



New grant program: Journalist Fund

A new grant program, the Journalist Fund, will support the provision of public interest journalism in regional Australia.

Supporting public interest journalism in regional areas

The Government has announced a total of **\$10 million (GST exclusive) in grants over two years** to assist organisations to hire new cadet journalists and upskill existing journalists.

Grant funding available

Funding will be provided to selected organisations through competitive, merits based selection processes **allocated across two streams**.

Stream 1 will support selected regional media organisations to **employ new cadet journalists** with a package of up to **\$150,000 per cadet for a two year cadetship**, under a co-contribution arrangement. Funding may be used for direct remuneration, relevant travel costs and training.

Stream 2 will support **training to upskill existing journalists**. Funding may be used for the purposes of developing and/or delivering new training material and courses, or to expand access to existing materials and courses for regional journalists.

A total of \$8 million is available for hiring cadets and \$2 million is available for upskilling journalists.

Assessment process and accountability measures

The program will be conducted in line with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the cadetship stream of the Journalist Fund are expected to be made available in March before calls for applications for the grant funding are made. Guidelines for the training stream are expected to be made available in April.

Applications will be assessed on applicants' ability to deliver the grant activity, as well as their ability to employ and/or train journalists. The value with money of each application will also be considered.

The **Minister for Communications will approve the successful grant recipients**, on recommendations provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications. An Advisory Panel, selected from members within industry and appointed by the Minister for Communications, will provide advice on the assessment of applications.

The Government will ensure that the **grant opportunity process is fair**, according to the published Grant Opportunity Guidelines, and incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

Reflecting the different nature of the cadetship and training streams, it is expected there will be separate selection processes for the two streams, including the eligibility and assessment criteria.

Further information

To register your interest in this new program please email JournalistFund@Infrastructure.gov.au and you will be contacted when further information becomes available.