



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Disability and Carers Program Supporting Participation Program – 2026-27 Grant Opportunity Guidelines GO8604

Opening date:	Monday 21 September 2026
Closing date and time:	11:00pm (AEDT, Canberra local time) on Sunday 1 November 2026
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department)
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	<p>If you have any questions, contact the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) via email: disability@humanrights.gov.au</p> <p>Questions should be sent no later than 5:00pm (AEDT, Canberra local time) Friday 30 October 2026.</p>
Type of grant opportunity:	Open Competitive

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1 Disability and Carers Program: Supporting Participation Program – 2026-27 grant process

The Supporting Participation Program – 2026-27 is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the department's Outcome 4.1. The department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [*Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)*](#).



The grant opportunity opens

The department publishes the grant opportunity guidelines on [GrantConnect](#).
The AHRC opens the Expression of Interest (EOI) process on [Supporting Participation Program | AHRC website](#)



You complete and submit an EOI application

You complete the EOI application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.
You submit the EOI application to the AHRC.



Assessment of all grant applications

The AHRC assess the applications against the eligibility and assessment criteria.
The department assesses eligible applications, recommended by the AHRC in a report.
This includes consideration of value with relevant money and in comparison to other applications.



Grant recommendations are made

The department provides advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



Notification of the outcome

You will be notified of the outcome of your application.



Entering a grant agreement

The department will enter into a grant agreement with you if you have been successful.
The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. The Community Grants Hub manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the grant opportunity

The department will evaluate your specific grant activity and the grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Supporting Participation Program – 2026-27 grant opportunity.

You must read these grant opportunity guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria and how to apply
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

We administer grant opportunity according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).

2 About the grant program

The Supporting Participation Program (full title – Supporting Participation by Representatives of People with Disability in Key International Forums on Human Rights Program) was first announced in 2011. It supports people with disability, carers, policy makers, researchers, national organisations, service providers, businesses, and community organisations to take part in activities that help improve the lives of people with disability and their carers.

The Supporting Participation Program is an important component of Australia's compliance with the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD is an international human rights convention, ratified by Australia in 2008, which sets out the fundamental human rights of people with disability. Key CRPD Articles to the Supporting Participation Program:

- Article 4.3 says that States Parties should work closely with and actively involve people with disability in decisions that affect them. It outlines that engagement should be through representative organisations, in relation to CRPD implementation in legislation and policies, and in issues related to people with disability.
- Article 29 says that 'States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others.'
- Article 33(3) says that 'civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.'

- Article 40 says that ‘the States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.’

The regular meeting is called the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP). It is held at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States of America (USA).

The Supporting Participation Program has three program activities:

- Civil society participation at COSP – supporting civil society delegates who are people with disability, through their representative organisations, to attend and contribute to COSP. This is the focus of this grant opportunity.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) process and expert supports – a procurement supporting an EOI process and expert supports by the AHRC. The AHRC identifies and recommends disability representative and disability advocacy organisations and individuals suitable to receive funding. It also helps support delegates before and during selected forums.
- Support for people to participate in international forums – supporting people to participate in other key international forums on human rights. This has recently included the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2025, and support for people serving on international committees, such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The grant program aims to:

- support people with disability in Australia to participate in and contribute to international human rights forums about disability issues
- support Australia’s compliance with Article 33(3) of the CRPD
- increase awareness in Australia’s disability and civil society sectors of issues raised at COSP
- increase awareness of disability issues raised in other international human rights forums and that contribute to treaty body deliberations.

This grant program supports the achievement of Outcome 4, Program 4.1 – Disability and Carers, as outlined in the departments Portfolio Budget Statement.

The Supporting Participation Program is an activity under the [Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023](#) (DSI Act). The DSI Act supports people with disability by funding services outside the NDIS that promote inclusion, participation, autonomy, and safety. The Minister may make a payment or grant of financial assistance. To be eligible, applicants must meet specific requirements and comply with the terms and conditions outlined in section 13 of the DSI Act.

These requirements are mandatory for the duration of the grant agreement. Applicants will be required to declare compliance in their application and may be asked to provide evidence during assessment or at any point during the grant period, including to:

1. comply with the code of conduct (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Code of Conduct) Rules 2023)
2. implement and maintain a complaints management and resolution system (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Complaints and Incidents Management) Rules 2023)

3. implement and maintain an incident management system (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Complaints and Incidents Management) Rules 2023)
4. not be subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act). This also applies to their key personnel, employees or persons otherwise engaged by the grantee (see section 4.2 for more information).

