



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Families and Communities Programme
Families and Children

Family and Relationships Services
Drought Assistance – WA
Funding Round Summary

July 2015

Families and Communities Programme

The Families and Communities Programme aims to strengthen relationships, support families, improve children's wellbeing and increase the participation in community life to strengthen family and community functioning and reduce the costs of family breakdown. The Programme will provide a range of services, focussed on strengthening relationships, and building parenting and financial management skills, providing support for better community connections, as well as services to help newly-arrived migrants in their transition to life in Australia.

Selection type

This selection is a restricted selection process.

Eligibility

The following entity types meet the eligibility requirements to be invited to apply for a grant for this Activity:

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

Not-for-profit entity types specified above meet the eligibility requirements.

How much?

\$196,425 (excluding GST) is available for 2015-16 under this funding round. A breakdown of available funds and proposed Local Government Areas is below:

Local Government Area	Total possible funding
Rockingham	
Denmark	\$196,425
Albany	

One provider will be selected to deliver services in Western Australia in the new drought affected LGAs of Rockingham, Denmark and Albany.

Closing Date and Time

Applications must be submitted by **2:00 pm (AEST) Thursday, 13 August 2015** to selections@dss.gov.au

Who to contact?

Please email any enquiries to: grants@dss.gov.au. Please quote **FaRS/DROUGHT2015-170** in all correspondence.

Grant objectives

The Families and Children Activity is delivered under the Families and Communities Programme and provides support to families to improve the wellbeing of children and young people to enhance family and community functioning, as well as increasing the participation of vulnerable people in community life. Organisations provide early intervention and prevention activities to improve the wellbeing of families and children including after separation, enhance family functioning and economic engagement and strengthen communities.

Family and Relationship Services are a Sub-Activity under the Families and Children Activity and aim to strengthen family relationships, prevent breakdown and ensure the wellbeing and safety of children through the provision of broad-based counselling and education to families of different forms and sizes. These services are primarily early intervention and prevention and are targeted to critical family transition points including formation, extension, and separation.

Statement of Requirement

This funding round will implement the Families and Children Activity (Family and Relationship Services Sub Activity) component of the Enhanced Social and Community Support (drought assistance package).

The purpose of the Enhanced Social and Community Support (drought assistance package) measure is to increase funding of the current drought measure for farmers, farm families and their communities through enhanced service delivery during periods of severe and prolonged rainfall deficiency. The measure is continuing funding to 50 drought-affected Local Government Areas (LGAs) in New South Wales and Queensland and extending funding to 19 additional LGAs in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. Through this funding round, one provider will be selected to deliver new services in Western Australia to the drought affected LGAs of Rockingham, Denmark and Albany.

Service providers will consult with clients to offer flexible services to suit the needs of clients in specified drought affected areas. When arranging the delivery of services, providers will work to ensure the safety and comfort of staff and clients.

Services can be delivered through face to face assistance to clients in their home, workplace, or other local venue, or through use of technology such as telephone, video conferencing, Skype and online discussion forums.

The types of services delivered may include therapy and counselling for individuals, couples and families to strengthen relationships; parenting and skills development services; and information and referral to other services and support, in particular programs provided by the Australian Government to support farm families and farm businesses in hardship.

Selection Criteria

The equally weighted selection criteria are:

1. demonstrate your understanding of the need for the funded Activity in the specified community and/or specified target group
2. describe how the implementation of your proposal will achieve the Activity objectives for all stakeholders, including value for money within the Grant funding

Multicultural Access and Equity policy

Australia's Multicultural Access and Equity Policy: Respecting diversity. Improving responsiveness obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people engaging with government and accessing services to which they are entitled, for example, by providing access to language services where appropriate. The provider should consider whether services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with non-English speakers.

Assessment

The Assessment Team may be composed of Department of Social Services (DSS) officers from each state/territory and national offices. Teams will undertake training to ensure consistent assessment for all applications received. The Assessment Team will be bound by the APS Code of Conduct and the Department's Secretary's Instructions.

Probity

The selection of the funding recipient for the Activity must be fair, open and demonstrate the highest level of integrity, consistent with the public interest.

The following probity principles will be applied through all stages of the selection process:

- a. fairness and impartiality
- b. consistency, accountability and transparency of process
- c. security and confidentiality of information
- d. identification and resolution of conflicts of interest
- e. compliance with legislative obligations and government policy

These principles are intended to achieve an equitable, justifiable and sound process.

Adherence to the probity principles means that everyone involved with the selection process will act:

- a. impartially
- b. with integrity, including avoiding actual or perceived conflicts of interest

A Probity Advisor may be appointed for the Activity. The role of the Probity Adviser would be to assist DSS meet its probity obligations in relation to the Activity by ensuring that the selection processes are defensible and will withstand external and internal scrutiny.

The role of the Probity Adviser would be to independently monitor procedural aspects of the selection process to ensure compliance with the published relevant Programme Guidelines and to advise DSS in relation to such matters. The Probity Adviser plays no part in the assessment of applications.

Programme Guidelines Overview

The Programme Guidelines Overview provides the key starting point for parties considering whether to participate in the activity and form the basis for the business relationship between the Department and the funding recipient. Applicants are strongly advised to read the Programme Guidelines Overview prior to completing an Application Form. The Programme Guideline suite comprises of the following documents:

- Programme Guidelines Overview
- Funding Round Summary
- Application Form
- Questions and Answers
- DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement - General Grant Conditions

How to Apply

Applications can be lodged by emailing your completed application to: selections@dss.gov.au by **2:00 pm (AEST) Thursday, 13 August 2015**.

Grant Agreement Information

The type of grant agreement you are asked to enter into will be influenced by the nature of the Activity, the assessed Activity risk level, the length of the Activity and the value of the Activity.

Selection Funding Round Summary

Your executed grant agreement represents the Department's and your entire agreement in relation to each grant provided within it and the relevant Activity and supersedes all prior representations, communications, agreements, statements and understandings, whether oral or in writing.