



**Community
Grants Hub**
Improving your grant experience



Working for Women Program Research Partnership Grant to build the evidence base for achieving gender equality in Australia

Feedback for applicants

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office for Women (the department) has provided the following general feedback for applicants of the Working for Women Program: Research Partnership Grant to build the evidence base for achieving gender equality in Australia 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 13 August 2024 and closed on 23 September 2024 at 5:00 pm AEST.

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.

The grant opportunity will fund a partnership between the Australian Government and a research organisation to build the evidence base on what works to achieve gender equality, especially in relation to driving economic equality.

Up to \$5.0 million GST exclusive is available over 6 years from 2024–25 to 2029–30, 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 notified applicants of the outcome in writing, where their applications did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines.

The department assessed and considered all eligible and compliant applications through a Restricted Competitive (restricted by eligibility) grant process.

The Selection Advisory Panel (the Panel) established by the department, comprised 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:

- the overall objectives for the grant round, including how well the proposal aligned with the grant opportunity activities and outputs
- how the activity will be delivered
- the capacity and capability of the organisation to deliver the grant and support action under the Working for Women Program
- value for money.

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.

There was a strong interest in the grant opportunity and applications were of a high standard.

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

Criterion 1

With reference to Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality, what activities and deliverables were proposed, how would they be delivered, and how would these contribute to advancing women's economic equality?

When addressing the criterion, applicants demonstrated:

- How the research agenda would be designed and delivered to ensure the partnership complements existing efforts and is responsive to emerging priorities.
- The proposed type, frequency, and estimated timeframes of research activities (including consultation with relevant stakeholders) undertaken as part of the research partnership, as well as proposed research methods and approaches.
- The proposed approach to conducting inclusive, intersectional and trauma informed gender research, to include women who experience intersecting disadvantage and discrimination.
- The intended deliverables to the government based on the proposed research activities, including the type and number of deliverables, frequency and timeframes for delivery, as well as intended audiences and how the deliverables would be actionable and/or help drive broader effort.

Strong applications:

- Detailed a research agenda that is aligned with and framed around, the priority areas of the Strategy.
- Outlined research that aims to address structural barriers to gender inequality and to identify levers for change.
- Described an intersectional and inclusive research approach, with a strong economic equality focus.
- Demonstrated well conceptualised and innovative methodologies and deliverables that focussed on producing robust, practical and targeted actionable insights.

Criterion 2

How will your organisation/consortia operate as partners with government and engage with relevant stakeholders?

When addressing the criterion, applicants proposed approaches and demonstrated experience in:

- Sharing expertise, resources and responsibilities by collaborating with government and stakeholders, to drive innovation, strengthen the evidence base, and accelerate progress to achieve gender equality.
- Leveraging multidisciplinary expertise and experiences, and connections to the research sector, in conducting intersectional gender research.
- Engaging with relevant stakeholders including the women's sector, gender experts, industry and employers to inform research design and form actionable insights.
- Working with relevant stakeholders to influence their data collection and research activities, share data and leveraging opportunities for collaboration.

Strong applications:

- Demonstrated a clear approach to collaborating with government and referenced previous experience engaging with all levels of government (federal, state and local).
- Outlined their interdisciplinary expertise, broad representation and established gender expertise.
- Demonstrated an understanding of the resources required to build and maintain relationships with diverse stakeholders for successful research and partnerships.
- Outlined the mechanisms to engage a diverse range of communities and stakeholders and included expertise in culturally-sensitive and inclusive stakeholder engagement for a range of different cohorts.

Criterion 3

What is the capability and capacity of your organisation or that of your consortia (if applicable) to successfully deliver this research partnership?

When addressing the criterion, applicants:

- Demonstrated experience in producing research findings that could be directly translated into actionable insights to drive economic equality to achieve gender equality.
- Outlined their project management approach including the proposed governance structure for administering the project. Including project responsibility and funding arrangements, geographical locations of organisation and consortia partners (where relevant).
- Described the relevant qualifications and experience of staff and necessary facilities within the organisation to deliver this project, or their ability to engage relevant expertise and facilities. This included expertise and experience in gender and intersectionality, as well as research qualifications and experience.
- Provided an overview of the organisation and consortia arrangements, where applicable.

Strong applications:

- Provided detail of experience delivering research to government and stakeholders, including experience within the priority areas of the Strategy.
- Included relevant examples of similar scaled projects.
- Detailed either:
 - a consortia arrangement that included a broad representation of gender expertise; and/or
 - an in-house research team with extensive multidisciplinary expertise, including diverse lived experience, and a network across research affiliates and stakeholders.

- Outlined the relevant qualifications and experience of key personnel, their specific roles and/or the specific cohort they would lead on under the project.

Individual feedback

Individual feedback will not be provided for this grant opportunity.