You are responsible for understanding your obligations under the DSI Act before applying. More information is available on the department's website.

2.1 About the grant opportunity

The purpose of this grant is to help fund civil society delegates who are people with disability, to take part in and contribute to key international human rights forums that promote the rights of people with disability. Delegates must take part through their representative or advocacy organisations.

The main objectives of this grant opportunity are to:

- Provide funding so people with disability can actively take part in identified key international forums in 2027.
- Support participation through representative and advocacy organisations, so the voices of people with disability are meaningfully included in global discussions about disability rights and inclusion.
- These forums include:
 - 20th Session of the COSP (COSP20) to the CRPD, UN Headquarters New York, USA, 9 to 11 June 2027;
 - 71st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71), UN Headquarters New York, USA, 8 to 19 March 2027; and
 - Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR), Sendai, Japan, 25 to 29 October 2027.

The intended outcomes are that funded civil society delegates will:

- attend and participate at the identified forums as part of any wider Australian Delegation
- represent the experiences and interests of Australians with disability and advocate for policy change internationally
- have opportunities to:
 - network with advocates in the international disability movement
 - learn about and build human rights capacity, knowledge and skills, including strategic advocacy and its application to domestic advocacy
 - visit important UN organisations, and
 - build their capacity to represent the Australian disability sector internationally.

Delegates funded under this grant opportunity will be asked to take part in workshops and briefing sessions before and after the forum. These workshops will help delegates meet and agree shared objectives and messages before attending.

Each civil society delegation will include one or both of the following:

- **General Delegation** – supports people with disability who have experience in the disability sector to attend. These delegates will represent Australians with disability and advocate for policy change internationally. They are expected to actively support the wider delegation before and during the forum, including by:
 - leading informal discussions and prompting delegation considerations
 - sharing learnings from any previous international disability advocacy experiences
 - supporting group administrative tasks
 - participating in and/or coordinating civil society delegation meeting opportunities on the ground.
- General delegates will mentor at least one individual from the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation, with supports to be provided prior to and during forums.
- Individuals applying to the General Delegation must be 18 years or older. Individuals aged 18 to 35 years are welcome to apply to this stream instead of the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation if preferred.
- **Emerging Young Leaders Delegation** – supports young people with disability, aged 18 to 35 years, who are disability rights advocates and show leadership potential. This stream helps build the next generation's ability to represent the Australian disability sector internationally. They will have opportunities to:
 - be mentored by a general delegate
 - network with advocates involved in international disability rights
 - learn about strategic advocacy and its application to domestic advocacy
 - participate in important international forum/s.

All delegates are expected to:

- Participate in any pre-briefing processes arranged by the department and/or Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- Actively participate in event activities and follow relevant event processes and protocols.
 - For example, at COSP, delegates are expected to:
 - participate in events
 - network and engage with other attendees
 - contribute to the civil society aims and objectives
 - collaborate with the full delegation, which may involve organising, assisting or supporting the drafting and/or delivery of an intervention or joint statement, and/or the development and delivery of a side event.
- Actively engage and collaborate with the Australian delegation if present, including delegates from other organisations and the government delegation.
- Support Emerging Young Leader delegates.
- Adhere to Work, Health and Safety obligations.
- Adhere to relevant forum-specific policies and protocols.
- Ensure passport, visa, insurance and relevant documentation are organised for travel. Abide by the laws of the country the forum is held in, and transit countries.

- For example, delegates under the age of 21 should not buy or consume alcohol in accordance with USA laws, and some medications that are lawful in Australia are prohibited in the USA and should not be taken.
- Attend most of the event in-person while on site (unless the event changes to a virtual format).
- Identify events of interest and networking opportunities, including engagement and support for the Australian delegation.
- Participate in post-event briefings and events arranged for delegates by the department and/or DFAT.

Organisations are expected to:

- Actively engage and collaborate with other Australian disability representative and advocacy organisations to seek their input and advice regarding issues for discussion at the event.
- Complete all deliverables specified in the grant agreement by the relevant deadline, including meeting with the department to discuss specified requirements.
- Ensure that funding for individuals is fully allocated to that individual and not maintained by the organisation administrative or in-kind supports.
- Assess, monitor and mitigate risks associated with the travel (both directions), attendance and participation of delegates at events.
- Ensure all staff and delegates adhere to Work, Health and Safety obligations.
- Ensure all staff and delegates adhere to relevant policies and protocols, including liaising with the UN on proposed media activities to ensure they are compliant with related procedures.
- Share information and learnings from the event and any significant associated events or meetings.
- Actively monitor forum websites for information on the event and disseminate to delegates.
- Provide wellbeing, administrative and logistical support to delegates attending events under your organisation.
- Respond to requests for information in a timely manner and be responsible for signing relevant consent or privacy forms or confirming agreement to requests. This includes to enable the department to disseminate shared information to other delegates participating in the delegation. The information may include biography, contact details, accessibility requirements, dietary requirements, hotel/travel logistics, intended side events.
- Participate in individual or group pre- or post-event briefings or events arranged for delegates by the department and/or DFAT.

