



Forced Adoption Support Services grant funding

Australia's forced adoption practices impacted a large number of Australians and caused significant ongoing effects for many people, particularly mothers, fathers and adopted people.

Forced Adoption Support Services provide specialist services and support for people adversely affected by past forced adoption practices and policies.

Forced Adoption Support Services are delivered within the Families and Communities Programme. The Families and Communities programme aims to support families, strengthen relationships, improve the wellbeing of children and young people and increase participation of people in community life to enhance family and community functioning.

What has been offered?

Seven organisations across Australia have been offered a share of around \$3.9 million to provide Forced Adoption Support Services from 1 March 2015 to 30 June 2017.

These organisations, by state and territory, are:

- Relationships Australia (Australian Capital Territory/New South Wales)
- Relationships Australia (Northern Territory)
- Relationships Australia (South Australia)
- Relationships Australia (Tasmania)
- Relationships Australia (Victoria)
- Relationships Australia (Western Australia)
- Jigsaw Queensland (Queensland)

What services will be delivered?

Forced Adoption Support Services are available across Australia through a national 1800 number that corresponds with the date of the National Apology (1800 21 03 13). It will also include face-to-face services, where possible. An important element of the Forced Adoption Support Services will be the development of local networks. This will involve mainstream, post-adoption professionals and peer support services working together to enhance quality, coordination and flexibility of services for people affected by forced adoptions, within their community. Providers will work with these local networks to promote a collaborative community approach to ensure the best possible range of support for people affected by forced adoptions.

Each organisation funded under Forced Adoption Support Services will also administer a small grants programme for peer support and advocacy groups. This will result in some funds being directed towards the important work of these community networks.

The Department of Social Services will play a coordination role to ensure national consistency of service delivery across the states and territories

The new way of working for grants

The Department's new grant arrangements provide greater certainty for social service providers to improve service delivery for the community.

As part of this new way of working for grants, service providers have the scope and flexibility to be responsive, innovative and creative in meeting the needs of, and achieving better outcomes, for the Australian community.

These improvements will create a more efficient and effective way of delivering government funds to the community by reducing red tape and duplication for service providers and creating more streamlined, simplified and consistent reporting processes.

For more information on the new way of working for grants visit the [Department of Social Services website](http://www.dss.gov.au/grants) at www.dss.gov.au/grants.