

Questions and Answers

National Disability Conference Initiative

2016-17

The following questions and answers are for this funding round only. New questions are added to the end of this document as they arise.

Please also read the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for general information about applying for DSS grants.

Answers to questions will be published on the funding round page within five working days of receipt, unless the answers are available in the Application Pack. DSS will only answer questions to explain the requirements of the Application Form and Programme Guidelines. DSS will not advise how to respond to specific selection criteria.

DSS cannot answer questions about individual applications during the assessment process. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application once the selection process is complete.

1. How can I apply for National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) funding?

The National Disability Conference Initiative application pack can be found on the [Funding Open for Application](#) page. You can [subscribe to receive alerts](#) when new information is made available (DSS accepts no responsibility to inform applicants of any changes if they do not subscribe to receive alerts and it is the responsibility of organisations applying for DSS grants to keep informed of additional information throughout the application period)

2. Who can apply for the National Disability Conference Initiative 2016-17?

To satisfy eligibility requirements, applicants to the National Disability Conference Initiative (NDCI) 2016-17 must fall into one of the following categories:

- Incorporated Associations (incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc.' in their legal name)
- Incorporated Cooperatives (also incorporated under State/Territory legislation, commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- Companies (incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (may be a proprietary company (limited by shares or by guarantee) or a public company)
- Aboriginal Corporations (incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*)
- Organisations established through a specific piece of Commonwealth or state/territory legislation (public benevolent institutions, churches, universities, unions etc.)
- Partnerships;
- Trustees on behalf of a Trust.

3. My organisation has applied for incorporation but it has not been finalised yet. Can I still apply?

No. If the organisation seeking funding is not incorporated at the time of applying for funding, the organisation is not eligible for NDCI grant funding.

4. My organisation does not have any public liability insurance. How can I apply for funding?

You may be able to work with an established organisation which has public liability insurance, to develop a project proposal. The established organisation with the public liability insurance cover would be responsible for submitting the application, receiving the funding, managing the funding, reporting on progress and making sure the project is completed.

5. What can I use the NDCI funding for?

The NDCI aims 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 may 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).

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 and do not have a national focus as specified in this statement of requirement;
- 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.

6. What is the definition of a 'disability-related conference'?

'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.

7. Is funding available to a carer if the person with a disability is not attending?

No. NDCI funding only extends to family members or carers if they are accompanying the person with a disability to provide support to that person during the conference. The person with disability needs to be participating in the conference.

8. Where can I find information about any other funding to assist a person with disability to attend a conference?

The [Australian Government Grant finder](#) is available to search for disability conference funding and provides information about government grants and assistance for individuals, businesses and communities.

9. If an application from an eligible organisation is approved, when will the NDCI funding be paid?

Payment of the approved amount in the Grant Agreement will be made on execution of the Agreement.

10. Can I apply for the 2016-17 National Disability Conference Initiative as an individual?

No. Individuals are not eligible to apply for the 2016-17 National Disability Conference Initiative. You will need to contact the conference organisers to determine if assistance is available to attend the conference.

11. When will I know the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application at the end of the selection process. For probity reasons, to treat all applicants fairly and equally, it is not possible to give you information about the progress of your application.

12. If I am not able to submit my application by the due date, can DSS grant an extension?

Applications must be submitted by **2pm AEST Wednesday, 27 April 2016**. DSS may refuse to accept any application lodged after the closing date and time. In some cases, DSS may determine that there were exceptional circumstances beyond the applicant's control that meant the deadline could not be met. The applicant will need to supply documentary evidence to support any exceptional circumstances. Any decision by DSS to accept or not accept a late application will be final.