The Supporting Participation Program mainly supports in-person attendance. It can also support forums that are virtual or a mix of in-person and virtual attendance.

For in-person attendance to be funded, each delegate must aim to attend more than 60 per cent of in-person events during the time they are funded to participate in the forum.

The department acknowledges that plans may need to change from in-person to virtual attendance at short notice. Organisations will not be penalised if they plan for in-person attendance and later need to change to virtual attendance. This may happen if:

- the event organiser changes the event format to virtual.
- the organisation re-evaluates the risk to delegates as being too high for in-person attendance.
- a health-related emergency.

Delegate changes can only be made by an organisation with prior approval from the department. Organisations should contact the department as soon as possible, explain why the change is needed, and provide details of the proposed alternative delegate.

Examples of reasons a delegate may not be able to attend in-person or virtually include:

- a delegate becomes unwell
- a delegate has significant concerns about their health or safety.
- an unforeseen event or personal circumstance

If an approved delegate cannot attend because of exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, an organisation may suggest an alternative delegate or alternate forum (within the identified forums for 2027) for consideration by the department. Any proposed alternate delegate should also have applied and been assessed through the EOI process.

The Activity will be measured against the below Performance Indicators.

Table 1: Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator	Measure
People with disability, through their representative and advocacy organisations, actively take part in key international human rights forums funded under the program.	Number and proportion of funded delegates who attend a key international forum and take part in at least one substantive activity, evidenced through stakeholder media, social media and the post event debrief workshop.
Funded delegates build capacity to represent Australians with disability internationally and support awareness of international disability human rights domestically.	Percentage of delegates reporting improved advocacy knowledge or skills and completing at least one post-forum knowledge-sharing activity, evidenced through stakeholder media, social media and the post event debrief workshop.

2.1.1 Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) commits all governments to a new era of partnership and shared decision-making to close the gap in life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people know what is best for their people and communities. It also acknowledges that the unique strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and cultures are critical to driving real change.

At the centre of the National Agreement are four Priority Reforms that focus on changing the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Priority Reforms will:

- strengthen and establish formal partnerships and shared decision making
- build the Aboriginal community-controlled sector
- transform government organisations to eliminate racism and embed cultural responsiveness
- improve and share access to data and information with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make informed decisions.

This grant will contribute to the following Closing the Gap Priority Reforms:

- Priority Reform 1: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making
- Priority Reform 2: Building the Community-Controlled Sector
- Priority Reform 4: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level

Refer to the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) and [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031](#) for more information on these targets and Priority Reforms.

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$220,000 (GST exclusive) over 1 year, for the Supporting Participation Program grant opportunity in the 2026-27 financial year.

The grant opportunity will start in February 2027. End dates will depend on which forum/s are funded:

- COSP20 and CSW71 funding will end on 30 June 2027.
- APMCDRR funding will end on 31 December 2027.

Individual funding will depend on the application and the forum/s to be funded.

Table 2: Grant Opportunity Funding Available (GST exclusive)

2026-27 FY \$	Total \$
220,000	220,000

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is 11 months.

The funded activity must be completed by the following dates:

- COSP20 and CSW71 must be completed by 30 June 2027.
- APMCDRR must be completed by 31 December 2027.

4 Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose or activity, except where a joint contribution from Commonwealth, state, territory or local government is specified in section 3.1.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must be one of the following entity types:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the [Corporations \(Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006](#)
- Company
- Corporate Commonwealth Entity
- Corporate State or Territory Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Entity
- Non-corporate State or Territory Statutory Authority
- Local Government
- Cooperative
- Incorporated Association
- Sole Trader
- Statutory Entity
- Partnership
- Person
- Unincorporated Association.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust, the Trustee must have an eligible entity type as listed above.

To be eligible for this grant opportunity, applicant organisations and any key personnel (under section 10 of the DSI Act) of the organisation applying for funding, must NOT be subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the NDIS Act. If there are banning orders in place against an applicant, they are not eligible for an arrangement or grant to be made under section 13 of the DSI Act.

