form. It was important applicants applying as an organisation provided the correct ABN associated with the legal name and/or trading name of their organisation
 - Applicants needed to read the grant opportunity documents to understand eligibility requirements
 - The Hub may have requested additional supporting documentation to confirm an organisation's entity type and status, for example, Incorporation Certificate or Trust Deed

Examples of why some organisations may not have been successful in the round:

Multiple applications

- Persons completing an application were encouraged to consult with other members from their organisation to ensure only one application was submitted
- Organisations recalling their applications to correct omissions or details often ended up generating multiple applications upon resubmission. If resubmitting an application, it was recommended organisations emailed the Community Grants support requesting to remove the incorrect application

Late applications

- It was strongly recommended the application was submitted well before the closing date and time. However, in the interest of procedural fairness, the department agreed late applications would be accepted until 12 December 2022

Ineligible items

- Only eligible items outlined in section 5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines were considered. Organisations were required to select the categories which matched the items they wished to purchase. Appendix A of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines provided examples of each item category to help organisations select the most appropriate category
- Section 5.4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines set out what grant money could not be used for