



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Business Grants Hub

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Stronger Communities Programme – Round 10

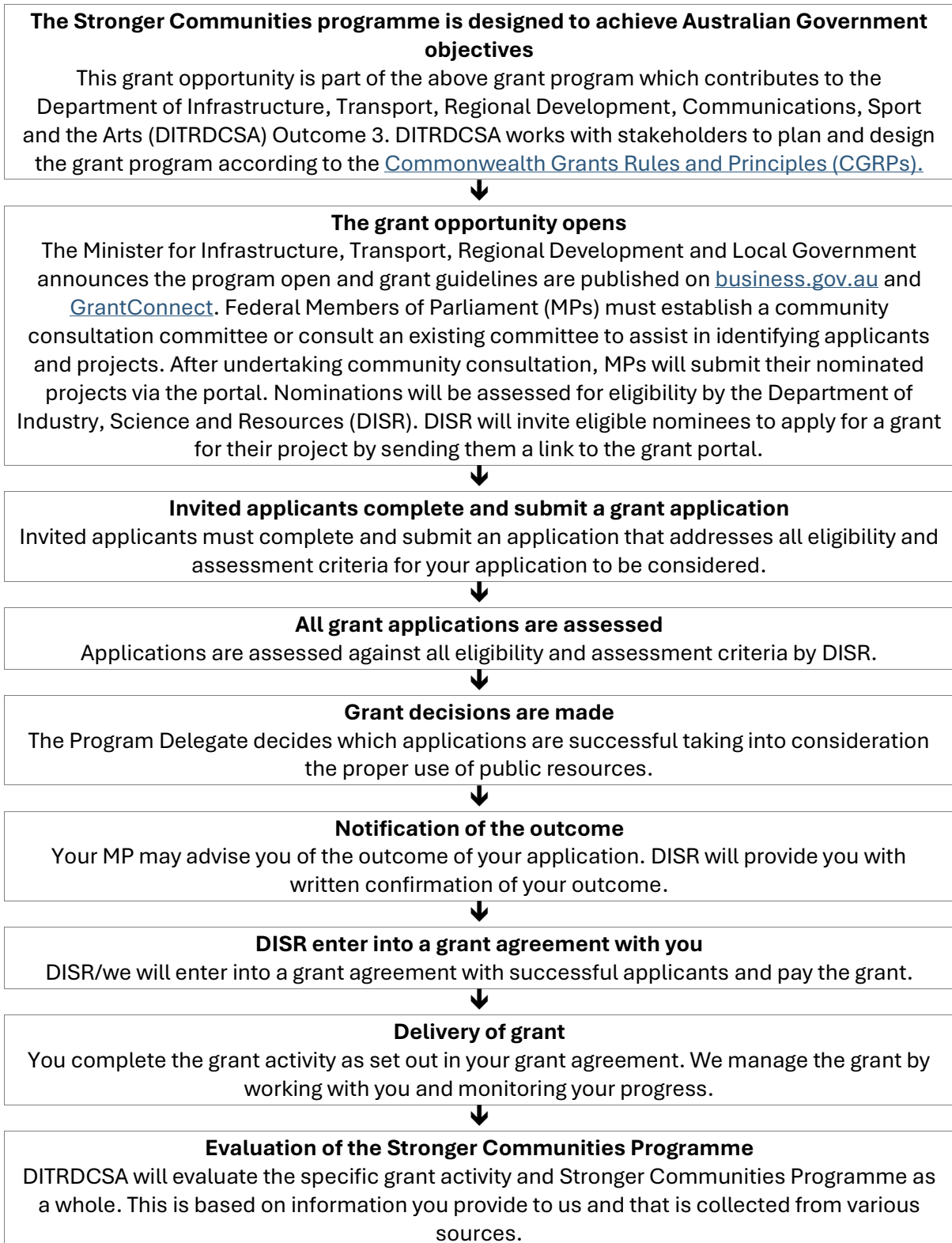
Opening date:	21 September 2026
Closing date and time:	Nominations close 5.00PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 30 November 2026 Applications close 5.00PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 19 January 2027 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
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Type of grant opportunity:	Closed non-competitive