You are not eligible to apply for this grant opportunity if:

- you are subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the NDIS Act, and
- any of your key personnel are subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the NDIS Act.

4.2 Additional eligibility criteria

We can only accept applications for individuals with disability from organisations that:

- hold UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Consultative Status; or
- are accredited to the specific forum applied to, such as COSP Accreditation.

Applicants must be aged 18 or older. Applicants to the Emerging Young Leader Delegation must be aged 18 to 35 at the time of application.

4.3 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply for this grant opportunity if you are:

- an organisation not included in sections 4.1 and 4.2
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an organisation (employers of 100 or more employees), or your project partner is an organisation, that has not complied with the [Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012](#) and is included on the non-compliant organisations list on the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#).
- are an organisation, or any of your key personnel (under section 10 of the DSI Act) are, subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#) (NDIS Act) and/or included on the [NDIS Commission's website](#) for compliance action. If there are banning orders in place against an applicant, they are not eligible for an arrangement or grant to be made under section 13 of the DSI Act.
- overseas resident/organisation
- Non-corporate Commonwealth Entity

4.4 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

While you are required to comply with all relevant laws and regulations, you will be asked to demonstrate compliance with the following legislation/policies/industry standards to maintain your eligibility for the grant:

- Commonwealth Child Safe Framework
- Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012
- Multicultural Access and Equity Policy reporting requirements
- Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023

To be eligible for a grant, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements. You may need to declare you can continue to meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

4.4.1 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework \(CCSF\)](#).

The Australian Government is considering appropriate ways to apply the requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause will be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity
- activities that involve possible contact with children that is irregular or unplanned

A child safety clause may also be included in the grant agreement if the Commonwealth considers the grant activity involves children more broadly.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement or notified to the successful applicant prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with your state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

4.4.2 Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

The Australian Government has a commitment to effectively support cultural change in Australian workplaces and drive improved gender equality outcomes. Requirements have been implemented for fairer and more consistent measures to ensure the Government deals with organisations who comply with the [Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012](#) (the WGE Act).

Applicants may need to satisfy a requirement to be compliant with the WGE Act.

Applicants with 100 or more employees who are registered with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) and have been issued with a compliance letter are eligible to apply for a grant.

Applicants with 100 or more employees who are not registered with WGEA will need to register to be issued with a registration outcome email prior to applying for a grant.

Applicants with less than 100 employees across their entire structure who are unregistered, or have not previously reported to WGEA, or who do not meet the definition of a relevant employer under the Act, are not required to register.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant:

- your organisation must not be included on the WGEA website on the non-compliant list
- you must be able to provide your registration letter or certificate of compliance to the department if and when requested.

If you are unable to provide your certificate of compliance and/or appear on the non-compliant list, you will be deemed non-compliant and withdrawn from the grant process.

More information regarding reporting requirements can be found at the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency website](#).

4.4.3 Multicultural Access and Equity Policy

The Australian Government's [Multicultural Access and Equity Policy](#) obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure their policies, programs and services - including those provided by contractors and service delivery partners – are accessible to, and deliver equitable outcomes for, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Grant applicants should consider how they will ensure their services will be accessible to people from CALD backgrounds. For example, service delivery partners may require cultural competency skills. In addition, services, projects, activities or events may require the use of professional translating or interpreting services in order to communicate with clients who have limited English proficiency.

4.4.4 Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023

The [Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 \(DSI Act\)](#) aims to support people with disability by funding services outside the NDIS that promote inclusion, participation, autonomy, and safety.

Organisations receiving funding under the DSI Act you must comply with the conditions outlined in section 15 of the DSI Act, including:

- complying with the Code of Conduct
- implementing and maintaining a complaints management and resolution system appropriate for the organisation's size and for the kinds of eligible activities provided for under the grant
- implementing and maintaining an incident management system appropriate for the organisation's size and for the kinds of eligible activities provided for under the grant

These requirements are mandatory and must be met throughout the life of the grant agreement. You will be required to declare compliance in your application and may be asked to provide evidence during the assessment process or at any point during the grant period.

For your grant application to be deemed compliant your organisation, or any of your key personnel, must not be:

- subject to a banning order

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible, your grant activity must result in the successful individual participating at the identified key international human rights forum.

Activities can include costs associated with in-person or virtual attendance, or a combination of both as noted in section 5.2.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred for eligible grant activities.

