

FEEDBACK FOR APPLICANTS

OVERVIEW

The Australian Government's *Driving Social Inclusion through Sport and Physical Activity grant opportunity* (the grant opportunity) targets the following community groups to engage in sport and physical activity projects: newly arrived migrants and refugees; women; people with a physical or mental disability; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to contribute on a local level to:

- support vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals from targeted community groups to participate in flexible, community based sport and physical activity projects; and
- increase acceptance of diversity, build inclusive communities, and assist vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and families to develop social links through sport and physical activity.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- increase the participation of vulnerable, disadvantaged individuals and families from targeted community groups in sport and physical activity;
- increase community pride and connection within targeted community groups; and
- increase the range of flexible, community based, participation opportunities available.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATIONS

There was significant interest in the grant opportunity, with more than 850 applications received. 57 applications were successful for funding through an open competitive grant process.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications were assessed on their merits and comparatively against other applications based on:

- how well they met the assessment criteria;
- how they compared to other applications;
- whether they demonstrated value with relevant money; and
- how they proposed to meet program objectives and outcomes.

The Guidelines outlined that the amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in applications should be relative to the size, complexity and funding amount requested.

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

The common elements of strong applications are provided in the assessment feedback, including examples of how these applications met the selection criteria.

In the first instance, strong applications provided a clear and concise project description which identified the target community groups to benefit from the project, the activities to be conducted and the location or coverage area of the project (e.g. by state/territory or region).

Criterion 1: Understanding the Target Community Groups

Strong responses:

- Demonstrated understanding of the demographics of the community/ies; the extent of the identified need, how the targeted community group/s will benefit from the project.
- Described how stakeholders and/or governing bodies within the targeted communities will be involved to achieve the objectives of the grants opportunity.

CRITERIA	COMMON ELEMENTS AND EXAMPLES
<p>Demonstrated understanding of the demographics of the community/ies, the extent of the identified need and how the targeted community group/s will benefit from the project.</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information on target community group demographics with reference to their organisation’s knowledge and experience (e.g. clients/members, service information, links with community) and/or reference to reports and publicly available data. • Demonstrated the extent of identified need within target communities including discussion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ inclusion issues, service gaps and barriers impacting participation in sport and physical activity; and/or ○ socioeconomic or other issues contributing to disadvantage and vulnerability. • Described initial client research with target community groups to ascertain need and participant interest. • Presented strategies to address the inclusion issues and barriers faced by the target community (e.g. club education and training, cost of sport and recreation, access to quality instruction/coaching, transport, translation and language services, facility/venue hire, ongoing mentoring/support). • Outlined how the proposed project will benefit the target community with clear alignment to program objectives and outcomes.
<p>Described how stakeholders and/or governing bodies within the targeted communities will be involved to achieve the objectives of the grants opportunity.</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described their relationship/links with stakeholders and/or governing bodies within the targeted communities and their role with the project to achieve program objectives and outcomes (e.g. consultation, co-design, governance, referral source for participants, activity provider, venue/facility operator, education and training partner, evaluation partner). • Outlined the knowledge, capabilities and skills brought to the project by stakeholders and/or governing bodies. • Considered the range of roles for target communities to lead or support the project through roles as staff, participants, officials, coaches, volunteers, mentors and advisers.

Criterion 2: Organisational Governance and Risk Management

Strong responses:

- Outlined the organisation’s governance structure, including experience and role of staff, and the organisation’s prior experience in delivering sport and physical activity projects.
- Described the organisation’s capability to deliver new services to the targeted community groups.
- Explained the risk management approach used in the organisation.

CRITERIA	COMMON ELEMENTS AND EXAMPLES
<p>Organisation’s governance structure, including experience and role of staff, and the organisation’s prior experience in delivering sport and physical activity projects.</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided information on the organisation’s governance structure and financial and administrative systems, including relevant sub-committees and advisory groups. • Described the organisation’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ experience engaging and managing staff and volunteers; ○ staff roles for project activities including supervision and support arrangements; and ○ prior experience in delivering successful sport and physical activity projects.
<p>Organisation’s capability to deliver new services to the targeted community groups.</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described organisational capability, staff skills and experience leading and delivering services to the target communities (e.g. sport and physical activity programs, community and welfare services, health services, disability and mental health services, settlement services). • Outlined where partner organisations or specialist services/personnel would be engaged to enhance capability (e.g. allied health, sport-specific coaches/instructors).
<p>Risk management approach.</p>	<p>Strong responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated a sound knowledge of risk management principles. • Provided practical measures and controls to mitigate risks associated with their proposed project.

Additional feedback

Additional elements for applicants to consider:

<p>Indicative Activity Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgets should be checked to ensure all expense items add up to the total grant funds requested. • Budgets should be consistent with the application, detailing the cost of all proposed activities and equipment. • The budget should have regard to eligible expenditure items and items that the grant cannot be used for, as detailed in the Guidelines.
<p>Value for money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants should note how applications will be assessed with regard to value for money, as outlined in the Guidelines. For this grant opportunity, assessment of value for money had regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant; ○ the relative value of the grant sought and the indicative activity budget; and ○ the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the objectives/outcomes. • To support value for money assessment, applicants should clearly identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ proposed project outputs (e.g. number of participants, number of activity sessions, scale of education/training, development of resources, competition opportunities); and ○ proposed project benefits and how they align with the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity.