

Rare Diseases – Support, Education and Training Grant Opportunity GO2815

FEEDBACK FOR APPLICANTS

OVERVIEW

The Australian Government continues its commitment to ensure there is a reduction in the incidence of preventable mortality and morbidity, including through the national public health initiatives, promotion of healthy lifestyles and approaches covering disease prevention, health screening and palliative care.

The Rare Diseases – Support, Education and Training grant opportunity falls under the Public Health and Chronic Disease Program. Funding is provided through this program to support implementation of a range of activities under individual national strategic action plans for a range of chronic conditions, including the National Strategic Action Plan for Rare Diseases (the Action Plan). The Action Plan outlines the priorities and actions required to improve the health of those impacted by rare disease.

The purpose of the grant opportunity is to facilitate the development and delivery of awareness and education resources, and care and support services, for people living with a rare disease, their families and carers, health professionals and the wider population. The grant opportunity aims to increase awareness of rare diseases and improve access to information, education and training for health professionals, and improve care and support services for people living with a rare disease, their families and carers, and the rare disease health workforce.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Applications for the grant opportunity were assessed on their merits and comparatively against other applications based on:

- how well they met the assessment criteria;
- how well they were broken down by the identified streams of activity;
- how they compared to other applications;
- whether they demonstrated value with relevant money;
- whether correct templates were used, complete and accurate; and
- how they proposed to meet program objectives and outcomes.

Individual assessment of each application was undertaken and assessors allocated scores using the 5 point numerical scale (excellent, good, average, poor and does not meet criterion at all).

All criterion were considered to be of equal importance and no weighting was used.

ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK

Strong applications provided clear and concise evidence against the selection criteria demonstrating the organisation's ability to achieve project objectives to the highest standard. Strong applications provided a clear breakdown of activity against the relevant stream/s.

Criterion 1: Describe how your project aligns with Program Objectives and Outcomes in Section 2.1

Strong responses:

- Clearly described the proposed activities and how these activities aligned with the grant opportunity's objectives and outcomes, in line with the relevant stream/s;

- Clearly identified how the organisation would, engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective delivery of the relevant grant objectives and outcomes.

In relation to this criteria all applicants should consider:

- Where applicable, the application was broken down by the stream/s of activity identified under the grant opportunity.

Criterion 2: Describe your organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the project

Strong responses:

- Outlined the organisation's governance structure, and financial and administrative systems, which included sub-committees and advisory groups.
- Provided evidence of exceptional staff experience and how expertise would be utilised.
- Demonstrated extensive knowledge in developing and disseminating resources at a national level.
- Provided extensive lists of networks which would be utilised in development and dissemination of resources, specifically established networks within relevant population at risk community groups.

Criterion 3: Describe your organisation's risk management approach in relation to your grant activity

Strong responses:

- Provided evidence of well-structured risk management policies, frameworks and committees within the organisation.
- Presented risk management plans demonstrating excellent understanding of well-considered risks specific to the project. Practical mitigation strategies included to address risk and minimise potential impacts.

Criterion 4: Demonstrate efficient and effective use of grant funds

Strong responses:

- Value for money clearly demonstrated through appropriate costings and inclusion of relevant project costs.
- Budget items appropriately balanced particularly in relation to split between staffing/administrative and tangible project outcomes.
- Budget broken down in line with the relevant stream/s;

In relation to this criteria all applicants should consider:

- 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 in the Activity Work plan.
- The budget should have regard to eligible expenditure items and items that the grant cannot be used for, as detailed in the Guidelines. Templates should be altered as appropriate.