



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Grants in Aid 2025–26 Program

Feedback for Applicants

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Grants in Aid 2025–26 Program 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 9 May 2025 and closed on 3 June 2025.

The grant opportunity aims to support the role of national ex-service organisations (ESOs) to provide coordinating and representational support for the Australian veteran and Defence community. The objective of the grant opportunity is to fund discrete projects or activities that address a specific problem or issue and will achieve a clear national benefit to the Australian ex-service and Defence community.

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 department assessed and considered eligible and compliant applications through a closed non-competitive grant process.

The selection advisory panel (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 outlined in the guidelines
- how well the responses met the assessment criteria
- the volume of applications received and funding requested
- the provision and appropriateness of the requested attachments
- whether the project demonstrated value with relevant money
- 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 successful 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 department notified applicants of the outcome in writing.

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

Project need and suitability

Describe your project and why it is needed.

A strong response:

- described the problem and how the project addressed those specific issues
- described who the proposed project would help, why it was needed and how it addressed the specific issue for the individual or group.

Criterion 2

Achieving outcomes

Describe how the national ex-service and Defence community will benefit and how you will achieve program outcomes.

A strong response:

- described project outcomes, why they were important and what changes would occur after the project is delivered
- described how the project achieved the intended outcomes in the guidelines.

Individual feedback

If relevant, individual feedback will be included in the written advice about the outcome of your application.