

## National Disability Insurance Scheme Sector Development Fund Innovation Grant Program Innovating and enhancing service models to increase access to community supports Frequently Asked Questions

### PART 1 – Questions relating to Eligibility for the Innovation Grant Program

**Are government agencies eligible to apply for the Innovation Grant Program?**

No. Local councils are however, eligible to apply.

**Can a single provider apply for one of the large funding grants (above \$50,000 and up to and including \$100,000)?**

Yes. A single provider can apply for a large funding grant however, the application should demonstrate how the provider is or plans to collaborate with other service providers and NDIS participants to deliver the project. Collaboration could be formal or informal.

**Do Innovation Grant projects need to deliver services to a minimum number of NDIS participants?**

The Innovation Grant Program is for delivery of innovation services to NDIS participants and as such, providers need to support at least one NDIS participant when delivering their Innovation Grant project. For providers who apply for one of the large funding grants (above \$50,000 and up to and including \$100,000) the Office of Disability will likely preference projects that are scalable. For example, projects that support a larger number of NDIS participants.

**Can a provider submit more than one application for the Innovation Grant Program?**

Yes, however the Office of Disability recommends that providers prioritise their ideas and submit applications for only their priority projects. An objective of the Innovation Grant Program is to support the development of innovative solutions *across the Northern Territory* and as such, the Office of Disability will consider the spread of funding across the Territory when assessing applications.

**Would an interstate applicant who proposes to deliver service through a fly-in-fly-out model be supported for Innovation Grant funding?**

Local providers are preferred recipients to the Innovation Grant funding, and while an application with a fly-in-fly-out model may meet the eligibility criteria for the Innovation Grant Program it would be unlikely to:

1. Meet the objectives of the Program, in particular the objective to support local jobs for Territorians and to increase Aboriginal economic and social participation.
2. Satisfy the assessment criteria for the Program, which includes:
  - a. cultural appropriateness – projects must be delivered in a culturally safe manner and service delivery must be culturally competent
  - b. community support - demonstrate that the project has the support of the local community, including NDIS participants and community leaders.

**Is the Innovation Grant Program the same as the Information, Linkages and Capacity (ILC) National Readiness Grant?**

No. The ILC National Readiness Grant is being offered by the National Disability Insurance Agency. Further details on the grant can be found on its website: [www.ndis.gov.au/communities/nr-grants.html](http://www.ndis.gov.au/communities/nr-grants.html)

**Can providers apply for both the Innovation Grant Program and ILC Building National Readiness Grant?**

Yes. These grant programs are separate and not dependent on each other.

## **PART 2 – Questions relating to the Innovation Grant Program process**

**Can applicants present their applications as a video?**

Yes. The Office of Disability will accept innovative solutions to presenting applications.

Note: The application will need to meet each of the questions identified in the application form and providers will not be assessed on the method of their application.

**Why is the application process for the Innovation Grant Program split into a two-staged process?**

The application process for the Innovation Grant Program is split into a two stages:

1. Stage 1 - Expression of Interest
2. Stage 2 – Extended Application

Stage 1 - Expression of Interest is intended to provide applicants with the opportunity to test their innovative ideas with the Office of Disability through a shorter, less detailed application form. The Office of Disability is conscious of the time invested by providers in preparing grant fund applications and wishes to help minimise this upfront investment in the initial stage of the program.

For projects that successfully meet the assessment criteria in Stage 1 – Expression of Interest, the Stage 2 Extended Application form will be used to seek further detail on the project.

The two-staged process has been informed by the experiences and learnings of other government funding rounds.

**Should applicants apply for the first or second round?**

Where all grant funding is expended in the first round of the Innovation Grant Program, a second round may not open. As such, the Office of Disability recommends that providers who wish to apply for Innovation Grant funding apply in the first round.

Where a provider may not be ready to commence the project until the 2018 calendar year, the Office of Disability will work with the provider to agree a suitable project start date.

**What types of support can providers request to assist in drafting their applications?**

The Office of Disability has engaged Price waterhouse Cooper's (PwC's) Indigenous Consulting to support applicants in the Stage 1 – Expression of Interest and Stage 2 – Extended Application. The intention of this support is to assist providers to complete robust and detailed applications.

Support provided by PwC's Indigenous Consulting could include:

- responding to specific questions relating to the application form
- discussing proposed projects and whether the project would meet the eligibility criteria

- working with the applicant to address the core assessment criteria
- providing guidance on how applicants could present their application in a clear and effective way
- requesting additional information that would help support application forms, such as quotes to support the costs associated with the project proposal
- reviewing applications prior to formal submission.

The applicant is responsible for drafting and completing their application form.

*Note: PwC Indigenous Consulting does not decide which applicants are funded by the Innovation Grant Program.*

The Office of Disability will consult and work with successful applicants throughout the duration of their project to help providers deliver the outcomes and objectives of their projects.

The Office of Disability, Senior Project Officer will work collaboratively with providers to ensure release of payment in a timely manner; key performance indicators and milestones are met and to provide open communication throughout the duration of the agreement as required.

## **PART 3 – Questions relating to the types of projects the Innovation Grant funds can be used to support**

Note: all applications will be assessed on their merit, in accordance with the evaluation criteria and how the project contributes to the objectives and purpose of the Innovation Grant Program.

### **Can Innovation Grant funds be used to purchase a vehicle?**

Yes, a successful applicant could use Innovation Grant funding to purchase a vehicle. In assessing the application, the Office of Disability will consider how the purchase of the vehicle will be used to deliver and support the innovative service. A direct link must be made between the purchase of a vehicle and how the vehicle will allow the provider to deliver a service that will improve the outcomes for NDIS participants in the Northern Territory.

