

Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program Phase 1 Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Opening date:	Phase One XX 20XX Phase Two XX 20XX
Closing date and time:	Phase One XX pm AEDT on XX 20XX (6 weeks after opening) Phase Two XX pm AEDT on XX 20XX NOTE: The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR or the Department) may amend the closing date and time at its own discretion by issuing a notice through GrantConnect website.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR or the Department)
Administering entity	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the Department on Realprogram@dewr.gov.au Questions must be sent no later than XX 20XX (1 week before closing)
Date guidelines released:	XX 20XX
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1 Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program Phase 1: REAL Grant Opportunity processes

This grant opportunity reflects the Government's commitment to provide funding for a new employment service supporting First Nations people out of the justice system, named the Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program.

This grant opportunity is part of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations efforts to Close the Gap through the provision of employment services (PBS Program 1.1 Employment Services). The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations works with stakeholders to inform the detailed design of the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [GrantConnect](#)



You complete and submit a grant application

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



We assess all grant applications

We assess your application against eligibility criteria and, if eligible, we assess your application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We 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. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the REAL Program grant activity

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the REAL Program 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 REAL Program Phase 1 grant opportunity. Phase 1 of the program will begin the delivery of services in a cross-section of facilities located across Australian states and territories from XX 20XX. Full-scale delivery of the REAL Program services will occur in Phase 2 with the aim to have services delivered in the remaining locations nationally from XX 20XX.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the REAL Program Phase 1 grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- 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 opportunity.

Any alterations and addenda to these guidelines will be published on [GrantConnect](#).

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).¹

2 About the grant program

The REAL Program (or “the program”) was announced by the Australian Government as part of the 2024–25 Budget to improve the transition of First Nations people from the justice system into employment and educational pathways. The Government has announced \$76.2 million (GST exclusive) over 5 years from 2023–24 (and \$18.7 million per year ongoing) to support a package of measures aimed at improving outcomes for First Nations individuals re-entering the community.

The program seeks to achieve stronger prison to work transitions for First Nations people, aged 15 years and older, who are incarcerated, with a known release date, or who are on remand both pre and post release. It will support participants connect with essential social services (i.e. health, housing); community organisations; navigating government services; learning and jobs pathways, including connecting to Country and culture.

A person (participant) will be eligible to voluntarily participate in the REAL Program if they meet ALL the below criteria:

- Are a First Nations Australian
- Are incarcerated in a Facility with a known release date within 6 months, or held on remand (i.e. physically detained in a correctional facility)
- Are aged 15 years and over.

The REAL Program consists of a two-stage service delivery approach targeting First Nations people aged 15 and over (both youth and adult participants) within custodial and post custodial settings. The two service stages include:

¹ [Federal Register of Legislation - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)

1. Pre-release services

- **Timeline:** Up to 6 months prior to the participant's release date
- **Focus:** Preparing and mentoring participants for re-entry into the community
- **Examples of pre-release services**
 - Work with participants to develop a Personal Action Plan, setting goals relevant to the individual participant to help address barriers to successfully reconnect to community, learning and jobs
 - Providing mentoring and case coordination to help participants identify their personal goals and support their transition out of the justice system.
 - Life skills development (e.g., financial literacy, bank account set up, obtaining identification cards, communications skills)

2. Post-release services

- **Timeline:** From the day of release up to 12 months post-release
- **Focus:** Supporting reintegration and reducing recidivism
- **Examples of post-release services**
 - Apply the Personal Action Plan
 - Mentorship, family and connection to community
 - Access to community support services and resources
 - Referring to mental health and substance abuse support
 - Advocating housing assistance and supporting stabilisation
 - Job placement and employment support

There are notable differences in service delivery models between adult and youth programs within custodial settings, including pre-release program structures, the utilisation of reintegration support, and the experience and skills needed by grantees. For both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Program, grantees must possess the capability and experience to deliver services effectively in youth and/or adult facilities and have an understanding of First Nations peoples' well developed system of lore.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Provide First Nations people with supported pathways back into the community when leaving the justice system
- Support First Nations people, focusing on reducing recidivism through employment pathways, stable housing, mental health support, life skills training and community based interventions.