Eligible expenditure items include:

- overseas travel expenses (airfares and transfers)
- accommodation costs
- travel insurance
- passport and visa fees
- forum fees
- assistive technology which is required for attendance and participation
- additional support if required (for example, accessibility needs around travel, accommodation, or support, and expenses for carers or support persons where required)

- incidental expenses (such as taxi or bus fares and internet access for work purposes)
- administration costs directly related to arranging attendance at the event.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your grant activity may be eligible for grant funding. The decision maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the expenditure on your grant activities between the start date and end or completion date of your grant agreement for it to be eligible.

Organisations must pass all funding to funded individuals. Organisations must not deduct funding from, or charge, funded individuals for administration or in-kind support.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for any activities not mentioned in sections 5.1 and 5.2.

You cannot use the grant for:

- personal travel, accommodation, and travel insurance costs which are unrelated to attendance at the event
- any costs which are unrelated to event attendance, such as souvenirs and sightseeing
- alcoholic beverages
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- construction/capital works
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility
- wages/salaries
- paying ransom for ransomware, cyber-attack or any other type of cybercrime

6 The assessment criteria

You must respond to all assessment criteria in your application.

The AHRC will assess your application using the points available for each criterion. The maximum score is 30 points.

See section 8.1 for more information about how applications are assessed.

The detail and evidence you provide should match the size, complexity and amount of funding you are requesting.

Assessment Criterion 1: Organisation's support (participation costs: 3 points; in-kind support: 2 points; maximum of 5 points)

Explain how your organisation will support the individual to participate. This support should be reasonable for the size and capacity of your organisation. Support may include:

- contributing to some participation costs

- providing in-kind support, such as help with travel arrangements, administration, staffing support before, during or after the forum

Assessment Criterion 2: Organisation's experience (0-5 points)

Describe your organisation's experience and involvement in human rights work. Your response could include:

- your organisation's vision, purpose, or values
- your organisation's participation in UN processes, such as treaty reporting, submissions to Special Rapporteurs, or comments on draft General Comments
- how your organisation uses a human rights approach in its advocacy and work in Australia and internationally.

Assessment Criterion 3: Individual's knowledge and experience (0-5 points)

General Delegate: Explain the individual's knowledge of and experience working with the CRPD, human rights, UN processes, and national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and other human rights treaties relevant to the forum.

Emerging Young Leader Delegate: Explain the individual's relevant knowledge of and experience in the disability sector and human rights advocacy.

Detail relevant experience with disability and human rights sectors, this may include:

- formal qualifications or relevant training
- achievements, such as academic or leadership awards
- personal experience
- professional experience in human rights, disability and human rights advocacy
- knowledge of UN process, the CRPD, experience in national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and other related human rights treaties relevant to the forum.

Assessment Criterion 4: Individual's delegation supports (0-5 points)

Explain how the individual will work with people from other organisations as part of a combined civil society delegation. This may include:

- seeking input and advice regarding issues for discussion
- nominating to speak or collaborate on an intervention at a roundtable or side event
- **General Delegate:** Explain how the individual will actively mentoring members of the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation.
- **Emerging Young Leader Delegation:** Explain how the individual will actively engage in a mentee role with members of the General Delegation.

Your response could describe activities such as:

- developing capacity for delegates to attend and contribute to the event
- seeking input and advice regarding issues for discussion
- mentor/mentee activity aimed at developing the capacity of Emerging Young Leaders
- plans for side events or other delegation wide events
- intention to collaborate for side events

Assessment Criterion 5: Impact of attendance (0-5 points)

General Delegate: Explain how attending the forum would benefit the work of the individual and the work of their organisation.

Emerging Young Leader Delegate: Explain how attending the forum would benefit the individual, including their future goals in human rights, and the work of their organisations.

Your response could describe the impact:

- for the individual
- for the work of their organisation
- on their future aspirations; and
- of how knowledge gained and relationships forged will contribute to increased advocacy.

Assessment Criterion 6: Sharing forum outcomes (0-5 points)

Explain activities that will be undertaken by the individual and the organisation after the forum. Detail how the individual and organisation will share the forum outcomes with Australian civil society.

7 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these grant opportunity guidelines, and all documents and information relating to this grant opportunity. These documents will be found on [GrantConnect](#) and also on the [Supporting Participation Program | AHRC website](#). Any alterations and addenda¹ will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these grant opportunity guidelines.

GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information, however the department takes no responsibility if a registered user fails to become aware of any addendum notices or of other published material. Registered users are encouraged to regularly check GrantConnect for updates. The AHRC website will be updated following GrantConnect updates to include duplicate copies of the grant documents, and/or links to GrantConnect.

