



# Disability Employment Expos

## Feedback for applicant

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The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Disability Employment Expos grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

## Overview

The application submission period opened on 23 November 2023 and closed on 18 January 2024. The grant opportunity received 16 applications.

This grant is to engage an organisation or consortium to run up to 8 disability employment expos. The primary objective of these events would be to provide people with high support needs, their families and carers, with information on a range of employment pathways and available supports.

## Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's grant opportunity delegate for a final decision on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through an Open Competitive, grant process. Applications which had undergone preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (panel) for deliberation.

The panel established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Financial Delegate.

When assessing and deliberating on applications the panel took into consideration several factors including the inclusion or exclusion of late applications, the volume of applications received, meeting the identified requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines and the available funding envelope.

The panel's consideration of assessed applications was, based on:

- compliance with the guidelines
- suitability against the eligibility criteria in the guidelines
- how well the applications responses met the assessment criterion
- the extent applications compared against other applications
- alignment to the developmental plan outline and other requested attachments
- whether it provided value with relevant money.



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## Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicant demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criterion.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and the content of quality responses to the assessment criterion.

### Criterion 1

Demonstrate your organisation's capability and capacity to successfully deliver the grant activities.

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- outlined their experience in holding events or expos that are targeted at people with disability, their families and carers
- described their ability to develop information and resources for the expos, to inform people with disability, their families and carers about various employment supports, services and opportunities
- explained how they will consider accessibility requirements at the expos, including for the online expo(s).

### Strong applications:

- provided examples of prior events and/or expos and feedback from past attendees and stallholders
- detailed the appropriate considerations when developing resources for this specific audience and included examples of developed resources along with the utilisation of those resources
- demonstrated comprehensive planning considerations, by providing detailed examples of diverse accessibility issues and how they would address those issues. For example, appropriate location research and the high needs target group's potential communication and environmental needs.



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## Criterion 2

Demonstrate your organisation's understanding of the disability employment landscape and ability to connect with relevant stallholders/stakeholders.

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- described their ability to work effectively with various service providers and employers, including mainstream/open employers, and attract them to these events
- described their ability to utilise networks and connect with other relevant stakeholders as outlined in section one of these guidelines, including conducting comprehensive market research to make connections
- described their ability to effectively promote/advertise events and reach cohorts of people with high support needs nationally. This includes those working in supported employment settings and school leavers
- described an understanding of the guiding principles and demonstrated how the expos will address the principles.

### Strong applications:

- provided examples of past/on-going successful collaborations with services and employers
- detailed the regularity of contact and composition of existing networks and partnerships, which provide access to relevant stakeholders. The completion or intention to conduct further research, to ensure comprehensive market coverage
- explained successful and/or intended promotional strategies to the target cohort and/or the extent of their national coverage
- listed the key features of the guiding principles and described how these applied to their projects aim and implementation.

## Criterion 3

Deliver value for money for government.

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- outlined a proposed payment structure
- justified how the grant would deliver value for money for government.

### Strong applications:

- provided projected milestones and preferred payment structure for the grant period and intention to work with the department and within specific grant requirements
- detailed the expected outcomes for all stakeholders, including any in-kind benefits.

## Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.