### **Can Innovation Grant funds be used for capital expenditure?**

Yes, a successful applicant could use Innovation Grant funding for capital expenditure. In assessing the application, the Office of Disability will consider how the capital expenditure will contribute to delivering and supporting the innovative service. A direct link must be made between the capital expenditure and how the capital expenditure will allow the provider to deliver a service that will improve the outcomes for NDIS participants in the Northern Territory.

For example, grant funds could be used to repurpose an existing aged care facility to allow disability services to also be delivered from the same location.

### **Can Innovation Grant funds be used to support an existing service or does the service need to be new?**

Funds should be used to support services that represent a departure from the existing or conventional approaches to delivery of services to NDIS participants in the Northern Territory. Innovation Grant funds can only be used to support an existing service where the provider is proposing an innovative change to how the service is currently being delivered, and it is anticipated that this change will provide better outcomes for NDIS participants in the Northern Territory.

The project should show how the grant funding will be used to support services that are more than business as usual.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to allow a provider to employ a new staff member?**

Yes, where the employment is required to deliver the proposed innovative project. In completing the application, providers should outline how the project could be sustainable beyond the project. For example, they could demonstrate how the employment costs for the staff member could be met by the provider going forward.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to fund an information session, such as a conference, to support participants to transition to the NDIS?**

Yes, where the proposed program is an innovative solution and information is not already available through existing support channels. An application such as this would be considered on its merits and how it links with the purpose of the grant fund, to increase the level of choice for NDIS participants and delivers more targeted and tailored supports.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to help a person who is experiencing homelessness to find a home for example, by using grant funds to meet rental payments?**

No.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to support access to services, for example, to fund a support coordination role?**

Yes, where the proposal is an innovative solution and meet the objectives of the program, including increasing the level of choice for NDIS participants and deliver more tailored and targeted support through the NDIS.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to identify innovative projects and connect these projects to potential providers to deliver? For example, using Innovation Grant funds by a consultant to work with providers, however not directly deliver the services.**

No. Innovation Grant Program funds will only be provided to NDIS providers that directly deliver NDIS services to NDIS participants.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be combined with other grant funding sources to deliver the proposed service?**

Yes. Providers should provide details in their application about how they would manage the risks associated with delivering the project where they were subsequently not successful in securing the anticipated third-party grant funding.

**Can Innovation Grant funds be used to train people on-Community to deliver a disability related service?**

Yes. Innovation Grant funds can be used to support formal or informal training, where it is required to successfully deliver the proposed Innovation Grant project.

## **PART 4 – Questions relating to Innovation Grant Program assessment criteria and process**

### **How can sustainability be demonstrated in applications?**

Providers could demonstrate sustainability through providing information about how the program will be funded and delivered beyond the Innovation Grant Program delivery period or how the learnings will be captured and incorporated in delivering the project going forward.

For example, where a provider applies for Innovation Grant funds to meet the wage costs for a staff member to deliver the project, information should be provided in the application as to how the wage costs could be self-funded by the applicant beyond the Innovation Grant Program period.

A key objective, especially for large grant funding requests (above \$50,000 and up to and including \$100,000) is for projects to be sustainable beyond the Innovation Grant Program delivery period.

**When assessing applications, will the Office of Disability view in-kind contributions from providers favourably?**

Yes. An in-kind contribution is any contribution by the provider of existing funds or resources. For example, a provider could commit a current staff member to work on the Innovation Grant project or use current infrastructure for delivery of the service.

**What will the make-up of the panel be? (Note: as per the Program Guidelines, a panel will be used to assess the applications and provide recommendations to the Office of Disability as to projects that successfully meet the assessment criteria)**

The members of the panel are currently being finalised. The panel will include members with specialist knowledge and expertise relevant to the NDIS and the disability context of the Northern Territory.

**Where a provider applied for a large funding grant (above \$50,000 and up to and including \$100,000), and was unsuccessful in receiving the full funding amount requested, could the Office of Disability discuss with the applicant to provide a lesser funding amount?**

Yes. In cases such as this, the Office of Disability will work with the provider to agree the level of funding that would be acceptable.

**How are the payments structured for the large funding grant (above \$50,000 and up to and including \$100,000)?**

Payments for the large funding grant will be released in two payments, 50 percent when the service agreement is signed between the Office of Disability and the successful provider and 50 percent at an agreed point in the project.

## **PART 5 – Other questions relating to the Innovation Grant Program**

**How does the Office of Disability view success for the Innovation Grant Program?**

Success of the Innovation Grant Program will include the following aspects:

- increased level of choice for NDIS participants
- more tailored and targeted supports for NDIS participants across the Northern Territory
- greater access to supports on-Community
- collaboration between NDIS providers
- sustainable service providers
- increase Aboriginal economic and social participation
- increase local jobs for Territorians.

**Why does the Innovation Grant Program place importance on shared learnings and outcomes?**

One of the objectives of the Innovation Grant Program is to support the sustainable development of the NDIS market in the Northern Territory. Sharing the outcomes and the learnings gained throughout the

process will support providers to leverage learnings from each other to deliver additional services that will increase the level of choice for NDIS participants and allow for the delivery of more tailored and targeted support.

**Will the power point slides from the Innovation Grant Program briefings be available to providers?**

Yes. All attendees at the Industry briefings will receive an email with a soft-copy of the slides. In addition, the slides will be uploaded on the NT Grant Portal.