Contents

1. Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 processes	4
1.1. Introduction	5
2. About the grant program.....	5
2.1. Changes compared to Round 9	5
2.2. About the Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 grant opportunity.....	6
2.3. Community consultation	7
2.4. Invitation process	7
2.5. Replacement nominations.....	7
3. Grant amount and grant period	8
3.1. Grants available	8
3.2. Project period.....	8
4. Eligibility criteria.....	8
4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?	8
4.2. Project Sponsors	10
4.3. Additional eligibility requirements	10
4.4. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?.....	10
5. What the grant money can be used for.....	10
5.1. Eligible grant activities	10
5.2. Eligible expenditure	14
5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for.....	14
6. The assessment criteria	15
6.1. Assessment criterion 1	15
7. How to apply.....	15
7.1. Attachments to the application	16
7.2. Joint (consortia) applications	16
7.3. Timing of grant opportunity processes.....	17
7.4. Questions during the application process	17
8. The grant selection process.....	17
8.1. Assessment of grant applications	17
8.2. Who will approve grants?	18
9. Notification of application outcomes	18
9.1. Feedback on your application	19

10. Successful grant applications.....	19
10.1. The grant agreement.....	19
10.2. Approval letter grant agreement	19
10.3. Exchange of letters grant agreement	19
10.4. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards	19
10.5. How we pay the grant.....	20
10.6. Grant Payments and GST	20
11. Announcement of grants	20
12. How we monitor your grant activity	21
12.1. Keeping us informed	21
12.2. Reporting	21
12.2.1. Ad-hoc reports	21
12.2.2. End of project report	21
12.3. Audited financial acquittal report	22
12.4. Grant agreement variations.....	22
12.5. Compliance visits.....	22
12.6. Record keeping	22
12.7. Evaluation	22
12.8. Acknowledgement.....	23
13. Probity	23
13.1. Enquiries and feedback	23
13.2. Conflicts of interest	23
13.2.1. MP and community consultation committee conflicts of interest	24
13.3. Privacy	24
13.4. Confidential information	25
13.5. Freedom of information	26
14. Glossary.....	26

1. Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 processes



1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Stronger Communities Programme (the program) Round 10 grants.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how funding agreements are entered into
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDSCSA).

In this document 'you' will mean the applicant, 'we' and 'us' will mean DITRDSCSA and/or DISR.

We have defined other key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section 14.

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The program supports the Australian Government's commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia by funding projects in each of the 150 Federal electorates. The program provides grants for community projects to strengthen and benefit local communities and is part of the Government's 2026-27 Budget Initiatives.

The program falls under DITRDSCSA's portfolio budget performance measure for Outcome 3, strengthening the sustainability, capacity and diversity of Australia's cities and regions including northern Australia, including through facilitating local partnerships between all levels of government and local communities; through investment in infrastructure and measures that stimulate economic growth; and providing grants and financial assistance.

Community consultation is a critical element of the program. In consultation with their community, each MP must identify potential applicants and projects in their electorate and invite them to apply for a grant. We will assess invited applications against the program's eligibility and assessment criteria through a closed non-competitive process.

2.1. Changes compared to Round 9

The program is largely unchanged compared to Round 9, with the exception of additional activities and objectives relating to:

- Climate adaptation and resilience
- Native flora and fauna
- Positive mental health or physical health
- Community participation to promote tolerance and social cohesion.

Stronger Communities Programme Round 10

Grant opportunity guidelines

September 2026

| business.gov.au

2.2. About the Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 grant opportunity

For Round 10 of the program the grant opportunity will run over two years from 2026-27 to 2027-28.

Grant funding will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs for all eligible applicants, except for local governing bodies. Grant funding for local governing bodies will be up to 50 per cent of eligible costs. This means local governing bodies must provide at least 50 per cent of the eligible project costs in matched funding contributions.

The objective of the program is to deliver infrastructure projects that provide social benefits for local communities, by supporting one or more of the following:

- support or encourage interstate or international tourism
- support or celebrate Indigenous Australians
- commemorate Australians killed or injured in war or who contributed to Australia's war efforts
- support veterans and defence force members, their families and communities
- support the participation and settlement of newly arrived (i.e. within the last five years) immigrants who are not citizens
- provide benefits to a specific cohort or cohorts of students - enable or foster the use of electronic communications
- provide medical services or facilities, or services or facilities incidental to the provision of medical services
- enable or foster the use of electronic communications
- support the provision of community infrastructure that:
 - promotes and supports the mental and physical abilities of children
 - supports positive mental or physical health, or facilitates community participation to promote tolerance, and social cohesion or health
- support the acquisition or deployment of greenhouse gas emissions mitigation measures
- support community infrastructure that promotes climate adaptation and resilience and/or native flora/fauna biodiversity
- support the dignity of persons (including children) with disabilities by enhancing their access to public infrastructure
- address gender inequality or discrimination in access to public infrastructure or sport
- support access for children to public infrastructure which enables interstate or overseas travel, accommodation, or education or health care infrastructure or services.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- encourage and support participation in local projects
- improve local community participation
- contribute to vibrant and viable communities.

