



Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants

Feedback summary

Overview

Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants support organisations and activities that promote healthy and active ageing. They strengthen the capacity of the aged care sector by providing funding for a wide range of time-specific innovative projects. Specifically, grant funding is for projects which support the implementation of current aged care policy (particularly aged care reform) including those which respond to existing and emerging challenges, assist carers in maintaining their caring role and support people from diverse backgrounds with diverse aged care needs.

This funding round focused on the following priorities:

- support for activities that promote health and active ageing
- responding to existing and emerging challenges including dementia care
- support for activities that build the capacity of aged care services to deliver high quality care
- support for activities that provide information and support to assist carers maintain their caring role
- support to services providing aged care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people living in remote areas
- support for older people with diverse needs.

Organisations applying for this grant funding round needed to align with one or more of the priority areas. DSS has a strong commitment to work with organisations that are meeting these diverse priority needs of older people in Australian society.

Selection results

DSS received 838 applications for the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing funding round. The selected proposals demonstrated creative and diverse approaches to priority areas for this aged care sector funding round. Details about the strengths and areas for improvement of proposals are detailed below.

Selection process

DSS considered each proposal against five equally weighted selection criteria, listed below. Only organisations which rated highly in all aspects of the selection criteria were identified as preferred applicants.

The Department also emphasised that in responding to any of the selection criteria for funding rounds, applicants needed to provide evidence to support claims about how they meet each of the criteria. During the application process, the Department provided assistance for applicants in providing evidence including a fact sheet on the types of evidence that could be used for addressing selection criteria as well as guidance on what strong evidence looks like.

Criteria 1: Provide justification of why this project is needed and describe how this project links with, or is complementary to, other activities/projects and/or services. If this is an extension to an existing project you will need to demonstrate why this extension is needed.

Preferred applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criteria 1, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the links between the proposed project and other activities, projects and services.	Evidence of links between the proposed project and other activities, projects and services included.
The applicant demonstrated that the proposed project will not limit or replace existing activities, projects and services.	Evidence detailed regarding how the proposed project will fill a service gap.
The applicant provided comprehensive supporting evidence and documentation.	Statistical evidence provided on the impact of the unmet need on the wellbeing and inclusion of those in the target community.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 1 in a number of ways:

- demonstrating their understanding of the objectives of the funding round
- responding with specific and relevant data (e.g. census, survey, academic or other research)
- describing existing activities, projects and services in specific rather than general terms (e.g. the number and locations of organisations providing a particular service).

Criteria 2: Explain how this project will address the identified need and the long term benefits it will deliver to achieve the desired outcomes of the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants

Preferred applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criteria 2, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant clearly described the project to be conducted.	The application provided a comprehensive description of the project and all of its constituent elements.
The applicant demonstrated a good understanding of the desired outcomes of the Age Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants funding round.	Discussion of the desired outcomes of the funding round was included.
The applicant linked the long-term benefits of the project to the desired outcomes of the funding round.	Explicit discussion of the links between the benefits of the project and the desired outcomes of the funding round – in particular to strengthen the capability of the aged care sector.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 2 in a number of ways:

- explicitly identifying and describing the connection between the project and its expected outcomes
- ensuring the project is consistent with the objectives of the grant funding round
- providing evidence of project outcomes and long-term benefits.

Criteria 3: Provide details of your organisational and staff capacity (experience, skills and qualifications of management and project personnel, including the time they will commit to the project) to deliver the project’s objectives and details of your organisation’s previous experience in delivering similar projects.

Preferred applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criteria 3, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant provided relevant information on staff experience, skills and qualifications and their relevance to the proposed project.	Detailed descriptions of key staff and their roles in ensuring the effective delivery of the project.
The applicant provided evidence of the amount of time staff will dedicate to the project.	Estimates of total time, in terms of FTEs, that will be spent on the project.
The organisation described the project’s compatibility with its current workload and organisational and reporting structures.	Evidence of current work load and inclusion of detailed organisational chart.
The organisation had demonstrated experience in developing and delivering similar projects.	Specific examples developing and delivering activities that promoted health and active ageing for the target community or similar communities in the past.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 3 in a number of ways:

- providing specific estimates of the time staff will allocate to the project, rather than just the number of staff who will work on the project
- if describing positions, making sure to also identify the staff that will fill those positions
- demonstrating outcomes of similar projects delivered by the organisation.

Criteria 4: Describe how your organisation will manage the project to ensure outcomes are met within the project timeframe and how your organisation manages multiple projects with competing timeframes.

Preferred applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criteria 4, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The organisation described, in detail, the resources it will allocate to the project.	A list of resources and description of their importance for the success of the project.
The organisation described how it will divide resources across this project and others and ensure it still achieves project outcomes.	Identification of potential risks and strategies to mitigate them.
The applicant provided a clear timeline for the implementation of the project.	Detailed implementation timeline including milestones for key activities, outputs and outcomes.
The applicant demonstrated it will meet the Department's programme management and financial reporting requirements.	Detailed discussion of the Department's programme management and financial reporting needs.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 4 in a number of ways:

- providing specific examples of experience reporting to government stakeholders
- describing programme management and financial reporting systems already in place in the organisation
- maintaining an outcomes focus.

Criteria 5: Describe how your project will address any specific priorities for this funding round (please refer to Q&A section for further information about the specific priorities targeted in this round).

Preferred applicants demonstrated a wide range of strengths in relation to Criteria 5, as shown in the table below.

Strength	Example
The applicant identified and demonstrated a good understanding of one or more funding round priority areas.	Insightful discussion of a priority area and its importance.
The applicant demonstrated that addressing the priority area(s) will be the primary concern of the project.	Discussion of expected project outcomes, and explanation for those.
The applicant provided convincing and comprehensive evidence of the link between the proposed project and the identified priority area(s).	Evidence of positive impact in the priority area(s) of similar projects conducted by the organisation itself or another organisation.

Areas for improvement

Applicants could have strengthened their responses to Criteria 5 in a number of ways:

- explicitly identifying funding round priority areas, not assuming it can be inferred from response
- if multiple priority areas are evident, identifying priority area(s) against each expected project outcome
- providing evidence that is specific to identified priority areas, rather than to Aged Care Service Improvement and Health Ageing generally.

Further Feedback

To register to receive further feedback, please email grants@dss.gov.au providing all of the following details:

- Organisation name, as used on the application for funding (legal name or trading name, if different from the legal name);
- The Application ID issued by DSS upon receipt of the application for which feedback is sought;
- The name of the funding round(s) as per the application pack materials and application form (feedback for more than one funding application can be requested in the one email);
- A contact name and telephone number; and
- A contact email address.

To be eligible to receive feedback for the Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing round you must register by **Friday 13 February 2015**.

The Department will undertake to provide individual feedback to organisations within 12 weeks of the closing date for registrations. Please refer to the [DSS Feedback Policy](#) for more information.