Organisations can only submit one application for this grant opportunity that must include all forums you are applying for. Applications should include separate sections for individuals' applications.

If more than one application is submitted, the application submitted latest, and within closing time and date, will progress to the next stage.

To apply you must:

- read all available documentation about the grant opportunity provided on GrantConnect and the [Supporting Participation Program | AHRC website](#)
- complete the Application Form and Privacy Collection Notice
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments

¹ Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents.

- submit applications by the closing date and time to disability@humanrights.gov.au

Applications will be accepted in multiple formats, with the following size limits requested when responding to the assessment criteria (section 2.4 of the Application Form and Privacy Collection Notice):

- Written (2 pages)
- Easy Read (no length limit)
- Video (5 minutes)
- Audio file (5 minutes)

Easy Read, video and audio files can be supported by an additional one-page written summary.

If you need assistance with the application process or find an error in your application after submission but before the closing date and time, you should contact the AHRC via email disability@humanrights.gov.au. For technical assistance when submitting your application through the AHRC please email disability@humanrights.gov.au.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration. As part of your application, you must declare whether you or any other person within your organisation has ever been involved in legal proceedings related to fraud or corruption.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact the AHRC immediately at disability@humanrights.gov.au. The AHRC and the department do not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

If the AHRC finds an error or information that is missing, they may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, the department and AHRC can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. You will receive an automated email notification acknowledging the receipt of your application. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 48 hours, contact the AHRC at disability@humanrights.gov.au.

7.1 Additional documents

The department will request by email the following documents from organisations found successful through the EOI process:

- bank verification² (acceptable forms of verification include a recent bank statement, issued in the last 6 months, in a pdf file type. The bank account must be in the name of the organisation applying for funding. The transaction details and balances can be hidden but the BSB, Account Number and Account Name must be visible.)

² You may be contacted by the Community Grants Hub seeking additional information to support the verification of your bank account details.

- Proof of Entity

For applications made on behalf of a Trust, the application must be made in the name of the Trustee as listed in the Trust Deed. The applicant must be prepared to provide a signed copy of the Trust Deed, and any Deed variations, as in force at the time the application is made if requested, and other information (including financial information) for both the Trust and the corporate Trustee.

If you do not provide the requested additional documents, your application may not progress further in the process.

7.2 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity around February 2027.

Table 3: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Open on GrantConnect and AHRC website	6 weeks
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-4 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	1 week
Earliest start date of grant activity	February 2027
End date of grant activity or agreement	30 June 2027 - COSP20 and CSW71 31 December 2027 - APMCDRR

Note: the above timeframes are indicative only and will depend on the number and quality of applications throughout the submission period. Missing/incorrect information in applications may cause delays during the assessment process.

7.2.1 Late applications

We will not accept late applications unless an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following criteria:

- Reasonably unforeseeable.
- Beyond the applicant's control; and/or
- Unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

Applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit a late application request via email to disability@humanrights.gov.au no later than 3 days after the closing period.

The request should include a detailed explanation of the circumstances that prevented the application being submitted prior to the closing time. Where appropriate, supporting evidence can be provided to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances.

The decision maker or their appointed representative will determine whether a late application will be accepted. Once the outcome is determined, the department will advise the applicant if their request is accepted or declined.

7.3 Questions during the application process

If you have questions relating to the grant, technical issues or process during the application period, contact disability@humanrights.gov.au. The AHRC, with support from the department as required, will respond to questions in three working days.

Questions close at 5.00pm (Canberra local time) Friday, 30th October 2026. This allows a reasonable period for the AHRC to respond with information that applicants can consider for their application. The AHRC will continue to assist with technical related enquiries regarding the submission of applications beyond the question close deadline.

Requests for clarification may form the basis of a response in the Frequently Asked Questions document relating to this grant opportunity. Updates to this document will be posted on the GrantConnect website and on the [Supporting Participation Program | AHRC website](#). Registered GrantConnect users will be notified of updates to the documents via email from the website. All questions will be de-identified.

The AHRC and the department cannot assist you to address assessment criteria, determine eligibility or complete your application.

8 The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

The AHRC and the department developed the assessment criteria and rating system together. The criteria aim to support the best outcomes from this grant opportunity. They consider the individual's experience, the contribution they could make to the forum, and how attending could support their future work and advocacy.

