



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub

Improving your grant experience



Grants in Aid 2023–24

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has provided the following General Feedback for applicants of the 2021-8501 – Grants in Aid grant opportunity.

Overview

The grant opportunity application period opened on 21 February 2023 and closed on 23 March 2023. The grant opportunity received 15 applications.

The Grants in Aid program (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 was open to national ESOs by invitation and provided 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 was to fund discrete projects or activities by national ESOs that addressed a specific problem or issue and achieved a clear benefit to the ex-service and Defence community. DVA recognised, 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 was to:

- assist national ESOs to support their branches, sub-branches and affiliated organisations in performing compensation or wellbeing advocacy or wellbeing support 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.

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 organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. This information was provided to DVA for the final decision on whether applications met the eligibility and/or compliance criteria.

DVA assessed and considered all applications through a closed non-competitive selection grant process. All assessed applications were considered by the Grants Advisory Committee (the Committee). The Committee, established by DVA, provides a source of advice and assistance for assessing grant applications. The Committee assessed applications and provided advice to inform DVA's funding recommendations to the Delegate.

Applications were assessed to ensure they met the following selection criteria:

Criterion 1: Project need and suitability

Description of the project and why it was needed.

Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

Description of how the national ex-service and Defence community would benefit and how they would achieve program outcomes.

Selection results

Applications were assessed according to the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and outlined in the selection process above. The majority of applications were considered to be of a high standard.

Applications which included ineligible expenses in their grant application had the ineligible amount removed from the requested funding amount.

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.

Further detail about what constituted a strong response to each criterion is provided below.



Criterion 1: Project need and suitability – Description of the project and why it is needed.

From the Grant Opportunity Guidelines:

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
Applications were required to describe the specific problem or issue identified.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the problem or issue • how the project or activity will address the specific problem or issue.
Applications were required to describe the discrete project or activity to address the identified issue, and outline the number of participants they expect.	Strong responses described: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed project • why the project was needed and how it addressed a specific issue • who it would assist and how many participants were expected

Criterion 2: Achieving outcomes

Description of how the national ex-service and Defence community would benefit and how they would achieve program outcomes.

From the Grant Opportunity Guidelines:

- *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)?*

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