Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care

Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program – Consumer Health Literacy Grant Opportunity Guidelines GOXXXX
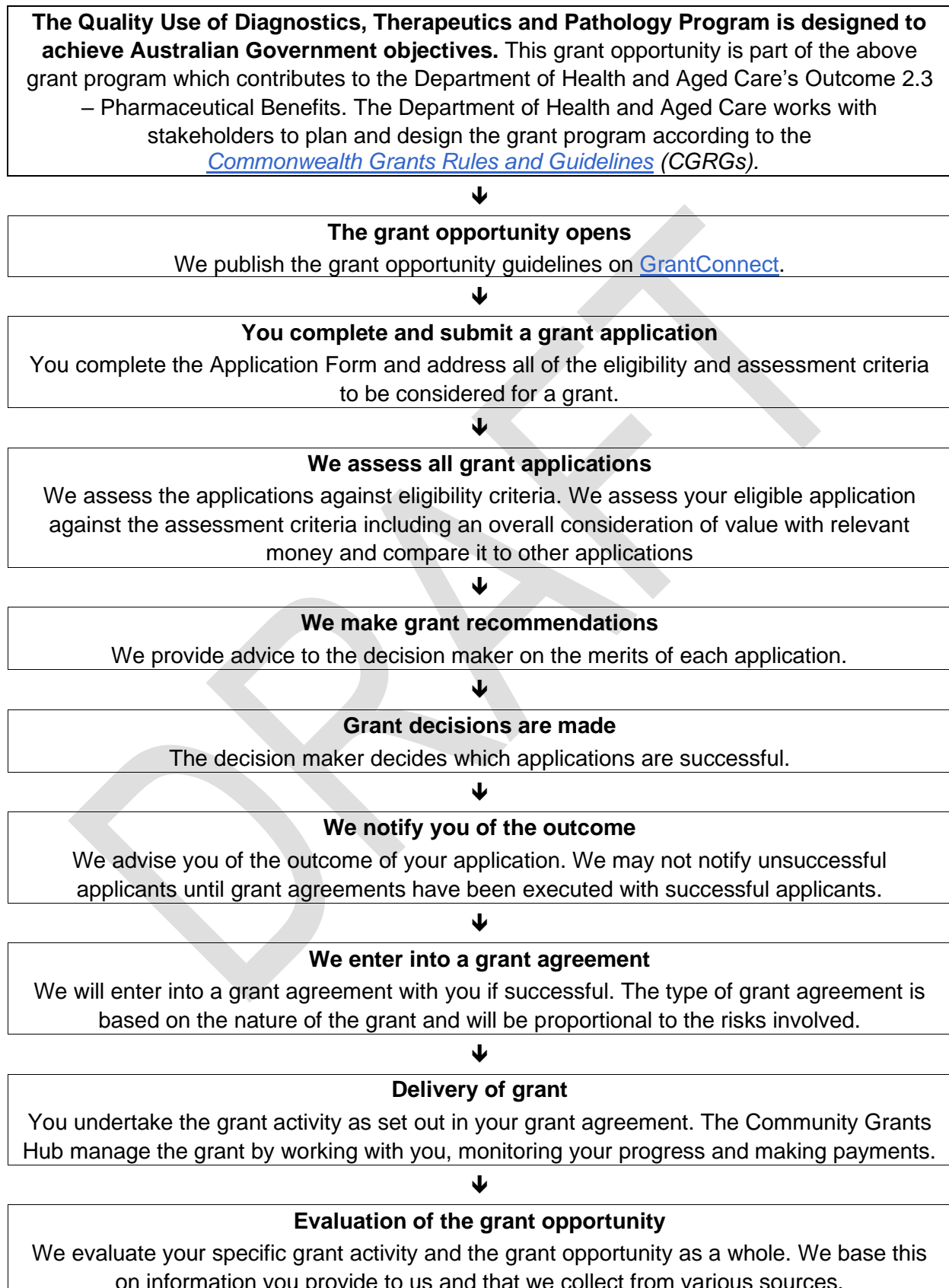
Opening date:	TBA
Closing date and time:	2:00pm (Canberra time) on TBA
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Health and Aged Care (department)
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the department via email: grant.atm@health.gov.au.
	Questions should be sent no later than 5:00pm (Canberra time) on TBA.
Type of grant opportunity:	Open Competitive

Contents

1. Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program: Consumer Health Literacy grant opportunity processes

The Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives. This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Health and Aged Care's Outcome 2.3 – Pharmaceutical Benefits. The Department of Health and Aged Care works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs).