We will publish the opening and closing dates for MP nominations and for the nominated organisations to apply for a grant and any relevant information on Grant Connect.

We administer the program according to the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)¹.

2.3. Community consultation

Community consultation is a critical element of the program.

Your MP must either consult with an existing community consultation committee, or establish a new consultation committee, comprised of representatives from the local community to identify potential projects in their electorate with a total value of up to \$150,000. These projects must align with the program's objectives, outcomes and eligibility criteria. The MP and community consultation committee will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs. Refer to sections 2.3 and 8 of the guidelines for further information on the grant selection process.

If your project is identified as a potential project by your MP this does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

MPs and their consultation committee are not responsible for the administration of the program.

2.4. Invitation process

MPs invite organisations in their electorate to submit an expression of interest. MPs, in consultation with their community consultation committee, will review nominations and identify potential applicants and projects.

After undertaking the community consultation, MPs will submit their nominated projects via the portal. Nominations will be assessed for eligibility by DISR. DISR will invite eligible nominees to apply for a grant for their project by sending them a link to the grant portal. Only applicants invited to apply can submit an application. Invited applicants must not forward the application link to anyone else.

Invited applicants must submit a completed application via the online portal. DISR assess all applications for eligibility and completeness and undertakes a merit assessment.

An invitation to submit an application does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

2.5. Replacement nominations

During the period applications are open, if a nominated organisation is not eligible, or the nominated project is not in the MP's electorate, we may seek a further nomination from the relevant MP. This may be for an alternative project in their electorate, or for the same project from an eligible organisation to replace the ineligible nomination.

The nominated organisation and/or replacement project must meet all the eligibility criteria to be recommended for funding.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

For this round of the program, the replacement nomination process runs concurrently within the application opening and closing dates. There is no additional opportunity for replacement nominations after the round closes.

3. Grant amount and grant period

In 2026-27 Budget, the Australian Government provided \$22.5 million over two years from 2026-27 for Round 10 of the Stronger Communities Programme to support small capital projects that deliver social benefits for local communities across Australia.

3.1. Grants available

Each electorate has total funding of up to \$150,000 that can be allocated to successful applications. A maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each electorate.

The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project expenditure (grant percentage) except for local governing bodies where the grant amount will be up to 50 per cent of eligible expenditure.

- The minimum grant amount is \$2,500.
- The maximum grant amount is \$20,000.

The maximum cost of your project cannot exceed \$50,000.

You are responsible for the remaining eligible and ineligible project expenditure (where applicable).

For local governing bodies, total Commonwealth funding for the project cannot exceed 50 per cent of the total eligible project expenditure. Local governing bodies can fund their matched funding contribution from any source, including from state government.

3.2. Project period

You must complete your project by 31 March 2028.

You may start your project from the date you submit your application. Any project expenditure incurred prior to the date you submit your application is not eligible. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your project before you have an executed agreement, you do so at your own risk.

When calculating the duration of the project, you must factor in additional time for sourcing materials and purchasing delays, obtaining relevant approvals, contracting tradespeople, possible weather delays and any other unforeseen circumstances that may prevent you completing your project on time.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible for this grant opportunity you must:

Stronger Communities Programme Round 10

Grant opportunity guidelines

September 2026

| business.gov.au

- be invited to apply by your MP
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)

and be one of the following entities:

- an incorporated not for profit organisation such as:
 - Police and Citizen Youth Clubs
 - child care centres
 - surf clubs
 - local aged care bodies
 - Parents and Citizens, Parent and Friends groups and equivalent bodies
 - a Commonwealth, state or territory government agency or entity that is a fire service, rural fire service, country fire authority, state emergency service or similar.
- non-distributing co-operatives
- companies limited by guarantee
- Australian Indigenous corporations
- religious organisations incorporated under legislation
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust with responsibility for a community asset or property. You will be required to provide relevant trust documents
- a local governing body as defined by the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

For the purposes of this program, we also consider the following organisations to be local governing bodies:

- Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Maralinga, Gerard, Nepabunna and Yalata local governing bodies in SA
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Shire Council
- Lord Howe Island Board
- Norfolk Island Regional Council
- The Outback Communities Authority
- The Shire of Christmas Island
- The Silverton and Tibooburra villages in NSW
- The Trust Account in the NT
- ACT Government.

