Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Quality Use of Pathology Program Project Grants (2021-2023) GO5049 – Feedback for Applicants

July 2022

Overview

This feedback is provided in relation to the Quality Use of Pathology Program Projects Grant Round (2021-23) GO5049 that was open on Grant Connect from 3 September 2021 to 19 October 2021.

The Quality Use of Pathology Program (QUPP) is a longstanding pathology quality program that was established in 1999. QUPP was established to support the pathology sector in the pursuit of continued improvements and to encourage innovation in pathology-related practices, among requesters/referrers, providers and consumers of pathology services. Projects funded under the QUPP align with the strategic direction of the National Pathology Accreditation Program which forms the other part of the pathology quality program managed by the Australian Government.

Program funds are made available for innovative projects that meet the QUPP objectives and that aim to improve the management, delivery and/or consumption of Medicare pathology services.

The objectives of the QUPP Program are:

- Quality Pathology Practice: To support professional practice standards that meet consumer and referral needs and provide evidence-based, best practice, quality-assured services that are safe, efficient and cost effective;

- Quality Referrals (Requesting/Ordering): To support referral practices that:

  - are informed and facilitated by best practice professional relationships and protocols between referrers and providers;

  - are informed by evidence;

  - maximise health benefits; and

  - inform and engage consumers; and

- Quality Consumer Services: To develop and improve consumer-focused, accessible and coordinated services that promote informed choice and meet consumer needs.

Outcome of Applications

There was a high level of interest in the QUPP Project Grants (2021-2023). Out of 32 applications received, 8 were successful for funding through the open competitive grant process.

Assessment of Applications

Applications were assessed against the assessment criteria and with consideration to other applications. Applications were considered on their merits, based on:

- how well they met the criteria;
- how they compared with other applications;
- technical merit; and
- whether they will provide value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the applications represented value with relevant money, the following was considered:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant;
- the relative value of the grant sought;
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrated that it would contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives; and
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals.

Assessment Feedback

Common elements of high-quality applications are tabled in the assessment feedback below.

Criterion 1 – Alignment with Program Objectives (weighting 40%)

Describe how the grant activity contributes to the objectives of the grant opportunity as described at Section 2 (of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines) - Word limit 1500 words.

Criterion 1 Feedback:

Sub Criteria	Common elements
The aim/purpose of the project and why the activity is needed for the pathology industry and/or profession and/or consumers	Strong responses: • Provided a clear project description and identified the need for the project and benefits to the pathology sector and/ or consumers. • Were well-researched, provided supporting reasons, and clearly demonstrated that the project was unique.
How the project addresses and supports the objectives and outcomes of the QUPP	Strong responses: • Identified and comprehensively outlined how the outcomes of the project will support one or more of

Sub Criteria	Common elements
	the QUPP objectives and outcomes, including supporting reasons.
Project linkages with other activities and benefits to stakeholders and consumers	Strong responses: • Described how the project relates to existing broader initiatives and/or expands on, or complements other QUPP-funded pathology quality initiatives. • Clearly identified stakeholders and how they would be involved in the project and benefit from the project outcomes.
How the project will improve the delivery and consumption of Medicare-funded pathology services	Strong responses: • Directly addressed how the project would contribute to improving the management, delivery and/ or consumption of Medicare-funded pathology services. • Provided comprehensive examples that supported the response.

Criterion 2 – Methodology, implementation and organisational capacity (weighting 40%)

Demonstrate your Organisation's capability and capacity to deliver the proposed activity – word limit 1000 words excluding tables.

Criterion 2 Feedback:

Sub Criteria	Common elements and examples
An Activity Work Plan in the template provided	Strong responses: • Articulated the objectives outlined in Criterion 1 and relate these to the key activities and milestones. • Provided comprehensive detail of the activities to be undertaken to achieve milestones and clear timeframes.
An Indicative Activity Budget in the template provided	Strong responses: • Provided detail with how budget items related to the activities and expenses were in accordance with

Sub Criteria	Common elements and examples
	the QUPP Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GoGs).
Project and financial management processes and organisational support (including appropriate skills and experience of key personnel)	Strong responses: • Detailed a clear governance structure for the oversight of the project. • Outlined the skills and experience of the key personnel involved in the project.
Monitoring and reporting and evaluation of project outcomes	Strong responses: • Described the steps that would be involved in monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project and its outcomes.
Risks and mitigation strategies in the template provided	Strong responses: • Provided a comprehensive risk management plan including mitigation strategies to address risks. • Identification of potential risks of the deliverables for the project, and risks from a logistical perspective.

Criterion 3 – Efficient, Effective, Economical and Ethical use of relevant Money (weighting 10%)

Describe how you will ensure the efficient and economical use of grant funds when delivering your project/activities – word limit 500 words.

Criterion 3 Feedback:

Sub Criteria	Common elements and examples
Value for money – including economy, efficiency and effectiveness.	Strong responses: • Identified in-kind support and leveraging stakeholders (for example through volunteering of time or using membership networks etc.). • Articulated what the return on investment from funding their project would be.

Sub Criteria	Common elements and examples
	• Identified efficiencies and opportunities to build on knowledge and resources, for example using data that is already available/has already been collected. • Demonstrated how the project will be cost effective.

Criterion 4 – Promotion and sustainability of project outcomes (weighting 10%)

Demonstrate the sustainability of the proposed activities – word limit 500 words.

Criterion 4 Feedback:

Sub Criteria	Common elements and examples
How the project results will be disseminated	Strong responses: • Included a clear plan for how the project results will be disseminated to relevant stakeholders - for example a communication plan.
How the project outcomes (short, medium and long term) will be maintained and sustained after the grant activity period.	Strong responses: • Clearly outlined how the intended short, medium and long term project outcomes will be sustained after the grant activity period has ended.