



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Veteran Recognition of Prior Learning – Tertiary Support (Round 3)

Feedback for applicants

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Veteran Recognition of Prior Learning – Tertiary Support (RPL Program) (Round 3) 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 August 2025 and closed on 8 September 2025.

The grant opportunity invited 42 eligible Universities to apply and received 12 applications.

The purpose of the program is to support higher education providers including Australian Universities to recognise the skills and learning veterans gain from their Australian Defence Force (ADF) service, and in so doing, support veterans to undertake tertiary education.

The objectives of the program are to:

- enable a smoother entry to university for veterans who may require additional support to achieve a successful education outcome
- provide support to universities to enhance veteran RPL frameworks and support for veterans pursuing further study within tertiary institutions
- ensure RPL and support for veterans entering study at tertiary institutions are sustained beyond the grant funding period.

The intended outcomes of the program are that:

- veterans are assisted into tertiary education by providing an avenue where their existing skills and experience are recognised as part of the entry pathways
- organisations develop or adapt sustainable direct or assisted entry pathways and study support programs for veterans
- organisations share knowledge from their RPL programs with other tertiary or education facilities about supporting veterans with entry to their universities.

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

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 all applications through a targeted 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 outline in the guidelines
- how well the responses met the assessment criteria
- 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 other applications
- 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 the applications received were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the grant requirements outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines and provided strong responses against the assessment criteria.

The Department notified all applicants of the outcome of their grant application in writing.

Grants Assessment Criteria

Criterion 1

Proposed approach to RPL or credit-mapping for Veterans seeking to enrol in study

Strong responses:

- provided a detailed description of the project/activity that will be undertaken and the number of veterans expected to enrol, including an indication of accessibility by veterans regardless of their location within Australia
- identified the applicants approach for focusing on the veteran community and outlined the expected improvements in the range of options for transitioning veterans, for example, the introduction of new further education courses in addition to an existing RPL course
- provided examples and evidence of partnerships with other Universities or higher education providers and outlined the benefits of these relationships to the veterans.

Criterion 2

Experience with the veteran community

Strong responses:

- provided examples of veteran specific projects and programs and demonstrated how this experience will enable the successful implementation of their RPL project
- presented evidence of networks and partnerships in the veteran community that demonstrated an ability to deliver a successful veteran targeted program
- demonstrated awareness of the barriers and enablers of veteran access to education and how their proposed activities would address the needs of the veteran community.

Criterion 3

Organisational capacity and experience

Strong responses:

- demonstrated organisational ability or experience in delivering other forms of RPL or alternative entry pathway programs for other cohorts, such as low social economic back grounds or English as a second language students
- identified skills and qualifications of key staff that will manage and deliver the project/activity and how that experience will benefit the veteran cohort specifically
- demonstrated the approach, policies, and procedures for managing a grant agreement including monitoring the delivery of activity outcomes, evaluation, and continuous improvement.

General feedback

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read all grant opportunity documentation, especially the guidelines and any instructions in the application form.

The grant opportunity documentation is specific to each round and contains important information about the purpose of the program, eligibility and compliance requirements, eligible items, timeframes and how to apply.

The application form also includes helpful information relating to eligibility, and mandatory information required by the Community Grants Hub and the department for the selection process.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.