As a not-for-profit organisation you must demonstrate your not-for-profit status through one of the following:

- state or territory incorporated association registration number or certificate of incorporation, e.g. clubs and other associations
- current Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission's (ACNC) registration, e.g. for organisations registered as a charity
- constitutional documents that demonstrate the not-for-profit character of the organisation
- legislation that demonstrates the not-for-profit nature of the organisation, e.g. religious organisations incorporated under legislation.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead organisation who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply. For further information on joint applications, refer to section 7.2 of the guidelines.

4.2. Project Sponsors

If you are an organisation that may not be able to incorporate, including parish churches, rural fire brigade, scout groups, Parents and Citizens Associations (P&C's) or equivalent bodies, you may be able to nominate an eligible project sponsor.

The project sponsor will need to meet all eligibility criteria, be nominated by the MP and submit the application under their name on behalf of your organisation. The project sponsor must be authorised to enter into a grant agreement and will be responsible for any obligations under the agreement with the Commonwealth, including the finalisation and completion of the end of project report. If you are a local governing body applying in the capacity of a project sponsor refer to section 3.1 of the guidelines for additional information about grants available and project costs.

4.3. Additional eligibility requirements

If you are a local governing body, you must also declare that you are able to meet your share of the matching funds contribution for the project (at least 50 per cent) as outlined in section **Error! Reference source not found.** of the guidelines.

You must meet all requirements for submitting an application as listed at section 7 and 7.1 of the guidelines.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

4.4. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a for profit organisation
- an individual
- a partnership
- a Regional Development Australia Committee
- a university, technical college or school
- a hospital
- a Commonwealth, state, territory government agency or body (including government business enterprises) unless listed in section 4.1 of these guidelines
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must meet the overall project outcomes in section 2.2 and align with one or more program objectives and matching eligible activities in the table below:

Program Objectives	Eligible activities that may be undertaken
<i>Tourism development and visitor promotion</i>	
Support or encourage interstate or international tourism	▪ build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to a tourism premises available to interstate or overseas tourists ▪ acquisition and installation of information signage of people, places, of natural local significance ▪ establish new or upgrade to a website/social media presence supporting or encouraging interstate or international tourism
<i>First Nations cultural recognition and community infrastructure</i>	
Support or celebrate Indigenous Australians	▪ support towards NAIDOC week celebrations ▪ acquisition and installation of information signage for places of First Nations significance ▪ purchase of First Nation themed uniforms that will be retained by the organisation ▪ acquisition and installation of First Nations art in public spaces ▪ construction of or upgrade to a First Nations cultural space ▪ build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to a premises for the specific purpose of providing services to First Nations persons
<i>Veterans' commemoration and support and infrastructure</i>	
Commemorate Australians killed or injured in war or who contributed to Australia's war efforts	▪ building of new or upgrades to existing war memorials ▪ acquisition and installation of signage or flags (information, themed and or national) that commemorate Australians killed or injured at war or who contributed to Australia's war efforts ▪ establish new or upgrades to a website/social media presence supporting and/or commemorating veterans and defence force members, their families and communities
Support veterans and defence force members, their families and communities	▪ build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to a premise specifically supporting veterans and/or defence force members, their families and their communities ▪ establish new or upgrades to a website/social media presence supporting and/or commemorating veterans and defence force members, their families and communities
<i>Settlement support for newly arrived migrants</i>	