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The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant opportunity guidelines on GrantConnect.

⬇

You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the Application Form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.

⬇

We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria. We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money and compare it to other applications

⬇

We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

⬇

Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.

⬇

We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

⬇

We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with you if successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.

⬇

Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. The Community Grants Hub manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.

⬇

Evaluation of the grant opportunity

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program Consumer Health Literacy grant opportunity.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity;
- the eligibility and assessment criteria;
- how grant applications are considered and selected;
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments;
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated; and
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

2. About the grant program

The Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program (the Program) is an Australian Government initiative administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (the department). The Program was established in 1999 and provides funding to improve the way medicines and medical test are prescribed and used.

As part of the 2022-23 Budget Measure: *Guaranteeing Medicare and Access to Medicines – Improving Access to Medical Equipment, Treatment and Diagnostics*, the Program is being redesigned to open up two new competitive grant opportunities that will run every two years:

Consumer Health Literacy Grant Opportunity (this grant opportunity); and

Health Professional Education Grant Opportunity (also currently open for application, via GrantConnect).

The Program contributes to the implementation of Australia's National Medicines Policy (NMP), and the National Strategy for Quality Use of Medicines (NSQUM) by fostering cross sector collaboration and partnerships, collecting data, providing information, raising awareness and educating health professionals and consumers about the quality use of medicines and diagnostics.

Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) objectives must be achieved within a complex and crowded QUM ecosystem. This complexity underscores the need for the Program to be implemented in a manner consistent with the NSQUM's five principles: primacy of the consumer; partnership, consultative, collaborative, multi-disciplinary activity; support for existing activity; and system-based approaches.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- improve the quality use of therapeutics, diagnostics and pathology for Australian consumers;
- improve the quality use of therapeutics, diagnostics and pathology for Australian health professionals;
- facilitate free access to information to support appropriate use of therapeutics, diagnostics and pathology; and
- support the effectiveness and efficiency of the health system.

The intended outcomes of the Program are:

- improved use of health technologies to optimise health outcomes for Australians, through independent, evidence-based information and education;
- improved health literacy of Australians, through education of health professionals and consumer groups;
- reduced misuse of medicines and other health technologies; and
- improved sustainability of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS).

The program will be administered by the Community Grants Hub on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs)*.

2.1   About the Grant Opportunity

The Consumer Health Literacy grant opportunity (the grant opportunity) is aimed towards improving and supporting medication health literacy for Australians. The grant opportunity can also support quality use of diagnostics and pathology which leads to improved QUM outcomes. This grant opportunity will require high levels of collaboration and cooperation between relevant QUM stakeholders to achieve the intended grant outcomes.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- build and improve Australian's health literacy in relation to QUM and diagnostics;
- enable timely distribution and access to evidence-based information, tools and resources for health consumers in the Australian context that support and promote QUM;
- national delivery of QUM initiatives targeting areas of high need and addressing the Australian Government's priorities (See Appendix A for identified priorities/areas of high need);
- empower consumers to be active participants in their health care and health outcomes, including developing skills and confidence to use medicines appropriately and seeking assistance when needed;
- leverage grant funds through cross-sector collaboration and partnerships that support and promote the Quality Use of Therapeutics, Diagnostics and Pathology (QUTDP), including through system wide approaches;
- develop and promote evidence-based behaviour changes amongst Australian health consumers that are consistent with QUM and a sustainable health care system, such as:
  - o medication adherence;
  - o consideration of possible non-drug options and the importance of a healthy lifestyle;
  - o effective transition of care and whole of healthcare system approaches; and
- address the QUM needs for all Australians and/or for high-priority groups and settings such as older people, complex chronic diseases, disability, aged care, rural and remote communities, First Nations peoples, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse peoples.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- improved health literacy of Australians through collaboration, including:

