



Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme - Disability and Carer Support - National Disability Conference Initiative 2016-17

Feedback summary

Overview

The Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme aims to provide a foundation for integrated, community led programme delivery that understands and meets local needs and promotes innovation and collaboration. The Programme provides support and community-based initiatives for people with disability or mental illness and for carers so they can develop their capabilities and actively participate in community and economic life.

The objective of the Disability and Carer Support (DaCS) Activity, under which the National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) is delivered, is to improve access, support and services for people with disability and carers.

NDCI 2016-17 provides funding to assist eligible conference organisers to maximise the inclusion and participation of people with disability at nationally focused disability-related conferences in Australia.

Eligible organisations were able to apply for funding of up to \$10,000 for disability-related conferences with a national focus planned for 2016-17 to:

- assist people with disability with the costs of attending conferences, (for example, conference fees, accommodation, travel); and/or
- assist family members or carers providing support to a person with disability attending a conference (for example with costs associated with 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, assistive computer devices or software, aids or appliances or other costs of ensuring venue accessibility).

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

Selection process

The Department of Social Services (the Department) received 60 applications for funding for the NDCI 2016-17 open selection process.

The Department considered each proposal against the following two equally-weighted selection criteria:

- Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity (assistance for people with disability to participate in your 2016-17 national disability-related conference).
- Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the DaCS Activity objectives for people with disability.

Preferred applicants were identified based on the strength of their responses to the selection criteria and their demonstrated ability to meet the Grant Objective outlined in the Funding Round Summary.

In accordance with the Statement of Requirements, funding was not provided for:

- a person without disability unless they were a family member or carer who is attending specifically to support a person with disability to participate;
- conferences that did not have a disability focus or a national focus as specified in this statement of requirement;
- international travel or conferences;
- presenters/speakers without disability to present at a conference; or
- general administrative costs such as advertising, telephone, printing/publishing, staff expenses, catering or venue hire.

Selection results

The Department selected 35 organisations to deliver the National Disability Conference Initiative in 2016-17.

The selected organisations provided strong responses to the selection criteria and demonstrated their ability to meet the Grant Objective. Further detail about what constituted a strong response is provided below.

Criterion 1: Demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded activity (assistance for people with disability to participate in your 2016-17 national disability-related conference).

In providing a response to this criterion applicants were required to address:

- how the proposal has a national disability focus; and
- how the proposal will achieve the DaCS objectives for people with disability; and
- the specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference (for example travel, accommodation, live captioning, accessible materials, etc.).

Strength	Example
<p>The application clearly demonstrated how the proposal has a national disability focus and provided relevant supporting information.</p>	<p>The response demonstrated how the proposed activity has a national focus because of its attendance, theme and range of presenters. Specifically, the response showed how the conference will include stakeholders, and how people with disability from across Australia will be supported to attend. It also showed that the issues addressed by the conference will have a national application and focus.</p> <p>Examples of supporting evidence could have included: details of how and from where people with disability would be supported to attend from across Australia; details of other participating stakeholders from across Australia; information about the national scope of the work undertaken by the applicant or conference participants; information about the national scope of conference topics and intended outcomes.</p>
<p>The application clearly demonstrated how the proposal will achieve the DaCS objectives for people with disability and provided relevant supporting evidence.</p>	<p>The response demonstrated how the proposal will achieve the DaCS objective to improve access, support and services for people with disability and carers. Specifically, the response demonstrated how people with disability and their carers could benefit by attending and participating in the conference, and from the intended outcomes of the conference.</p> <p>Examples of supporting evidence could have included: information about the particular challenges faced by the target group and how their attendance at the conference, its focus and intended outcomes will contribute to their ongoing/improved wellbeing; the risks to the community if the project is not supported; information about how the quality/availability of services might improve because of the conference; reported results/benefits from previous conferences, including testimonials from</p>

Strength	Example
	<p>previous participants; information about the range of stakeholders participating in the conference and how this could change ongoing support of people with disability; information about specific issues to be addressed at the conference and their relevance to DaCS objectives.</p>
<p>The application clearly demonstrated the specific ways the grant funds will be used to assist people with disability to participate in the conference (for example travel, accommodation, live captioning, accessible materials, etc.) and provided relevant supporting evidence.</p>	<p>The response demonstrated how the grant funds would be used and how the funds could assist people with disability to attend and participate in the conference.</p> <p>Examples of supporting evidence could have included: an itemised description of how the funding would be spent, including dollar amounts; details of agreements with providers to deliver goods and/or services; information about how many people would benefit from the funding; information about how the funding will complement and/or fill gaps in other financial sources for the project.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their response to Criterion 1 by:

- addressing all minimum mandatory requirements, as specified in the Funding Round Summary;
- providing supporting evidence to demonstrate the national focus of the proposed activity;
- providing supporting evidence to demonstrate how the proposal will meet DaCS objectives; and
- providing supporting evidence to demonstrate exactly how the grant funding would be used to assist people with disability.

Criterion 2: Selection Criterion 2 - Demonstrate your organisation’s capacity and your staff capability (experience and qualifications) to deliver the DaCS Activity objectives for people with disability.

In providing a response to this criterion applicants were required to address:

- the organisation’s capacity and capability to administer the grant; and
- the relevant experience and skills of the members of the organisation in delivering the project.

Strength	Example
<p>The application clearly demonstrated its capacity to administer the grant and provided relevant supporting evidence.</p>	<p>The response clearly demonstrated the applicant’s capacity to administer the grant. Specifically, the application outlined the organisation’s administrative, financial and infrastructural capabilities as well as disability sector experience and performance. The response also showed how the applicant’s demonstrated capacity will lead to the successful delivery of the proposed activity.</p> <p>Examples of supporting evidence could have included: details of previous conferences organised by the applicant and evidence of their success, e.g. participant feedback, testimonials, outcomes achieved, increases in attendance or scale; information about staff structures and support mechanisms in place for all staff, including staff development and training; information about the applicant’s governance structures and risk management practices; information about the organisation’s financial capacity, including current resources, relevant policies and procedures, and audit arrangements; detail of the organisation’s previous experience managing government grants or ongoing funding; information about other financial contributions to the project; information about the organisation’s experience in the disability sector and its relevance to the current proposal.</p>
<p>The application clearly demonstrated the relevant experience and skills of the members of the organisation in delivering the project and provided relevant supporting evidence.</p>	<p>The response clearly demonstrated the relevant experience and skills of the members of the organisation and outlined how this expertise will be applied to successfully deliver the proposed activity.</p> <p>Examples of supporting evidence could have included: information to show that staff understand the needs of the disability sector, including their qualifications and expertise; information showing that staff can administer</p>

Strength	Example
	<p>events such as that proposed, including previous experience delivering conferences and relevant qualifications/expertise, for example in project and event management; details of staff expertise in financial management, including previous experience administering funding and related qualifications; details of the qualifications and expertise of any sub-contractors or consortium members involved in the project.</p>

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their response to Criterion 2 by:

- addressing all minimum mandatory requirements, as specified in the Funding Round Summary;
- providing supporting evidence to demonstrate its ability to administer the grant; and
- providing supporting evidence to demonstrate the experience and skills of the members of the organisation delivering the project.