

## **Supporting Participation by Representatives of People with Disability in Key International Forums on Human Rights Program (Supporting Participation Program)**

### **Attendance at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the State Parties (COSP17) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

#### **Expression of Interest (EOI) Guide**

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Article 40 of the United Nations (UN) CRPD provides for State Parties to meet regularly in a Conference of State Parties (COSP) to consider the implementation of the CRPD.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) will contribute funding for people with disability to attend COSP17, as part of available funding through the Supporting Participation Program. [COSP17](#) is a three-day international event, held at the UN Headquarters in New York, 11-13 June 2024.

This document outlines information on the available delegation funding streams for COSP17, and information required to be included in the submission of an application for funding to attend COSP17 under the Supporting Participation Program.

Organisations and individual applicants should read the information in this document and provided on the [web page](#), including the 'COSP17 Roles and Responsibilities', before drafting an application.

#### **Applications:**

- **Will only be accepted from organisations accredited to COSP, have [UN Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Consultative Status](#), or can become accredited before 2024.**
- **Will only be accepted from individuals who are people with disability.**
- **Can include requests for funding for more than one individual.**
- **Should not exceed 2 pages for Section 3 about the individual.**

#### **Supporting Participation Program – COSP17 Funding**

Individuals can either apply for funding through the Supporting Participation Program to attend COSP17 as part of the General Delegation or Emerging Young Leaders Delegation:

- The **General Delegation** supports people with disability with demonstrated experience in the disability sector to attend COSP. These delegates will represent the experiences and interests of Australians with disability and advocate for

policy change at an international level. They are also expected to actively support the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation. There are no age restrictions for individuals applying under the General Delegation. Individuals between 18 – 35 years are welcome to apply to this stream instead of the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation if preferred.

- The **Emerging Young Leaders Delegation** supports people with disability who are young disability rights advocates that show leadership potential to attend COSP. This provides the opportunity for the next generation to build their capacity to represent the Australian disability sector at the UN. The age range for eligibility in this category is 18 – 35 years. Individuals applying for the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation will have an opportunity to network with advocates in the international disability movement, learn about strategic advocacy and its application to domestic advocacy, and participate in an important UN forum.

## Further information

Additional information on the roles and responsibilities of the AHRC, DSS, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Civil Society Organisations participating in Australia's delegation to COSP17 is available in the COSP17 Roles and Responsibilities document.

For queries relating to the application process/assessment criteria or the pre-COSP/post COSP activities, please contact the AHRC Disability Rights team at: [disability@humanrights.gov.au](mailto:disability@humanrights.gov.au)

Queries in relation to funding from successful organisations should be made directly to DSS (the AHRC will provide these details to successful applicants).

## EOI Assessment Criteria

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The assessment criteria and rating system below were developed by the AHRC, in consultation with DSS. The criteria have been developed with a view to maximising the positive impact of the Supporting Participation Program by taking into consideration an applicants' experience, their potential contribution to COSP17, and the impact of their attendance on their future work and advocacy in the disability sector.

### Stages of Assessment

**Stage 1 – Eligibility assessment:** Assessors at the AHRC review all applications in an initial eligibility screening round. Applications are only accepted for people with disability from disability representative and disability advocacy organisations who have applied for and received [Consultative Status from the UN Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#). Applicants applying under the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation must be between the ages of 18 – 35 years to be eligible.

**Stage 2 – Individual assessment:** The AHRC will individually assess applications against a set of defined criteria (see below). Each criteria has a clearly identified rating system which will result in a final maximum score of 35 points for each individual application. Funding under the Supporting Participation Program is not intended to cover all costs associated with an applicants’ attendance at COSP17. The ability of organisations to demonstrate their partnership with DSS and need to contribute to costs is also favourably considered, as this allows greater opportunity for a larger delegate pool. The AHRC will provide a recommendation report to DSS with rating scores attributed against each criteria for all eligible applications.

**Stage 3 – Decision of funded Civil Society Delegation:** DSS will consider the AHRC’s report and rating scores attributed to each application and determine the final approved delegates to receive funding. DSS will ensure funding towards the Civil Society Delegation is balanced across the General and the Emerging Young Leaders Delegations’, and reflects the diversity of the Australian community, including (but not limited to) considering experiences of people living with different types of disability, First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people from the LGBTQI+ community.

**Assessment Criteria Rating System**

**Individual Assessment Criteria**

General Delegation Criteria		Rating system
<b>All applicants</b>		
A	Willingness of an applicant’s organisation to contribute towards the costs of participation	COSP participation costs: 3 points Pre/Post events costs: 1 point In kind support: 1 point Maximum of 5 points
B	The applicant has a demonstrated connection to the CRPD, knowledge of the UN process, and national implementation and monitoring of the CRPD	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
C	The applicant has clearly outlined how their attendance would positively impact them or the work of their organisation	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
D	The applicant has clearly outlined how their attendance would contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disability in Australia	0 – 5 points, per the rating system

E	The applicant has demonstrated the capacity of themselves or their organisation to disseminate the outcomes of COSP17 to the broader community	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
G	The applicant has demonstrated a willingness to actively engage and collaborate with members from other organisations attending COSP17 as a combined Civil Society Delegation. This may include seeking input and advice regarding issues for discussion at COSP17 and actively supporting all members of the Emerging Young Leaders Delegation.	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
H	Prior successful application of funding under this program	Yes: 0 points No: 5 points
	<i>Maximum number of points available:</i>	35