Funding under this grant opportunity is not intended to cover all costs related to attendance. Organisations that show they can work with the department and contribute funding or in-kind supports will be viewed favourably, as this may allow more delegates to be supported. Organisations must pass on the full grant funding to successful applicants and must not keep any part of the funding for administration or in-kind support.

8.1.1 Stages of Assessment

Stage 1 – Eligibility assessment – applications will be first checked by the AHRC to confirm that the organisations and the individual meet the eligibility requirements. This includes checking the age of applicants for the Emerging Young Leader Delegation.

Stage 2 – Organisation and individual assessment – eligible organisation and individual applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria in Section 6.

The AHRC will provide a recommendation report to the department, as well as all applications. The report will include ratings for all eligible applications and will consider the balance between the General Delegation and the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation.

We will rate your application using the Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix.

Table 4: Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix

Rating (for individual criterion)	Score
Excellent – the individual meets the criterion at the highest possible standard, i.e., possesses exceptionally well-developed and relevant skills and abilities; is outstanding.	5
Very Good – the individual is remarkably good, i.e., possesses highly developed and relevant skills and abilities and clearly exceeds requirements.	4
Good – the individual possesses well developed and relevant skills and abilities and has demonstrated competency at the required level.	3
Satisfactory – the individual possesses the relevant skills and abilities and has demonstrated some competency.	2
Requires development - the individual possesses some skills, abilities and personal qualities relevant to the criterion, but is limited on others.	1
Unsatisfactory – the individual does not satisfy the criterion or is unable to demonstrate that they possess the relevant skills and abilities; the individual must be rated unsuitable.	0

A score out of 5 will be applied to each of the 6 assessment criteria. A total of 30 is the highest score any application can receive.

Only applications that score Good or above against each of the 6 assessment criteria (based on the above rating scale) will be considered for funding in the first instance.

Stage 3 – Final decision on funded delegates – the department will consider the AHRC recommendation report and scores for each application. The department will also consider the number of delegates funded for each forum, with COSP20 funding to be the prioritised forum funded for 2026-27. Funding for CSW71 and APMCDRR is anticipated to be lower than COSP20, however this will be determined based on assessment of the strength of applications for each forum.

The department will decide which delegates are approved to receive funding and will aim to balance funding across the General Delegation and the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation. It will also consider the diversity of the Australian community. This may include different disability experiences, age, gender, First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people from regional and remote areas, and people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

8.1.2 Value with relevant money

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- the relative value of the grant sought
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

The department engaged the AHRC for 2024-25 to 2026-27 to run an annual EOI process, provide a recommendation report each year, and provide expert support services. The AHRC has been involved in the Supporting Participation Program since it started in 2011.

The AHRC was selected because it is independent from government, has A-Status accreditation under the Paris Principles as Australia's National Human Rights Institution. The AHRC is established under the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986* (Cth), with relevant statutory functions including to promote an understanding and acceptance of human rights in Australia, and to co-ordinate research and educational programs promoting human rights on behalf of the Commonwealth. As such, the AHRC is strongly placed to understand and support engagement in UN treaty body processes and forums and has established relationships with disability representative and advocacy organisations.

The EOI process was co-developed with the AHRC and the department. It aims to get the best outcomes from the Supporting Participation Program. It considers applicants' experience, the contribution they could make to international forums, and how attending could support their future work and advocacy in the disability sector, including in the monitoring and implementation of the CRPD in Australia.

The EOI process will be open for 6 weeks. EOI applications will be received to the AHRC for assessment and reporting. The AHRC will then provide the department with a recommendation report that identifies suitable delegates, as well as the EOI applications.

The department will establish an assessment team to review the recommendation report and applications. The assessment team will include staff from the Grants and Procurement Branch and the Advocacy and Inclusion Programs Branch. Representatives from other areas of the department and from outside of the department may be engaged as appropriate. Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The assessment team will not include the grant approver/decision-maker. The assessment team will review eligibility and compliance checks, recommendation report assessments, and undertake a value with relevant money assessment.

The assessment team may seek additional information about you, your application, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the [Corporations Act 2001](#)) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth entities. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment team may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

Staff from the Advocacy and Inclusion Programs Branch will recommend to the decision maker which applications should be approved for a grant.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Assistant Secretary of the Advocacy and Inclusion Programs Branch (the decision maker) decides which grant(s) to approve. They will take into account the recommendations of the assessment team and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant opportunity.

