



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Inclusion and Accessibility Fund: Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) - Community Attitudes

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Social Services (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Inclusion and Accessibility Fund: Australia's Disability Strategy (ADS) - Community Attitudes grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the grant opportunity guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

Overview

The application submission period opened on 12 February 2025 and closed on 6 March 2025

This grant opportunity will fund projects proposed by Disability Representative Organisations (DROs) and Disabled People's Organisations (DPO's) that focus on reducing harm towards, and increasing inclusion of, people with disability. Project activities will support grass roots efforts to create safe and inclusive communities by improving understanding and shifting mindsets in relation to disability, and barriers to inclusion of people with disability.

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 final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through a Restricted Competitive grant process. Applications which underwent 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.

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

- Meeting the compliance requirements outlined in the guidelines
- Meeting the eligibility requirements outline in the guidelines
- how well the responses met the assessment criteria
- the volume of applications received and the extent to which applications compared against other applications

- the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
- Whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
- how the proposed activities compared to the grant opportunity guidelines
- identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies for the department and the Commonwealth

Selection Results

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the guidelines based on the strength of their responses to the assessment criteria.

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

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

Criterion 1

Demonstrate how the project would align with the Inclusion and Accessibility Fund

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants would have:

- outlined how the proposal would align with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031, with a particular focus on improving community attitudes that supported equality, inclusion, and participation in society for people with disability.
- detailed how the project would improve the skills, knowledge, and attitudes within specific sectors, groups, communities or cohorts.
- outlined the improvements in access and inclusion for people with disability that your project would produce.

Strong applications:

- Made specific reference to Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2041 when describing their project and focused on improving community attitudes.
- Showcased how particular activities and initiatives that were a part of their project would improve the skills, knowledge, and attitudes within specific sectors, groups, communities or cohorts.
- Outlined specific and measurable improvements in access and inclusion for people with disability that their project would deliver.

Criterion 2

Demonstrate how there will be inclusion of people with disability

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants would have:

- outlined the specific leadership roles that people with disability would play in the project.
- outlined how the project would be developed by and delivered in partnership with people with disability.
- outlined how the project would be accessible and inclusive for all people with disability, including First Nations people with disability, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and (if possible) those living in remote Australia.

Strong applications:

- Named and described specific leadership roles that were filled by people with disability and the role they would play in the project.
- Described the role of people with disability in both the development and delivery of the project
- Showcased specific strategies they would put in place to ensure the project was accessible and inclusive for all people with disability, including First Nations people with disability, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and (if possible) those living in remote Australia.

Criterion 3

Demonstrate how the success of the project will be measured and demonstrated

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants would have:

- outlined the key milestones of the project with anticipated timelines and key deliverables.
- outlined how you would evaluate the project's effectiveness, including how feedback would be collated, participation evidenced, and outcomes measured.
- outlined how you would document learnings and outcomes from the project so that this information could be used to enable ongoing improvement in community attitudes towards people with disability, beyond the initial project.

Strong applications:

- Clearly described key milestones of the project with specific reference to the timeline of these milestones and how they would tangibly be measured.
- Showcased the ways they would evaluate the project's effectiveness using feedback, participation evidenced and measurable outcomes
- Provided clear strategies they would use to document learnings and outcomes and explained how this information could be used to enable ongoing improvement in community attitudes towards people with disability, beyond the initial project.

Criterion 4

Demonstrate organisational capability to deliver the proposed project

When addressing this criterion, strong applicants would have:

- demonstrated with evidence suitability as a Disability Representative Organisation (DRO) or Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO) working with the disability community peaks/organisations/employers within and beyond the disability community
- outlined relationships with other disability organisations, service providers and peak bodies, within and beyond the disability sector including letters of support and other evidence
- outlined relevant experience in delivering projects of similar scale and complexity

Strong applications:

- Provided clear evidence and/or attachments that outline the context and description of their role in the disability community to support their suitability as a Disability Representative Organisation (DRO) or Disabled Peoples Organisation (DPO).

- Clearly outlined their relationships with other specific disability organisations, service providers and peak bodies, within and beyond the disability sector including how these relationships would be leveraged in the project.
- **Outlined** relevant experience in delivering projects of similar scale and complexity and explained how this experience would support the delivery of the project.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will be provided for this grant opportunity. To request individual feedback please follow the instructions as set out in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines section 9.1.