- o amongst high-risk groups and priority populations and/or through system level improvements;
  - o addressing misinformation;
  - o for areas of identified and demonstrated need;
  - o development of behaviours that support QUM;
  - o reduced misuse of medicines and other health technologies;
- evidence-based behaviour change initiatives and/or education that support QUM outcomes being delivered on a national scale;
- awareness activities are delivered that target highest priority areas for QUM issues and support consumers to improve their health outcomes through QUDTP;
- coordinated system wide approaches delivered addressing QUM issues that support the use of therapeutics, diagnostics and pathology initiatives. This includes the leveraging of partnerships with reputable QUM stakeholders and key consumer facing service providers; and
- evidenced based resources and tools are promoted, leveraged or, if warranted, developed and/or updated to support consumers, and if appropriate, their care teams in managing their medications and conditions.

The Activity will be measured against the below Performance Indicator/s (PIs).

Table 1: Performance Indicator/s (PIs)

Performance indicator	Measure
Consumer behaviours relating to QUM shows improvement over time	- Build on any established baseline of consumer awareness of QUM, this could include consumer surveys and utilisation data - Demonstrated improved health literacy or reasonable evidence that activities will achieve improvements - Reduced misuse of medicines for targeted initiatives or reasonable evidence that activities will achieve the reduction

Performance indicator	Measure

Demonstrated uptake of consumer resources and consumer satisfaction of the resources meeting their needs	• Meeting the agreed activities reach targets, for consumers and if relevant, for service providers engagement/distribution of resources/tools
	• Meeting the agreed reach of consumers i.e. A minimum of X consumers accessing or engaging in initiatives, such as:
	   o X downloads of resources/tools
	   o X% satisfaction rate, as measured through user surveys, including:
	      ▪ Meeting the needs of the targeted audience
	      ▪ Improved consumer confidence in medication management/topic of QUM initiative

Initiatives are evidence-based	• Activities are based on reputable resources and best practice approaches • Only reputable and independent resources and service providers are promoted • Independence from pharmaceutical or commercial interest is demonstrated
Effective collaboration and sector engagement	• Engagement with relevant stakeholders within the scope of the proposed activity • Leveraging of existing evidence-based resources
Delivery of system wide approach	As appropriate for the activities being delivered
Other performance indicators as appropriate for the funded activities	Applicants to nominate and to be agreed with department.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of $4.124 million (GST exclusive) over three years for this grant opportunity.

The grant opportunity will run from **TBA** to 30 April 2025.

There is no maximum grant amount, but grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

The department's intent is to have grant agreements in place by <mark>TBA</mark>. If this does not occur, the department, in line with Australian Government processes and approvals, may seek to move 2022-23 funding to 2023-24, which may impact the availability of funds at any period. If this does occur, an extension of time will also occur to ensure projects will have two years to be completed.

Table 2: Grant Opportunity Funding Available

2022-23 FY $ M (GST exclusive)	2023-24 FY $ M (GST exclusive)	2024-25 FY $ M (GST exclusive)	Total $ M (GST exclusive)
1.031	2.062	1.031	**4.124**

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is two calendar years.

You must complete your grant/project by 30 April 2025.

4. Eligibility criteria

The decision maker can choose to waive the eligibility criteria; however, they must be made aware of the risks.

We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

To be eligible, you must be one of the following entity types:

- a company[1] or
- a 'Table A' provider under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (refer Table 3 below) or
- an Incorporated Association

and:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- be located in Australia.

If you are applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust,[2] the Trustee must be an eligible entity type as listed above.