<b>Emerging Young Leader Criteria</b>		<b>Rating system</b>
A	Between the age of 18 – 35 years	Yes or No – Qualifying criterion
B	Willingness of an applicant’s organisation to contribute towards the costs of participation	COSP participation costs: 3 points Pre/Post events costs: 1 point In kind support: 1 point Maximum of 5 points
C	The applicant has clearly outlined how their attendance would positively impact them, the work of their organisation and how their attendance would contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disability in Australia	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
D	The applicant has outlined relevant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• qualifications (formal academic qualifications and relevant training)</li> <li>• achievements (e.g. academic or leadership awards)</li> <li>• experience in the disability sector</li> </ul>	0 – 5 points, per the rating system

E	The applicant has demonstrated the capacity of themselves or their organisation to disseminate the outcomes of COSP17 to the broader community	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
F	The applicant has demonstrated their future aspirations in disability rights and how attending COSP17 will support these aspirations	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
G	The applicant has demonstrated a willingness to actively engage and collaborate with members from other organisations attending COSP17 as a combined Civil Society Delegation. This may include seeking input and advice regarding issues for discussion at COSP17.	0 – 5 points, per the rating system
H	More than one prior successful application	Yes: 0 points No: 5 points
	<i>Maximum number of points available:</i>	35

### Rating System

Rating	Description of rating
Excellent (5 points)	Where the applicant meets the criterion at the highest possible standard, ie possesses exceptionally well developed and relevant skills and abilities; is outstanding
Very Good (4 points)	Where the applicant is remarkably good, ie possesses highly developed and relevant skills and abilities and clearly exceeds requirements
Good (3 points)	Where the applicant possesses well developed and relevant skills and abilities and has demonstrated competency at the required level
Satisfactory (2 points)	Where the applicant possesses well developed and relevant skills and abilities and has demonstrated competency at the required level
Requires Development (1 point)	The applicant possesses some skills, abilities and personal qualities relevant to the criterion, but is limited on others.
Unsatisfactory (0 points)	Where the applicant does not satisfy the criterion, or is unable to demonstrate that they possess the relevant skills and abilities; the applicant must be rated unsuitable



# Application Form

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Please provide information in sections 1–2 as part of your application. When drafting your application, please ensure the information provided addresses the EOI Assessment Criteria.

## 1 Information about the organisation

- name of organisation and ABN
- brief description of organisation's work
- whether the organisation is a disability representative organisation or a disability advocacy organisation
- confirmation that the organisation will fulfil the requirements outlined in the 'COSP17 Roles and Responsibilities'
- outline of the capacity of the organisation to disseminate the outcomes of COSP17 to the broader community
- email and phone number of two contact people for the application
- whether the organisation is accredited to the Conference of States Parties, has ECOSOC Consultative Status, or can become accredited before 2024 (more information on ECOSOC accreditation is available here: <https://csonet.org/index.php?menu=34>)

## 2 Information about individual who will participate

### a. Individual's details

- name
- email
- phone number
- gender
- type(s) of disability (optional: this helps us when considering the overall diversity of the delegation)
- other diversity characteristics to enable the Department to ensure funding towards the Civil Society Delegation reflects the diversity of the Australian community, including (but not limited to) considering experiences of people living with different types of disability, First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people from the LGBTQI+ community.
- any supports needed to ensure participation (if funding for support is required, please include in budget)
- whether the individual would be able to attend online if required (please include in budget)
- whether the individual represents an organisation or is applying (via an ECOSOC accredited organisation) as an individual.

## **b. Background on individual**

- delegation the individual is applying for (General Delegation OR Emerging Young Leaders Delegation)
- whether the individual has been funded by this program to attend COSPs before (include years attended)
- relevant experience with disability and the human rights. This may include:
  - personal experience
  - work in the disability sector and knowledge of the CRPD
  - relevant qualifications, training and/or achievements
  - aspirations.
- In addition to the above, if applying for the **Emerging Young Leaders Delegation**:
  - age
  - whether the individual will need to be accompanied/supported by another member of the organisation.

## **c. Activity outline**

- how the individual will contribute to the delegation and to COSP
- how the individual will contribute to the promotion of disability rights, as a result of participating in COSP
- description of the proposed activities for which the individual is seeking funding (activities must be related to participating in COSP but can also relate to planning before the event and post event work).
- description of activities to engage and collaborate with other delegates attending COSP. This could include activities to
  - develop capacity for delegates to attend and contribute to the event,
  - mentoring activity aimed at developing the capacity of emerging leaders to attend relevant events
- a brief overview of activities that will be undertaken by the individual on behalf of their organisation (if an organisational representative) or in an individual capacity (if not representing an organisation) upon return.

## **d. Budget for individual**

- a total amount, and a breakdown of how the funding will be used (e.g. travel, accommodation, etc.)
- whether the amount is GST exclusive/inclusive
- if attending in person but will attend online if this is not possible, applicants should submit two budgets (one for in-person and one for online).
- details of any funding contribution that is to be made by the organisation or others. It's useful in particular to know whether the funding contribution includes:
  - a) in-kind support
  - b) coverage of pre and/or post COSP event costs
  - c) a portion of COSP attendance costs.