

Indigenous Advancement Strategy - Advance notice of forthcoming Indigenous Girls' STEM Academy Grant Opportunity

Commonwealth entity **Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Enquires If you have any questions,
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Date guidelines
released **Indigenous Advancement Strategy Grant
Guidelines, March 2016**

**Indigenous Girls' STEM Academy expected
release April 2018.**

Indigenous Advancement Strategy - Overview

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been tasked by the government to deliver *Outcome 2: Indigenous - Improve results for Indigenous Australians including in relation to school attendance, employment and community safety, through delivering services and programs, and through measures that recognise the special place that Indigenous people hold in this Nation.*

This is a key priority/objective to be addressed by the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which comprises the following five flexible, broad based programs:

1. Jobs, Land and Economy
2. Children and Schooling
3. Safety and Wellbeing
4. Culture and Capability
5. Remote Australia Strategies

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy has three priorities, set by Government:

- The positive impact that **education** has on the future success of individuals, families and communities is clear. Children who go to school have better life outcomes.
- **Employment, economic development and social participation** improves the lives of families and communities. The right conditions and incentives need to be in place for Indigenous Australians to participate in the economy and broader society.
- Growing up in a **healthy and safe home and community** is essential for families to thrive and reach their full potential. In particular, the violence that too many women and children face must be addressed.

Each time grant applications or proposals are sought and/or are able to be submitted is called a 'Grant Opportunity'. This might be through an open competitive grant round, a restricted opportunity which is only open to a number of organisations that meet specified criteria or an ongoing call for proposals. These grant opportunities will all be advertised on GrantConnect. All awarded grants will be published on GrantConnect.

Grants will be undertaken in accordance with the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)* <http://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines-July2014.pdf>

1. Indigenous Girls STEM Cadetship Pathways – Grant Opportunity

1.1 Description

The \$25 million Indigenous Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fund was announced as part of the 1967 Referendum – 50th Anniversary Indigenous Education Package.

The Indigenous Girls' STEM Academy (Academy) grant opportunity will deliver this fund, providing an opportunity to invest long-term in a generation of female leaders in STEM, ready for the jobs of the future.

The Academy sits within the Children and Schooling Program of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

The Academy will provide high achieving Indigenous girls long-term, individually flexible support on their path to success in STEM and contribute to development of role models for others to aspire to.

Organisations will be assessed on their ability to deliver the following components based on their strong credibility and experience in: STEM, supporting Indigenous students, corporate engagement and individualised professional and academic support.

We anticipate these capabilities may need to be provided through partnerships or consortia with multiple organisations including Indigenous business involvement and leadership.

- Ongoing and long-term student support (mentoring, tutoring, scholarship funds, and support in accessing existing services and opportunities etc.),
- Brokerage ensuring access to any relevant existing STEM programs, scholarships and entitlements,
- 'Jump start' intensive workshop program (e.g. Summer school/holiday program) with high quality STEM extension activities and early engagement with corporate partners, and
- Work placements (Internships/Cadetships and graduate employment) with corporate partners.

The final design of the Academy will be developed with the selected provider and needs to provide flexibility to students through their STEM education, including flexibility for those who need to take time away from study, start later or need to participate flexibly due to caring requirements. It is anticipated however, that support may be appropriate from middle/late high school through university and on to graduate entry into careers.

Objectives and Outcomes

The overarching objective of the Indigenous Girls' STEM Academy is to enable a generation of female leaders, role models and game changers in STEM by supporting STEM students to succeed in school, university and attain high quality jobs.

This Academy should not duplicate existing services, programs or activities, but broker opportunities for students that gains them the access to what they need for success when they need it.

The expected outcomes of the Program are:

- 'Summer schools' ('Jump Start' Intensive Workshops) camps:
 - Develop students' interest and knowledge in STEM.
 - Gain access to a wealth of experience beyond what could be achieved in the classroom.
 - Build partnerships with corporates early.
- Ongoing individualised support:
 - Students, their families, schools and community feeling strongly connected and supported in STEM pursuits.
 - Students having direct access to expertise and advice relevant to their preferred field when they need it (eg. Mentoring, peer networks, tutoring, specialist training or programs, existing STEM camps/activities/opportunities).
- Work Placements:
 - Starting as early as appropriate, exposure and experience in STEM workplaces – increasing in length and complexity with student experience.
 - STEM education pathways or valuable career opportunities which may otherwise not have been encountered.
 - Partnerships in a diverse range of fields from STEM in order to present students with the greatest range of opportunities.
- Corporate/Philanthropic engagement:
 - Students being provided with opportunities, funding, and/or other benefits, particularly work experience and ultimately employment.
 - Corporates are assured of gaining high quality graduates with the skills they need.

1.2 Funding for the Indigenous Girls STEM Academy

Funding of up to \$25 million is available to support 10 years of the Academy.

1.3 Expected grant opportunity timing

The Indigenous Girls' STEM Academy will be delivered through an open competitive grant opportunity planned to be advertised in April 2018. The selected provider is expected to be engaged by June 2018.

GrantConnect

Grant opportunities will be published on [GrantConnect](#).

If you would like to register your interest and be notified of any advertised opportunities, please register here on [GrantConnect](#) for an email notification.