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[1] Company is a company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

[2] Trusts are not legal entities in their own right – to be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible entity type as stated in section 4.1. Both the Trust's and Trustee's details will be collected in the application form.

Applications from consortia are acceptable, as long as you have a lead applicant who is solely accountable to the Commonwealth for the delivery of grant activities and is an eligible entity as per the list above. For further information on joint applications, refer to section 7.2.

Table 3: Table 'A' Providers under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*

Australian National University	The University of Melbourne
Central Queensland University	The University of Notre Dame Australia
Charles Darwin University	The University of Queensland
Charles Sturt University	The University of Sydney
Curtin University	The University of Western Australia
Deakin University	University of Canberra
Edith Cowan University	University of Newcastle
Federation University Australia	University of New England
Flinders University	University of New South Wales
Griffith University	University of South Australia
James Cook University	University of Southern Queensland
La Trobe University	University of Tasmania
Macquarie University	University of Technology Sydney
Monash University	University of the Sunshine Coast
Murdoch University	University of Wollongong
Queensland University of Technology	Victoria University
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Western Sydney University
Southern Cross University	Australian Catholic University Limited
Swinburne University of Technology	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
The University of Adelaide	

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises);
- an individual (person);
- an unincorporated association;
- an overseas resident/organisation/entity; or
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'.

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, relevant personnel working on the grant activities that involve contact with children must maintain the following:

- working with Children check; and

- working with Vulnerable People registration (or equivalent depending on the relevant state or territory).

The department recognises the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.

As such, the department expects that all grant recipients comply with all Australian law relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children. This includes working with children checks and mandatory reporting; and the department may request an annual statement of compliance with this requirement. If successful, these details will be outlined in the successful organisation's grant agreement.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

Your project needs to meet the objective and outcomes of the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDTP) Program and this grant opportunity.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the grant opportunity and may include:

- health literacy activities that support appropriate use of the PBS and MBS and promote QUM health literacy;
- consumer research that can be utilised to measure improvement of QUM health literacy over time and support the implementation of QUM health literacy activity;
- cross-sector and health consumer partnerships and multidisciplinary activities that promote quality use of medicines attitudes and behaviours that are consistent with Australian Government priorities including:
  - o development (or updating), design, delivery, and review of QUM health literacy activities or initiatives for consumers;
  - o promotion of the use of resources and tools for consumers including to health professionals;
  - o delivery of sector engagement activities, such as seminars, meetings and workshops to support delivery to consumers; and
- evaluation of grant activities, that are reasonable, proportionate and tailored to the scope and value of the grant.

5.2 Eligible locations

Your grant activities must be delivered nationally, and accessible to all Australians. In addition, your grant may include individual program and activities delivered in specific regions, where there is evidence to support a targeted approach and potential for larger adaptation across Australia. Should there be such evidence, this must be detailed in your application for consideration and endorsement by the department.

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred for agreed project activities.

Eligible expenditure items include:

- development, design, delivery and promotion of health literacy activities including tools and resources to support the Program's objectives;

- support of partnering organisations to delivery grant activities;
- research as required for the delivery of grant activity;
- collaboration and engagement with other organisations to support the Program's objectives as approved;
- domestic travel directly related to the delivery of program objectives and in accordance with Tax Determination TD 2022/10 using Table 1: Employee's annual salary - $133,450 and below, unless otherwise agreed by the department;
- operational support, including administration and staff expenses where this can be directly attributed to the delivery of the grant activities. Operational support must not exceed 12% of available grant funds; and
- wages and salary for approved/specified staff.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your grant may be eligible for grant funding. The Decision Maker makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the expenditure on your approved grant activities between the start date and end or completion date for your grant activity for it to be eligible.

Where costs are applied using formulas or methodologies they must be approved by the department.