Program Objectives	Eligible activities that may be undertaken
Support the participation and settlement of newly arrived (i.e. within the last 5 years) immigrants who are not citizens	- hosting localised welcoming and/or information events for newly arrived immigrants who are not citizens - establish new or upgrades to a website/social media presence supporting newly arrived immigrants who are not citizens
Community infrastructure upgrades and equipment	
Provide benefits to a specific cohort or cohorts of students Enable or foster the use of electronic communications	- upgrades to public libraries and/or community facilities to benefit pre-school, school and university students - purchase and installation of ICT equipment and or software in public libraries and/or community facilities benefiting pre-school, school and university students - establish new or upgrades to a website/social media presence for a public library and/or community facility benefiting pre-school, school and university students
Enable or foster the use of electronic communications	- purchase, establish new or upgrades to a website/social media presence - purchase of applications (apps) delivering community and social benefits - purchase of customer relationship management (CRM) systems and/or software delivering community and social benefits - purchase and/or installation of audio-visual equipment delivering community and social benefits - purchase and/or installation of ICT equipment delivering community and social benefits - installation of or upgrades to electrical works to allow or enhance the use of ICT equipment delivering community and social benefits
Provide medical services or facilities, or services or facilities incidental to the provision of medical services	- purchase and installation of defibrillator/s and or other first aid equipment, including first aid kits - upgrade to or construction of first aid rooms/spaces
Support provision of community infrastructure that: - promotes and supports the mental health and physical abilities of children - supports positive mental or physical health, or facilitates community participation to promote tolerance, and social cohesion or health.	- build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to community infrastructure (such as community centres, Scouts or Girl Guide Halls, Men's Sheds and CWA Halls) and sports grounds - purchase of equipment for community infrastructure and sports grounds

Program Objectives	Eligible activities that may be undertaken
Support the acquisition or deployment of greenhouse gas emissions mitigation measures	▪ acquisition and installation of energy efficient appliances/systems available and relevant to local requirements to upgrade community facilities ▪ acquisition and installation of energy efficient windows and or window attachments relevant to local requirements to upgrade community facilities ▪ acquisition and installation of renewable energy sources and storage to upgrade community facilities ▪ acquisition and installation of native or drought tolerant vegetation suitable to local conditions to upgrade community facilities and community spaces ▪ installation or upgrade to a native garden to update community facilities and community spaces
Support community infrastructure that promotes climate adaptation and resilience and/or native flora/fauna biodiversity	▪ build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to community infrastructure that promote biodiversity and/or supports native flora and/or fauna species (for example community gardens) ▪ build, fit out, alterations and/or extensions to community infrastructure and public spaces to manage heat stress (including shade sails)
Accessible and inclusive amenities in public facilities	
Support the dignity of persons (including children) with disabilities by enhancing their access to public infrastructure	▪ new or upgrade disability access and/or amenities in public facilities
Address gender inequality or discrimination in access to public infrastructure or sport	▪ provision of women's facilities at public facilities or sports grounds ▪ provision of gender-neutral facilities for public facilities or sports grounds ▪ construction of or upgrade to parent rooms at public facilities or sports grounds ▪ construction of or upgrade to breastfeeding rooms at public facilities or sports grounds
Support access for children to public infrastructure which enables interstate or overseas travel, accommodation, or education or health care infrastructure or services	▪ construction of or upgrade to child friendly spaces and facilities at airports ▪ construction of or upgrade to child friendly spaces and facilities at community supported accommodation ▪ construction of or upgrade to child friendly spaces and facilities at child-care, education or health care services

5.2. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

To be eligible, grant money must be used for projects that:

- are located at an address in your MPs electorate (Federal electorate boundaries for the purposes of Round 10 are as at the 2025 Federal election). Refer to the glossary for information on using maps.abs.gov.au to determine whether the project location eligibility in electorates
- are held within your MPs electorate in the case of events or used in your MP's electorate if it includes portable equipment
- have at least \$2,500 in eligible project expenditure, unless the applicant is a local governing body which requires at least \$5,000 in eligible project expenditure
- will be undertaken in the project period and completed no later than 31 March 2028.

To be eligible, expenditure must be a direct cost of the project, must relate to eligible activities and include:

- the cost of suppliers and contracted labour undertaking the eligible activities
- the cost of obtaining planning, architectural, engineering, design and consultant fees or environment or other regulatory approvals for undertaking the eligible activities
- the purchase, warranty and subscription or support membership of assets, equipment and materials, lease or hire of equipment required for undertaking the eligible activities.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate (who is a Manager within the department with responsibility for administering the program) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

We may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

You may elect to commence your project from the date you submit your application. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken before the grant agreement is executed.

