



## National Women's Alliances

### Feedback for applicants

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The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the National Women's Alliances grant opportunity.

Assessment of applications was in accordance with the procedure detailed in the grant opportunity guidelines (the guidelines) and outlined in the selection process below.

#### Overview

The application submission period opened on 21 May 2024 and closed on 3 July 2024.

The Australian Government is committed to creating a better, gender equal Australia for everyone. Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality (the Strategy) outlines where the Government will focus its efforts over the next decade to achieve its vision – an Australia where people are safe, treated with respect, have choices, and have access to resources and equal outcomes no matter their gender.

This grant opportunity will establish a network of up to six civil society organisations to provide expert gender advice to Government and ensure women's voices inform implementation of the Strategy.

Up to \$10.88 million GST exclusive is available over five years from 2024–25 to 2028–29, with indexation to be applied annually in line with the relevant wage cost index.

#### Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) undertook the initial screening for organisation eligibility and compliance against the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This information was provided to the department's grant opportunity delegate for final decisions on whether an application met the eligibility and compliance criteria.

The Hub undertook the preliminary assessment on all applications through an open competitive, grant process. Applications which underwent preliminary assessment were provided to the department's selection advisory panel (panel) for deliberation.

The panel established by the department, comprised of subject matter experts who assessed applications and provided advice to inform the funding recommendations to the Minister for Women as the Financial Delegate.

The panel's consideration of eligible applications was based on:

- overall objectives for the grant round (including whether the proposal, or any of its elements, did not align with the grant opportunity objectives)
- compliance with eligibility criteria
- appropriate representation of themes
- national reach/impact
- how the activity will be delivered
- existing and/or potential market failure
- value for money

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- capability of the organisation/s to deliver.

Following the panel's deliberations, the department undertook a commercial dialogue process with a number of applicants to assist in making the final recommendations. This process included a formal meeting with the applicant, in which the department asked questions to seek clarification on information identified within their application.

## Selection Results

This feedback is provided to assist grant applicants to understand what comprised a strong application and what were considered quality responses to the assessment criteria.

The preferred applicants were best able to demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines through strong responses to the assessment criteria.

A number of applications proposed activities and services that were not in scope for this grant opportunity, including leadership programs, direct services and community events.

The Hub notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

## Criterion 1

### Gender Equality Outcomes


**Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality (the Strategy) provides a clear framework to improve gender equality in Australia; describe how the work of your Alliance or consortium will drive progress on gender equality outcomes outlined in the Strategy.**

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- Outlined how the work of their Alliance would support the vision of the Strategy and align with the priority area(s). Strategy priority areas are listed in section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- Described how their Alliance would engage and work collaboratively across all Alliances and with partners/organisations, to provide expert advice and elevate voices of women in Australia to inform progress on Strategy outcomes.
- Detailed how their Alliance would consolidate evidence to provide collective, strategic, intersectional advice to government on key issues and solutions relevant to the theme(s) they represent.
- Described the activities their Alliance would deliver to progress the Strategy outcomes, and outlined how both women and the government would benefit from the work of their Alliance.

### Strong applications:

- Demonstrated an understanding of the role and work of an Alliance.
- Described how their Alliance would work collaboratively with all Alliances and with government.
- Described how they would attain and utilise expertise relevant to the theme(s) to collect data and provide advice to inform progress on Strategy outcomes.
- Demonstrated positive partnerships with key organisations, sectors, stakeholders and government.
- Described their existing and intended relationships with key stakeholders to maintain delivery of quality outcomes.

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- Described the activities they would deliver and how they would collect and prepare the evidence to advocate to government the key issues identified and proposed solutions for the relevant theme(s).
  - Clearly described how they intend to measure and monitor outcomes, and embed continuous improvement throughout the life of the Alliance funding.
  - Demonstrated their experience working with government.

## Criterion 2

### Engagement with Women

#### **How would your Alliance engage with women in all their diversity to meet the objectives and intended outcomes of the Alliance Program?**

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- Described the theme(s) and women their Alliance would represent, including how their Alliance would engage with young women, older women and LGBTQIA+ women in their work across the theme(s). Themes are described in section 2.11 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- Detailed their expertise of, and demonstrated connection to, the theme(s) their Alliance would represent.
- Outlined how their Alliance would ensure women in all their diversity, including the voices and priorities of women who are marginalised, would be captured and represented in advice to government, to drive progress of the Strategy outcomes.
- Detailed how their Alliance would ensure engagement with their networks was culturally appropriate and trauma-informed.

#### **Strong applications:**

- Demonstrated understanding of relevant contemporary challenges for their chosen theme(s).
- Outlined the diversity of women that their Alliance would represent and demonstrated a clear plan for how their Alliance intends to engage with them.
- Demonstrated their nuanced understanding of diversity, inclusion and intersectionality.
- Detailed how their proposed approach would address one or more of the key priority areas of the Strategy, and outlined how their work would benefit women in Australia and support evidence-based policy development by government.
- Provided specific examples of how the Alliance would use and connect with their networks to provide culturally appropriate and trauma-informed/safe activities to engage their cohort.


## Criterion 3

### Capability and Capacity to Deliver

#### **Demonstrate your organisation's capability and capacity, and that of your consortia partners, if applicable, to successfully deliver this project.**

When addressing the criterion applicants:

- Outlined their project management approach including the proposed governance structure for administering the project. Included project responsibility and funding arrangements, geographical locations of their organisation and consortia partners (if relevant).

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- Described the key staff that will manage/deliver the Alliance activity including their roles, relevant experience, skills and qualifications. Included a description of a specialist gender expert or their ability to engage relevant expertise.
  - Described their organisation's current membership base and their existing relationships with relevant stakeholders, experts and community groups, including relationships of consortia partners if relevant, and the value these arrangements would bring in representing their nominated theme(s). Included how their Alliance would build and/or maintain credibility with relevant stakeholders and work effectively with government in order to deliver their activities.

**Strong applications:**

- Outlined robust governance structures, including an active Board with diverse and qualified key personnel.
- Outlined their capability, including systems, internal controls and financial resources to ensure appropriate financial management and governance.
- Demonstrated their previous experience delivering projects of a similar size and budget, outlining the outcomes achieved.
- Identified diverse key personnel (either already engaged or to be engaged) with relevant gender expertise, qualifications and achievements, including risk and financial capability.
- Identified strong existing partnerships with key stakeholders, or the ability to establish partnerships to deliver the project.
- Identified expertise/experience and knowledge of working with the sector and cohort(s) in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Described their current membership, access to relationships within communities and networks across Australia, and/or a plan to build on this, if required.

**Individual feedback**

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.