5.4   What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following costs:
- purchase of land;
- major/minor capital expenditure, including construction/capital works;
- the covering of retrospective costs, including depreciation costs;
- purchase of assets over $1,000 without prior written approval of the department;
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation;
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as director fees, wages/salaries of personnel not involved in the grant activities, electricity, phone and rent;
- on gifts, entertainment or bonuses;
- payment of redundancies;
- marketing campaigns not approved by the Department;
- on costs to support activities that are funded through other sources;
- overseas travel;
- costs otherwise not attributable to the implementation of your grant;
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility; and
- any activity which is not approved by the department through the activity plan and budget.

6. The assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria described below. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion.

You must address all relevant assessment criteria in your application. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

The Application Form includes word limits. The application must comply with the maximum word limits where they are indicated and text beyond the indicated word limit will not be considered. Please note there is no minimum requirement and response should be concise.

Criterion 1 - Alignment with the Program Objectives and Outcomes (30% weighting)

Describe how the grant activity contributes to achieving the Program objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity as described at Section 2 (word limit: 1500 words).

You must demonstrate this through identifying:

- what positive evidenced-based behaviour changes are proposed and how your project will support consumers to improve health literacy and QUM outcomes through improving the quality, appropriate use of medicines and diagnostics, including but not limited to:
    - promote the safe and effective use of medicines, particularly in high-risk groups and settings;
    - reduce adverse medicine events or medicine-related hospital admissions;
    - reduce unnecessary health technologies;
    - improve self-care; and
    - promote the use of reputable resources and/or discourage misinformation.
- the evidence-based need for the activities, including the evidence-base that supports the proposed design, delivery and implementation of the project/activities;
- how the proposed activities will address priorities areas, including evidence for why these are priorities for QUM in an Australian context, including details of stakeholder engagement and involvement during conceptualisation, development and planned implementation of your project;
- who will be impacted through the grant delivery and how, including the number of consumers expected to receive/benefit from the interventions;
- stakeholders and partnerships with relevant parties that will support implementation and what they will contribute to the activities;
- how your project builds on existing material, or how the activities deliver innovative approaches;
- how your proposed methodology is consistent with NSQUM principles, and supports QUM initiatives delivered at a national scale; and
- how you will honour the primacy of the consumer in the execution of these activities.

Criterion 2 - Project methodology (20% weighting)

Note that this criterion will be assessed by the Assessment Team with reference to the Activity Work Plan/s, which are required as part of your application (see Section 7.1). If

multiple activities are proposed, please submit one Activity Work Plan for each activity. The template for this is located on GrantConnect (word limit: 1000 words per Activity Work Plan (excluding any attachments)).

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your Activity Work Plan should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should demonstrate your proposed approach to delivering the project by including the following in your Activity Work Plan:

- a summary of your project, including key objectives and outcomes;
- measurable project targets and a proposed evaluation approach;
- scope of the project and outline of the activities you will undertake, including a description of the implementation approach;
- the strategy for delivery of educational activities, including promotion to encourage uptake and the extent to which these will be delivered nationally;
- appropriate milestones, performance indicators and timeframes for delivery;
- the proposed governance structure/s for the project
- a communication plan identifying key stakeholders (this may be included as an attachment); and
- a risk management framework identifying risks, impacts and mitigation strategies (this may be included as an attachment).

Criterion 3 - Delivering value with relevant money (20% weighting)

Describe how your organisation will ensure efficient and effective use of grant funds (word limit for the written response to this criterion (excluding the additional indicative activity budget): 500 words).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- how you will ensure the efficient and economical use of grant funds when delivering your project;
- how your project will achieve high quality outcomes in a cost-effective way;
- how your project will leverage existing evidence-based resources and tools;
- any existing linkages that will assist in the delivery of the grant activities;
- the nature of any proposed partnerships with other organisations in delivering the activities and the expected benefits, as well as any relevant cash or in-kind contributions that are applicable; and
- rationale for proposed costs (include basis for estimates).

