



National Disability Conference Initiative 2015-16

Feedback summary

Overview

The Disability and Carer Support (DaCS) Activity provides assistance, support and services for people with disability and their carers by improving access to services and support, including advocacy services. The National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) 2015-16 is funded through the DaCS Activity to help people with a disability participate in national disability-related conferences.

Selection results

The organisations selected under the NDCI 2015-16 funding round demonstrated the ability to fulfil grant requirements. Information about strong and preferred proposals is included in this feedback.

Selection process

DSS received 45 applications under the National Disability Conference Initiative 2015-16 funding round.

Each proposal was considered against three equally-weighted selection criteria, which are listed below. Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria as well as their demonstrated ability to deliver the grant requirements as published in the Funding Round Summary:

- Eligible organisations may apply for funding of up to \$10,000 for disability-related conferences with a national focus planned for 2015-16 to:
 - assist people with disabilities (or family members or carers attending to provide support to a person with disability who is attending) with the costs of attending conferences, e.g. conference fees, accommodation, travel; and/or
 - facilitate access so that people with disability can participate in conferences. For example by funding: accessible materials, Auslan interpreters, live captioning services, hearing loops and/or note takers for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and/or other aids or appliances or other costs of ensuring venue accessibility.

Disability-related conferences are considered to be conferences for which at least half of the schedule focuses on people with disability and/or issues that affect the lifetime wellbeing and social participation of people with disability.

- Funding may not be used for:
 - a person without disability unless they are a family member or carer who is attending specifically to support a person with disability to participate;
 - conferences that do not have a disability focus, do not have a national focus, or are not held in Australia between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016;
 - international travel or conferences;
 - presenters/speakers without disability to present at a conference; and
 - general administrative costs such as advertising, telephone, printing/publishing, staff expenses, catering or venue hire.

Criterion 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity (assistance for people with disability to participate in your 2015-16 national disability-related conference). Please include:

- **The name, date and venue of your 2015-16 disability-related conference.**
- **A brief description of your conference’s purpose, theme and/or content, in particular, how it has a national disability focus.**

Successful applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criterion 1, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The Applicant demonstrates why it is important for people with disabilities to attend the conference.	The response describes the importance of people with disability attending the conference. It identifies benefits they will gain from the event, such as information that positively affects their life, and active participation in discussions about issues that affect them.
The Applicant demonstrates how the conference has a national disability focus.	The response describes the conference’s purpose, theme and/or content to demonstrate that it will address national issues.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 1 by:

- explaining the need(s) of people with disability for the funded activity and including relevant supporting evidence; and
- explaining how the conference has a national focus.

Criterion 2: Describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Disability and Carer Support (DaCS) Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding.

Please include:

- **A description of your proposal including the specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference i.e. captioning; travel subsidies.**
- **How this proposal will achieve the DaCS objectives for people with disability. This may include an estimate of how many people with disability will benefit from the grant.**

Successful applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criterion 2, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The Applicant provided information on specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference.	The response clearly identified specific ways grant funds will be used, such as Auslan interpreters, live captioning, accessible materials, travel/transport, audio loop support.
The Applicant provided information on how the proposal will achieve the DaCS objectives for people with disability.	The response provided an estimate of the number of people with disability who would attend the conference.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criterion 2 by:

- detailing the ways the grant funds will be used to help people with disability to participate in the conference; and
- providing details of the estimated number of people with a disability to benefit from the grant.

Criterion 3: Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the DaCS Activity objectives for people with disability.

Successful applicants demonstrated a range of strengths in relation to Criterion 3, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
<p>The Applicant provides information about managing grant funding in ways that achieve activity objectives.</p>	<p>The response provides information and examples demonstrating how the applicant manages grant funding to ensure successful delivery of a funded activity and its objectives.</p>
<p>The Applicant demonstrates management and staffing structure, experience, skills and qualifications.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates that the Applicant’s staff are suitably experienced and qualified to deliver the activity and achieve the DaCS Activity objectives.</p>

Areas for improvement
 Applicants could have strengthened their response to Criterion 3 by providing more information about the organisation’s capacity and staff capability. For example, outlining skills and qualifications of key staff in the organisation.