The decision maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9 Notification of application outcomes

The AHRC will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, the department will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same or a similar grant in any future grant opportunities under the Supporting Participation Program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback. A request for feedback should be made to disability@humanrights.gov.au within 14 days of being notified of the outcome by responding to the outcome email. The AHRC will give written feedback within 30 days of your request.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use the simple grant agreement grant agreement in this program.

Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed.

Sample grant agreements are available on the [Department of Finance's website](#). We will use a schedule to outline the specific grant requirements.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your grant activities before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk. You must not start any grant activities until a grant agreement is executed.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

You will have 5 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

The department recognises the Australian Government's commitment to the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework. Grantees must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working and volunteering with children and mandatory reporting. Grantees must meet all child safety requirements outlined in the grant agreement. The department may request an annual statement of compliance with these

requirements. Where grant activities involve planned interactions with children, grantees must also apply the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, undertake an annual child safety risk assessment and provide child safe training and education for staff. These details will be outlined in the grant agreement.

10.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any financial contributions you must make
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any financial contribution provided by a third party

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

10.3 Grants payments and GST

This grant is [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#) exclusive.

11 Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website no later than 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#).

12 How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- business structure

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.1.1 Unforeseen circumstances

As a result of unforeseen circumstances (such as a natural disaster), organisations may need to identify alternative methods of grant activities. The department will support flexibility in the delivery of planned activities to enable organisations to adapt to the changing environment.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

The required reports and their due dates will be outlined in your grant agreement, and may include:

- **Financial Declaration:** Report on grant expenditure and any underspends.

12.3 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting the Commonwealth Representative listed on the agreement.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.4 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.5 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

13 Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, is consistent with the CGRPs and incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

These grant opportunity guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the department. When this happens, we will publish the addendum on [GrantConnect](#). By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these grant opportunity guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#), noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered ‘contracted service providers’. See the [fact sheets](#) for more information.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The department’s [Complaint Handling Process](#) applies to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to Grant.ATM@health.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the relevant Commonwealth entity.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a [conflict of interest](#), or perceived conflict of interest, if the department’s staff, any member of an assessment team, an advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently
- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#) and section 29 (Duty to disclose interests) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. All members involved in the assessment process and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflicts of interest policy on the [Australian Public Service Commission’s website](#).

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

‘Personal information’ means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:

- (a) whether the information or opinion is true or not
- (b) whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption under the Australian Privacy Principles applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare that you will comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and that you will impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you, or your employees, agents or subcontractors, to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive

3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- any member of the assessment process and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively, including for an integrity purpose
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
 FOI Unit
 Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
 GPO Box 9848
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: foi@health.gov.au

14 Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)	an independent statutory body that is responsible for investigating complaints related to discrimination and breaches of human rights under various federal laws. The AHRC is established under the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 .
AHRC website	the AHRC website provides information in relation to the grant application process, and information on how to submit expressions of interest in the grant opportunity. The website is available at Supporting Participation Program AHRC website
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
Commonwealth Child Safe Framework	in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, the Australian Government has introduced the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework , a whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for creating and embedding a child safe culture and practice in Commonwealth entities
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

Term	Definition
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
Conference of States Parties (COSP)	Article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) stipulates that States Parties (signatories to the Convention) shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties (COSP) to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the Convention. Since 2008, the COSP has been held annually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, covering a range of themes and issues in roundtables, interactive dialogues and side-events.
contracted service provider	A contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	A United Nations human rights instrument that is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of people with disability.
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 (DSI Act)	Provides the legislative basis for the Commonwealth Government to fund disability supports and services outside of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), imbeds quality and safeguarding requirements, and gives effect to the CRPD and other international obligations.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria should be developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money³ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁴ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Department of Health, Disability and Ageing Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 .

³ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁴ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
National Redress Scheme	the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy makes non-government institutions named in applications to the Scheme, or in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, that do not join the Scheme ineligible for future Australian Government grant funding. The National Redress Scheme Grant Connected Policy came into effect on 1 January 2021.
not-for-profit (NFP)	is an organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain or other benefit of particular people (for example, its members, the people who run the organisation, or their friends or relatives). The organisation may make a profit but this must be used for the work it undertakes. See the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission website for further information.
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (PGPA Act)	the PGPA Act establishes a system of governance and accountability for public resources with an emphasis on planning, performance and reporting. It applies to all Commonwealth entities and Commonwealth companies.
relevant money	<p>a. money standing to the credit of any bank account of the Commonwealth or a corporate Commonwealth entity</p> <p>b. money that is held by the Commonwealth of a corporate Commonwealth entity.</p>
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.

Term	Definition
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved • the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.