The intended outcomes of the REAL Program are:

- Improved participant wellbeing reflected in a high proportion of program participants achieving their self-defined goals in connecting with community, education, training and employment.
- Higher rates of economic engagement (sustained and meaningful learning or employment in culturally safe environments) among First Nations people who transition out of the justice system)
- Lower rates of reoffending due to successful reconnection with the community
- Contributing to the Closing the Gap targets 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and Priority Reforms 1, 2 and 3.

Refer to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap for more information on these targets and priority reforms.

2.1 About the REAL Program grant opportunity

This grant opportunity will provide grant funding to organisations to deliver the REAL Program services at the Phase 1 locations listed at section 5.2. Organisations will be selected on either an individual facility or locational basis through the open competitive grant process. Grant recipients will have access to Mentor funding to employ First Nations staff to provide mentoring and case coordination to help participants and a flexible Participant fund to purchase goods and services to provide support tailored to the needs of a Participant. In addition, funding is available, where eligible, to support the organisation to meet cyber security requirements.

To balance the needs of organisations that are ready to apply now with those organisations that need more time, the Department will deliver the REAL Program grant opportunity over two grant rounds (Phase 1 and Phase 2). The REAL Program phases will be undertaken as open competitive processes as follows:

- REAL Program Phase 1 grant opportunity - opening on XX 20XX and closing on XX 20XX
- REAL Program Phase 2 grant opportunity – opening on XX 20XX and closing on XX 20XX

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

For this Program REAL Phase 1 open competitive round grant opportunity, up to \$49.2 million (GST exclusive) is available up to 5 years.

REAL Program Grant

The specified grant period for the REAL Program Phase 1 is up to 5 years.

The REAL Program grant payment model will be structured based on caseload sizes. This approach will provide funding for Mentor salaries, with an expected caseload ratio of approximately 1:40, allowing for the level of service intensity needed to support participants both pre and post release.

In addition to Mentor funding, grant recipients will receive a dedicated pool of Participant Funds. These funds will be used to purchase goods and services tailored to meet the individual needs of participants, ensuring they receive the necessary resources for a successful transition.

It is anticipated that most grants will be approximately between XX – XX (GST exclusive), depending on the scope of the grant activity. We will consider value with money and the availability of funds in offering a grant amount.

Other costs which exceed the amount provided under the grant agreement or which are not eligible expenditure will be the responsibility of the grantee. The total of all grants awarded cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

Right Fit for Risk Fund - Support to meet Government cyber security requirements

REAL Program Phase 1 - Right Fit for Risk (RFFR) Fund is available from XX 20XX – XX 20XX.

Reimbursements will be capped at \$30,000 (GST exclusive) per eligible organisation. Eligibility for the RFFR Fund is limited to small organisations that receive funding under this grant opportunity.

A small organisation is defined using the Australian Taxation Office definition of 'Small Business Entity', that is, a business with an aggregated turnover of less than \$10 million. This can refer to the individual, partnership, company, or trust that runs the business.

Eligibility as a 'Small Business Entity' will be assessed at the time the Grant Agreement is signed based on the organisation's most recent financial statements.

Where an organisation is a group respondent, the financials of each individual member (for the relevant financial year) will be assessed in aggregate to determine if the group respondent as a whole, is a 'Small Business Entity'.

The RFFR funding must only be used for items as defined in Section 5.3.

Other costs relevant to meeting cyber security requirements which exceed the amount provided under the RFFR Fund or which are not eligible expenditure will be the responsibility of the grantee.

3.2 Grant period

The grant period for the REAL Program Phase 1 is up to 5 years from the date the grant agreement is executed by both parties, noting that the Department will negotiate with the applicant the actual duration of each grant within this 5-year limit.