5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- in-kind activities
- the cost of delivering the services of your local governing body, including:
 - volunteer and paid staff time to provide training, education, transport, advisory, respite support and outreach programs and services
 - volunteer and paid staff time to run organisations and to plan and develop events, program and services, or travel associated with these operations

- the cost of business as usual activities including:
 - staff salaries, overheads, and consumables such as paper printer cartridges, office supplies, brochures and other marketing material, kitchen supplies, including food and beverages
 - memberships, warranties, recurring or ongoing operational expenditure, including annual maintenance, rent, water and rates
- funding to develop or deliver ongoing training or education courses
- funding to undertake studies, including feasibility studies or investigations
- the cost of obtaining planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals that are not a part of an approved eligible capital works or capital expenditure project under this application such as architecture, engineering, planning, design and consultants
- purchase of land or buildings
- funding for the development of private or commercial ventures
- capital expenditure on private residential property.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all assessment criteria in your application.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays character limits for each response.

We will only award funding to applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion.

6.1. Assessment criterion 1

Alignment of project activities with program objectives and outcomes (100 points).

You must demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. the benefit of your project to the community, for example, describe how it will encourage and support participation in local projects, improve local community participation and/or contribute to vibrant and viable communities (50 points)
- b. how you plan to manage your project (50 points).

7. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#).

To apply, you must:

- be invited by DISR to submit an application via a link to the online [portal](#)
- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)

Stronger Communities Programme Round 10

Grant opportunity guidelines

September 2026

| [business.gov.au](#)

- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. The use of artificial intelligence and other forms of automation is permissible in developing your application, but you remain responsible for the accuracy, security and suitability of all information submitted as part of your application.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we may contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility/merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application and therefore may be refused if deemed to be information that is new, supplementary, or changes your original application.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application (if applicable):

- evidence of your not-for-profit status
- trust deed
- letter of support from project partners for joint applications.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. Individual file sizes cannot be greater than 25MB, while the total of all attachments cannot exceed 50MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2. Joint (consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a project. In these circumstances, you must appoint a lead organisation. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the project partners. Each letter of support should include:

- details of the project partner
- an overview of how the project partner will work with the lead organisation and any other project partners in the group to successfully complete the project

- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project partner will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities the project partner will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement. We will communicate with the lead organisation, and the lead organisation is responsible for communicating with all other parties.

7.3. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 – 6 weeks
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	4 – 6 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of project	The date you submit your application. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.
Project completion date	31 March 2028
End date of grant commitment	30 June 2028

7.4. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

DISR will review your application against the eligibility criteria set out in section 4. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

If eligible, your application will be assessed by DISR against the assessment criteria set out in section 6.1. We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria

Stronger Communities Programme Round 10

Grant opportunity guidelines

September 2026

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- whether it provides value with relevant money.²

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we consider:

- the overall objective/s of the grant opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how your project contributes to meeting those objectives
- the relative value of the grant sought.

During review of the eligibility and assessment criteria we will also consider any national interests, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issues or risks that we identify during any due diligence process conducted in respect of the applicant and application. This includes the applicant's directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the *Corporations Act 2001*) or if the application could bring the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to fund the applicant. Such issues and risks include where we consider that funding the applicant or application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy. Where possible, we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during the due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the applicant or application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the assessment process.

8.2. Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the application eligibility, assessment and the availability of grant funds and whether funding a project will be a proper use of public resources.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Program Delegate will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. Your MP may also advise you of the outcome of your application. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions determined by the Program Delegate attached to your grant.

² See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

9.1. Feedback on your application

If your application is unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

If your application is successful you must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use two types of grant agreements in this program. Our selection will depend on the size and complexity of your project. Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on [business.gov.au](#) and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter into a grant agreement under the program, you cannot receive other grant funding for the same activities from other Commonwealth grant programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

10.2. Approval letter grant agreement

We will use an approval letter grant agreement for small projects when we have no need to clarify or amend any details in your application. This grant agreement comprises your completed application and the approval letter we send advising that your application has been successful. We consider the agreement to be executed (take effect) from the date of our approval letter.

10.3. Exchange of letters grant agreement

We will use an exchange of letters grant agreement when we need to clarify or amend details in your application form. We will provide you with a letter of agreement with attached terms and conditions, advising that your application has been successful.

You will have 30 days from the date the agreement is issued to accept the agreement with the Commonwealth. The offer may lapse if both parties do not accept the grant agreement within this time.

10.4. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific

legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

In particular, you will be required to comply with State/territory legislation in relation to working with children.

10.5. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state:

- the maximum grant amount we will pay
- any required financial contribution if you are a local governing body.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the project.