Note that the grant agreement may contain extension clauses that the Department may exercise at its sole discretion (see section 12.4 which refers to adjustments to the completion date).

4 Eligibility criteria

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

Organisations that are not eligible to apply for funding are encouraged to consider partnering with an **eligible organisation**.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- have a bank account in your name and which you control with an Australian financial institution

and be one of the following entity types:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
- a company incorporated in Australia under the Corporations Act 2001
- a company incorporated by guarantee
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust²
- an incorporated association
- a partnership
- a joint group (consortia) with a lead organisation that is one of the entity types listed in this section³
- a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation

² A trust itself is not a legal entity and cannot enter a grant agreement.

³ The Australian Government recognises that some organisations may seek to form consortia in order to apply for a grant under the Program. Consortia are eligible to apply and the relevant conditions applicable to consortia are at 7.2 'Joint Applications'

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- 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' (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- an individual or sole trader applying for funding for self-employment
- an unincorporated association or an unincorporated cooperative
- overseas resident/organisation
- declared bankrupt or subject to insolvency proceedings – as relevant to the entity type
- named as currently non-compliant under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (Cth)*
- any organisation not included in section 4.1

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If your application is successful, your organisation, and all personnel working in the REAL Program, must have and maintain particular qualifications, permits, registrations and licences to lawfully deliver the grant activity, including (but not limited to):

- Working with Children checks and/or Working with Vulnerable People registration
- Industry licenses or registration and
- Australian Skills Quality Authority accreditation

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your REAL Program grant activities must directly relate to the REAL Program and may include:

- Working with adult correctional facilities and/or youth justice facilities to identify and engage with participants
- Providing mentoring and case coordination to help participants identify their personal goals and support their transition out of the justice system
- Engaging with local commonwealth agencies (i.e. Services Australia) to ensure participants are aware of and comply with income support payment obligations
- Engaging with local Community Correctional Services to support participants released on parole and community based orders
- Assisting participants to connect with existing state and territory supports and necessary social services, including health, housing and other rehabilitation services
- Engaging local organisations to deliver tailored support to participants (such as access to peer support, life skills, money management, pre-employment and foundation skills, or vocational education and training)

- Supporting participants to connect with Country, kin, community and culture
- Community collaboration and communication
- Program management including governance and administrative activities (i.e. record keeping and reporting, mentor supervision and training) relating to the grant
- Supporting participants to build their career readiness and connect with jobs and/or learning

5.2 Eligible locations

Your REAL Program Phase 1 grant activities must be delivered in one or more of the following locations, noting these are based on location of correctional facilities and grantees will need to extend this reach to other locations based on participant's post release place of residence or, if it is the participant's preference, refer them to a REAL Program provider closer to their place of residence if there is one available:

Queensland

- Lotus Glen Correctional Centre
- Townsville Correctional Complex (includes Townsville Correctional Centre Farm, Townsville Women's Correctional Centre Farm and Townsville Women's Correctional Centre)
- Capricornia Correctional Centre
- Woodford Correctional Centre (includes Helana Jones Centre, Southern Queensland Correctional Centre and Numinbah Correctional Centre)

New South Wales

- Wellington Correctional Centre (includes Macquarie Correctional Centre)
- Francis Greenway Correctional Complex (includes Dillwynia Correctional Centre and Geoffrey Pearce Correctional Centre)
- Acmena Youth Justice Centre
- Mid North Coast Correctional Centre

Northern Territory

- Darwin Correctional Centre (includes Holtze Youth Justice Centre)
- Alice Springs Correctional Centre (includes Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre)

Western Australia

- Casuarina Prison
- Broome Regional Prison

Victoria

- Western Plains Correctional Centre

Tasmania

- Risdon Prison Complex

Australian Capital Territory

- Alexander Maconochie Centre (includes Bimberi Youth Justice Centre)

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred for eligible grant activities outlined in these guidelines and the grant agreement.

Once in receipt of the grant, grantees will also have access to a REAL Program Participant Fund, and, where eligible, RFFR funding to support compliance with cyber security requirements.

REAL Program Mentor Payment

The REAL Program Grant can be used by grantees to provide mentoring and case management to participants in custody and post release. Eligible expenditure items are:

- Staff salaries related to the REAL Program
- Operating costs related to the REAL Program
- Case management costs related to the REAL Program, including record keeping and reporting
- REAL Program related travel costs for staff directly involved in the program
- Marketing and communications activities, products and materials for the program

REAL Program Participant Fund

This Participant Fund can be used by grantees to purchase tailored support for participants. Eligible expenditure items include:

- Support for kinship and family reconnection, including accommodation for families, relocation assistance, professional services reintegrating participants with families
- Peer support programs
- Life skills training
- First Nations language and arts programs
- Financial literacy courses
- Pre-employment and foundation skills training
- Vocational education and training, including non-accredited training and work-related licenses
- Health and wellbeing support delivered by a qualified allied health professional (including drug and alcohol counselling or rehabilitation, medical/health related interventions, mental health and family counselling, treatment for behavioural addictions, and anger management courses)
- Housing assistance, including rent and crisis accommodation when other avenues of assistance have been exhausted
- Public and private transport and travel assistance
- Certified interpreters, communication and technology (i.e. basic mobile phones), or work-related items (i.e. boots, PPE, clothing)

Right Fit for Risk Fund

RFFR funding will be available to assist eligible grantees with some of the costs associated with meeting Government cyber security requirements. Eligible expenditure items include:

Obtaining professional advice and support to undertake services such as:

- a gap analysis to identify areas in the grantee's current structure that require adjustments for obtaining cyber security accreditation
- creating documents needed for cyber security accreditation
- designing and implementing the system to meet information security requirements
- training and working with employees to implement the new system
- Procuring services of a Certifying Body to independently audit a system and obtain certifications against all specific requirements needed for cyber security accreditation
- Software upgrades, new hardware, and other IT infrastructure to comply with information security requirements

This is not a definitive list; other expenditure may be eligible.

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version of the guidelines in place when you submitted your application applies to your grant activity.

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 activity for it to be eligible.

5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

REAL Program Mentor Payment

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- purchase of land
- replacing the role of justice (including parole officers), health, housing or employment services providers
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidising general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- major construction/capital works
- overseas travel
- legal representation
- gifts, cash and other incentives for participants and employers, including payout of loans, sitting fees, Australian Taxation Office (ATO) debts, credit cards or other debts (except engagement payments in lieu of expenses to attend appointments)
- penalties, fines and court fees
- reverse marketing
- retrospective costs (i.e. costs incurred before the date of the grant agreement)

- expenses for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have provided funding for

REAL Program Participant Fund

The following expenses are excluded for reimbursement:

- goods or services for which a provider is already entitled to payment from the Department, other Australian Government sources or state, territory or local government bodies
- goods or services directly funded through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy
- goods or services that are funded through other Government programs or grants
- assets that remain the property of the provider
- assets for a participant or employer that are not primarily used to assist the participant in accordance with the REAL program
- purchases made before the commencement of the grant agreement
- Workforce Australia Services Wage Subsidies and Youth Bonus Wage Subsidies
- gifts, cash and other incentives for participants and employers, including payout of loans, credit cards or other debts (except engagement payments in lieu of expenses to attend appointments)
- penalties, fines and court fees
- reverse marketing
- any costs and overheads, such as travel time, travel costs and administration costs associated with:
 - providing the REAL Program
 - covering the cost-of-service delivery on an outreach basis
 - administering the Participant Fund
 - auditing fees
- legal fees or security costs incurred by a provider
- an employer's workers compensation or insurance policy payments
- any interest incurred on a provider's or participant's credit cards, including account and credit card fees

Other costs which exceed the amount provided under the grant agreement or which are not eligible expenditure will be the responsibility of the grantee.