10.6. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities³.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on tax.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this under Section 5.4 of the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#). We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number (ABN)
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

³ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at ato.gov.au

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You **must** also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- joint/consortia partners and related arrangements (if applicable).

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You **must** notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2. Reporting

You **must** submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount. The use of artificial intelligence and other forms of automation is permissible in meeting your reporting requirements, but you remain responsible for the accuracy, security and suitability of all information submitted in your reports.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.1. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.2. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

Stronger Communities Programme Round 10

Grant opportunity guidelines

September 2026

| business.gov.au

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

12.3. Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure.

12.4. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- extending the timeframe for completing the project
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough program funding in the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- availability of program funds.

12.5. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6. Record keeping

We may inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7. Evaluation

DITRDCSA will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for

this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure or publication, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.’

If you erect signage in relation to the project, the signage must contain an acknowledgement of the grant from the Australian Government.

13. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

13.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#) with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

13.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)⁴ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

13.2.1. MP and community consultation committee conflicts of interest

MPs, their staff and community consultation committee members must declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to the community consultation committee and to DISR.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must immediately inform us in writing.

13.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below.

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

⁴ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)⁵ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

13.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if

⁵ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

13.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
applicant	An entity that meets the eligibility requirements and is applying for funding under the program. In the guidelines the term 'you' refers to the applicant.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

Term	Definition
community consultation committee	A committee established or identified by the MP to assist the MP to identify projects for consideration by DISR.
completion date	The date by which the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent.
closed non-competitive process	Applicants that have been identified by the community consultation committee and invited by the MP to apply to the Stronger Communities Programme are assessed through a closed non-competitive process. Applicants are not assessed against other applicants' submissions, they assessed individually against the eligibility and assessment criteria.
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR).
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
electorate	The project must be located within the MPs nominating electorate. The electorate boundaries are the 2025 Federal electorate boundaries. Determining whether the project location is in the MPs electorate can be done by using the mapping tool. How to use ABS Maps to check a project location is in the nominating electorate: - Click on maps.abs.gov.au - In the 'Choose a boundary type' field (in red text), select 2025 Commonwealth Electoral Division (CED) - Leave the 'Choose a second boundary type' (in blue text) blank - Type the project site address in the search box (Find address or place) and click search - Click on the location dot marker on the map – the electoral information for that address will be displayed in the dialogue box (to the right of <i>Name</i>).

Term	Definition
	We recommend that you use the following browsers for optimum functionality: On Windows: The latest versions of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge On Mac: The latest versions of Safari and Google Chrome.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1 of the guidelines.
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant.
eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2 of the guidelines.
executed grant agreement	A grant agreement that has been accepted by both you and the Commonwealth. The date of execution is the date the grant agreement takes effect, unless the agreement states otherwise. The grant agreement will be drawn up by DISR and provided to successful grantees through the portal.
federal electorate	A geographical area of Australia (known as an electoral division) represented by a MP elected at a House of Representatives election.
grant	For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money⁶ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁷ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and

⁶ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
	b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single DITRDCA Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
local governing body	As defined by the <i>Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995</i> . For the purposes of the program, additional local governing bodies are identified in section Error! Reference source not found. of the guidelines.
matched funding contribution (this only applies to local governing bodies)	The eligible project expenditure that local governing bodies must contribute to the project from sources other than this grant. Local governing bodies must provide at least 50 per cent of the eligible project costs in matched funding contributions.

Term	Definition
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.
MP/MPs	Federal Members of Parliament.
personal information	Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is: Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
project period	The period during which you must undertake and complete your project. For this grant opportunity, the project period may start from the date you submit your application and ends on the project completion date.
project sponsor	A project sponsor is an entity that meets the eligibility requirements of the program who agrees to sponsor an organisation (sponsor organisation) to apply for the grant opportunity. In this case, the project sponsor is considered to be the applicant. The project sponsor enters into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The project sponsor must be nominated by the MP for the grant opportunity.
public infrastructure	Infrastructure for public use (in particular owned by local councils), such as libraries, airports, sporting facilities, community centres, and performance theatres.

Term	Definition
sponsor organisation	A sponsor organisation is the organisation undertaking the project for the purposes of the grant, but is not the organisation entering into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth. Organisations that require sponsorship are usually groups that cannot meet the entity eligibility requirements for the grant program and cannot submit applications in their own right.
value with money	Value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.