Right Fit for Risk Fund

The following expenses are excluded for reimbursement:

- Expenses that go towards the maintenance of cyber security accreditation; the RFFR Fund is for initial accreditation only. Maintenance examples include:
 - staff wages after the accreditations have been achieved
 - auditor/consultant services for renewing accreditation requirements
 - Paying for mentoring from another employment services provider or industry body
 - New or upgraded software, hardware or other IT infrastructure that is not required for the purpose of supporting the requirements of information security

6 The assessment criteria

You must address all the following assessment criteria in the application. All criteria have equal weighting.

We will assess your application based on score the criteria described below to inform the Department's funding recommendations. We may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application to support the assessment process. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time. Your application maybe rejected if, after 3 days, we do not receive the additional information requested unless an extension has been agreed by the decision maker.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Criterion 1: Service Delivery

How will your organisation deliver the REAL Program in alignment with the program objectives and outcomes?

You should demonstrate this by explaining how you will:

- build relationships with correctional facilities and establish referral services
- establish referral pathways and connections with other service providers, in particular First Nations providers in line with participant preferences
- complement and not duplicate other service supports
- engage/recruit mentors with lived experience of serving a custodial sentence, noting that this support is often more appropriate in the post release setting
- establish trust and rapport with participants
- establish connections to communities participants are returning to
- help participants identify their personal goals
- assist participants to access local, state and territory funded supports
- provide assistance in facilities where vocational and non-vocational supports are not available
- support participants to build their career readiness and connect with jobs and/or learning.
- keep participants engaged with the program post-release
- facilitate data sharing with justice facilities and employment service providers in the handover phases

Criterion 2: Commitment to First Nations people and culture

Demonstrate a commitment to, and capability of, working with First Nations people in a culturally safe way.

You should demonstrate this by explaining how you will:

- deliver quality, culturally competent services for participants tailored around their needs and promote their agency in activity plans
- embed cultural safety, diversity and trauma-informed service delivery for youth, women and other vulnerable groups in the program
- provide support to access First Nations arts and languages, within a social and emotional wellbeing framework

Criterion 3: Organisational Capability

Demonstrate your organisation's capacity and capability to manage a REAL Program grant.

You should demonstrate this by:

- Describing your organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the program, including knowledge of the justice system in your proposed region and of the unique needs of First Nations people in the justice system
- Outlining relevant experience delivering projects of a similar size or scope
- Explaining how you will initiate connections to other Commonwealth or state and territory funded services
- Outlining your links to First Nations programs/management structures
- Explaining your understanding of the local service environment (e.g. pre-release vs post release) and being able to work in a correctional setting
- Describing how you would tailor the program to the relevant jurisdiction to be effective
- Providing a stakeholder map detailing your engagement and relationships with local communities or evidence of endorsement from the local community

7 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines, the sample application form and the sample grant agreement.

These documents may be found at [GrantConnect](#). [GrantConnect](#) is the authoritative source for grants information. Any alterations and addenda⁴ will be published on [GrantConnect](#) and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified on any changes to these guidelines.

To apply you must:

- complete the application form on [GrantConnect](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments as listed below
- submit your application to Realprogram@dewr.gov.au by XX pm AEST on or before [closing date].

We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by fax or mail.

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 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately on Realprogram@dewr.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

⁴ 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

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we 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. We will acknowledge that we have received your application within two working days.

7.1 Attachments to the application

We require the following documents with your application:

- an indicative budget
- an activity work plan
- a risk management plan and any supporting documentation describing how you propose to monitor, manage and report identified risks including risks that may arise during your project.
- a document containing:
 - a list of key personnel of the organisation - include Director/s, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. This should include names and position titles, and
 - an organisation chart for your organisation
- a copy of your most recent financial statements, income and expenditure statement
- a copy of your Certificate of Incorporation where relevant (Organisations registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission are exempt from this requirement)
- a copy of a completed ATO 'Statement by a supplier (reason for not quoting an ABN to an enterprise)' form if you are not able to quote an ABN.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2 Joint (consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver the REAL Program.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the partners.

Each letter of support should include:

- details of the partner organisation
- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group

- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the agreement.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit your application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot 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:

- 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 Realprogram@dewr.gov.au with "Late Application Request - GOXXXX" in the subject line.

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 assessment coordinator 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. If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity on XX 20XX.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	2 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	XX 20XX
End date of grant activity	Subject to each grant agreement, the grant may be for a period of up to 5 years

Potential grantees are advised that an election for the House of Representatives may be called before this grant process has been concluded. If an election is called and the House of Representatives is dissolved, then caretaker arrangements will apply to the business of Government. By convention, decisions are not taken during this period that would bind an incoming Government and limit its freedom of action. Consequently, potential grantees need to be aware that any grant processes which have not been concluded before the caretaker period, or which

commence during the caretaker period, may experience delays in finalisation and could potentially be revised or cancelled.

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, contact the Department at Realprogram@dewr.gov.au.

The Department will aim to respond to emailed questions within three working days. Answers to questions will be posted on [GrantConnect](#).

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

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, we will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications. We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.⁵

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

- the quality of the response against the assessment criteria
- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the objectives and outcomes
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals
- the risks that the applicant or the grant poses for the Department and Commonwealth, including findings from the Credentials Information check / financial viability assessment for the applicant and any outstanding reports, acquittals or serious breaches relating to any Australian Government funding. A serious breach is one that has resulted in, or warrants, the termination of a grant agreement

We may seek additional information about you or your application. We may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment panel may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The Department will then put forward a recommendation to the decision-maker about whether to approve the proposed grant. The recommendation will be based on the merits of the application including consideration of the assessment, risk, value with money, priority, and available funding.

⁵ See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

Total funding allocations will be settled following identification of applications received and the assessment of the amounts of funding sought by each applicant. The recommendation will include ranking the applications based on the relative merits of each application.

8.2 First Nations prioritisation policy

The Australian Government is committed to increasing the proportion of services delivered by First Nations organisations. To deliver on this objective DEWR may preference applications in the following order where there are two similarly ranked proposals:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)
- First Nations organisations (at least 51% First Nations ownership and at least 51% First Nations control)
- Organisations with at least 50% First Nations ownership, control or management
- Non-First Nations organisations with a formal partnership in place with either an ACCO or other appropriate First Nations organisation (the First Nations partner must have a significant role in the project)
- Any organisation, including non-Indigenous organisations, with a demonstrated commitment to increasing First Nations employment, supplier use and/or engagement

DEWR may gather information to determine the number of First Nations and non-Indigenous organisations funded through this grant opportunity and the number and percentage of First Nations peoples employed in all funded organisations. To support the integrity of the prioritisation policy, DEWR may request further evidence of your organisation's Indigeneity.

8.3 Who will assess applications?

An assessment panel will assess each application on its merits and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which grant applications should be awarded a grant. The assessment panel will be made up of officers from the Department, and potentially officers from other Commonwealth Departments with relevant expertise in First Nations employment policy, Closing the Gap priority reforms, procurement and contract management.

We may ask external experts to inform the assessment process. Any expert, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

8.4 Who will approve grants?

The **decision maker** decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the assessment panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program. The **decision maker** is the First Assistant Secretary for the Employment Strategy and Policy Division.

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

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant

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

9 Notification of application outcomes

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

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the 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 within one month of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within one month of your written request.

9.2 Further grant opportunities

If there are not enough suitable applications to meet the program's objectives, we may negotiate with selected organisations to deliver services in locations determined by the department. We may also review the guidelines and make changes to the locations in scope for Phase 1 and Phase 2 and/or announce further grant rounds for the program.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

If you choose to accept a grant offer, you must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We will use the standard grant agreement to outline the specific grant requirements, detailed description of the funded activity and general terms and conditions which cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on [GrantConnect](#).

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. There is no guarantee of funding until both parties have executed the grant agreement, and the Department is 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.

If you receive any grant funding from other Commonwealth, state or territory government granting programs for the same activity, this may limit the amount of funding you might be entitled to under this grant opportunity, unless specifically agreed to in writing by the Department. You must provide information about other funding received for the Department's consideration.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the **decision maker**. We will identify these in the agreement.

If you fail to meet the obligations of the grant agreement, the Department may terminate the grant agreement. The Department or the Commonwealth may also seek to recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

You will have 30 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).

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 grant agreement incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and unlawful activities and includes the right to request the removal of personnel for other inappropriate conduct or associations that may cause reputational damage to the Department or Commonwealth.

10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws and government policies in carrying out your obligations under the grant agreement; and ensure that personnel, subcontractors and agents, also comply with:

- all relevant laws and requirements of any Commonwealth, state, territory or local authority, including the WHS Laws, the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth), the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (Cth) and anti-discrimination legislation, including the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth); and
- any Commonwealth policies notified to you, referred to or made available by the Department to you (including by reference to an internet site), including:
- any Commonwealth policy related to secure work, so far as it relates to your engagement of personnel through the grant activity; and
- any other policies listed in the grant agreement.

If you are successful, all personnel working on the grant activity must maintain the following:

- Working with Children check
- Working with Vulnerable People registration for the jurisdiction in which services are delivered

To be eligible for a grant, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements.

10.3 How we pay the grant

Funding will be paid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement. The grant agreement will state the grant amount to be paid and the manner of payment.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until the grant agreement is executed.

The grant agreement will state the:

- Maximum grant amount to be paid
- Schedule of payments (according to progress of milestones)
- Any financial or in-kind contributions agreed to be provided by you or a third party
- Acquittal procedures

We will not pay more than the maximum amount agreed in the grant agreement under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

Further information on how funding will be paid is provided below in Table 2.

Table 2: Payment points for delivery of Grant

Payment	Timing
Establishment Payment	On execution of the grant agreement. 50 per cent of the total grant amount for the first year as per the funding agreement.
Milestone Payments	Grantee submission of six-monthly progress report demonstrating progress against the agreed performance (KPIs) and budget. The

	Department must accept the reports and rate as Satisfactory before the payment is released.
RFFR payment	One off payment as per eligibility

10.4 Grants payments and GST

Payments will be [Goods and Services Tax](#) (GST) Inclusive unless you are not registered for GST or certain exceptions set out in the GST legislation apply. Subject to those exceptions, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).⁶ We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

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

The Department uses a number of approaches to monitor funded activities. These include but are not limited to:

- On the ground monitoring which can include site visits, discussions with community members and participants, and ongoing contact with the grantee. A priority for the Department is active engagement to assist with early identification and treatment of activity delivery risks and other issues as they arise
- Period reporting by the provider on the progress of activities including setting key performance indicators to measure progress against identified outcomes, including the extent to which the program contributes towards meeting applicable Closing the Gap Targets
- Compliance operations, where necessary which may include visiting you during or after the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We may also inspect, copy or remove and retain records you were required to keep under the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit or request

12.1 Keeping us informed

If you enter in a grant agreement for REAL Program activities, 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

- ABN
- ACCC status
- GST registration or status
- an outstanding and overdue ATO debt (if any)
- 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.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed grant activity milestones and outcomes
- expenditure of the grant.

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

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Progress reports

You will be required to periodically submit progress reports in line with your grant agreement. Progress reports will relate to key milestones and must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include any issues or developments that are likely to affect the project
- include details of what you are doing about any difficulties affecting the project
- include evidence of expenditure

The report template will include an option for you to add other material. This will let you share with us the story of your project and participants' journeys in other ways.

Progress reports must be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities). We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity. These reports must be provided in a timely manner as agreed with the Department.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted within 90 days of completion in the format provided in the grant agreement.
- Be in the format provided in the grant agreement

12.3 Financial Acquittal Reports

Financial reports are required from grantees to provide evidence that funds have been expended for the purposes provided and so that any underspend or overspend can be managed. The annual value of the grant and the risk rating of the grantee and activity, determine the financial reporting requirements. Financial reporting requirements will be specified in the grant agreement.

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

[or] We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement by contacting the Department at REALprogram@dewr.gov.au.

Consistent with the CGRPs, we would only vary a grant agreement in limited circumstances. Grant agreements would only be varied when:

- Adjustments are necessary to enable the grantee to complete the projects or activities set out in the original grant agreement, and then only for the length of time needed to achieve completion and
- The variation does not significantly change the scope of the initial grant agreement

The Department may request a variation to your grant agreement to embed learnings from evaluation, consultation and participant feedback on the REAL Program. Any changes will be subject to negotiation with the grantee.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. All decisions to vary a grant agreement must be mutually agreed by you and the Department before a variation can be executed.

We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit (e.g. 10 business days).

12.6 Record keeping

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

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant to determine the levels of success of the grant and program. The evaluation will identify and document the impact of the activities, as well as learnings from the implementation of the program to inform and enhance future programs and activities. Your grant agreement will require you to:

- provide information to help with this evaluation, including information obtained from your application and reports
- be available to participate at different stages of the program
- be aware that the evaluation could be conducted in a variety of ways, such as surveys, face to face, or phone interviews or communicating with involved stakeholders, for example: grantee staff, participants, subcontractors, other services
- provide contact details for involved stakeholders the grant applicant has worked with, spoken to or referred participants to, for example mental health providers

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation. We will evaluate the grant to determine 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.

12.8 Acknowledgement

The program logo should be used on all materials related to grants under the program. Whenever the logo is used, the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

'Reconnection, Employment and Learning Program – an Australian Government initiative'.

13 Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Department. When this happens, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published on [GrantConnect](#). By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these 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 <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

13.1 Enquiries and Complaints

The Department has a complaints procedure. If you have a complaint, please follow the steps outlined at <https://www.dewr.gov.au/about-department/contact-us/complaints>. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing. 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 look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
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 staff, any member of a committee or 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 or
- 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](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

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

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption 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 your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to 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 Act.

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:

- the assessment committee 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, or
- 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.

If you wish to make a Freedom of Information request, please contact a member of the FOI Team by email to FOI@dewr.gov.au

14 Consultation

The Government has engaged widely to inform the development of the REAL Program. We heard from First Nations people with lived experience of the justice system, First Nations groups, justice reform advocates, community organisations and service providers from across the country on how employment supports can be improved for First Nations people who have been incarcerated.

On 17 July 2023, we released a discussion paper- *Prison Employment Services for First Nations people*. We collated the responses received and used them to inform the bigger picture of the REAL Program, along with feedback from in-person consultations across the country.

A second consultation process in October to December 2024 has informed the detailed design and implementation of the REAL Program. On 3 October 2024 we released a second discussion paper- *Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program*. Feedback from this round of consultations was used to inform the detailed design of the REAL Program, particularly the drafting of the REAL Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

We would like to thank all the people who gave so generously of their time to provide the feedback that has helped shape these guidelines.

Term	Definition
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)	<p>an organisation delivering services, including land and resource management, that builds the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people, and is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit • controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people • connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services • governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.
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.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
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.
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

Term	Definition
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.
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.
facility	a prison, youth residential centre or youth detention centre specified in section 5.2.
grant	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁶ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁷ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and 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.

⁶ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁷ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
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 [entity] 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 .
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.
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.
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; and • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.