In addition, you must complete the indicative activity budget (available on GrantConnect) in Excel format as per the requirements detailed in the Application Form. If multiple activities are proposed, please submit one activity budget for each activity. The activity budget must include, but not be limited to, disaggregation by project component and Financial Year (FY).

Criterion 4 - Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (20% weighting)

Describe your organisation's, and if relevant your consortium's, capacity and capability to deliver the project (word limit: 1,000 words).

You should demonstrate this by providing details of:

- why your organisation, or consortia, is well placed to deliver the project at a national scale. This should include any linkages with the targeted cohorts for receiving interventions;

- your proposed key project personnel, their skills and experience clearly articulated, along with explanations of how their skills and experiences are important to the success of your project; and

- your track record, and your project partner/s track record (if you have project partners) in successfully managing and delivering similar projects (including project budget and scale).

Criterion 5 – Consumer Engagement (10% weighting)

Describe your consumer engagement strategy, which is how your activities/project will effectively engage with consumers (word limit: 500 words).

You should demonstrate this through:

- a proposed method to actively involve consumers in the design of activities which could including planning, design, measurements and evaluation; and

- a description of how activities will enable consumers to be active participants in their own care, which could include communication, setting goals and making decisions about their current and future care.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines and the Application Form.

These documents are found on [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations and addenda[3] will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will automatically be notified of any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- complete the Application Form on GrantConnect;

- provide all the information requested;

- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria;

- include all necessary attachments; and

- submit the application by attaching the application form and all other required attachments via the red "Submit Application" button on the left-hand side.

We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity by email.

If you need assistance with the application process, submitting an application online, have any technical difficulties or find an error in your application after submission but before the closing date and time, you should email grant.atm@health.gov.au.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* and we will

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Trusts are not legal entities in their own right – to be eligible, only the Trustee for the Trust can apply by providing the signed Trust Deed and any subsequent variations with the application form. Trustees must be an eligible e

investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately on grant.atm@health.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time. If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. You will receive an automated notification acknowledging the receipt of your application.

7.1 Attachments to the application

We require the following documents with your application:

- a detailed Activity Work Plan to support assessment criterion 2. You may choose to submit a separate document for the required risk management framework and/ or communication plan;
- a detailed and itemised project / activity budget in Excel format, to support assessment criterion 3;
- for joint (consortium) applications (refer Section 7.2), a letter of support from each of the project partners (these should be scanned together as a single document or provided as a zip folder):
- evidence of funding strategy, e.g., financial statements, loan agreements, cash flow documents; and
- evidence of support from your organisation's board, CEO or equivalent (you can provide this in any form you choose).

If you do not attach the requested documents, your application may not progress further in the process.

You must attach supporting documentation to the Application Form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2 Joint (consortium) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join as a group to deliver a grant activity. In these circumstances, you must appoint a 'lead organisation'.

Only the lead organisation will enter into a grant agreement with the department and will be responsible for submitting an application on behalf of the Consortium, the lead organisation must have the authority to do so on behalf of the consortium members.

The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and a formal agreement must be in place between all consortium members and provided to the department in the form of a letter of support, prior to the execution of the grant agreement.

Each letter of support should include:

- details of the partner organisation;

- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation; and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity or project/services;

- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group;

- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any); and

- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

It is the responsibility of the lead organisation to ensure that all parties and subcontractors comply with the relevant aspects of the written agreement.

Lead Organisations must also identify all members of the party that are included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity around **TBA**.

Table 4: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Expected Timeframe
Open on GrantConnect	6 weeks
Assessment of applications	4 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	**TBA**
End date of grant activity or agreement	30 May 2025

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have questions relating to clarification of information of the available grant, technical issues or process during the application period, please contact grant.atm@health.gov.au. The department will respond to emailed questions within three working days.

Questions close five business days before the end of the application period. This allows the department to disseminate information to applicants with sufficient time for the applicant to consider the impact of the response on their application.

Requests for clarification may form the basis of a response that will be posted on the GrantConnect website in Frequently Asked Questions document relating to this grant opportunity. Any questions will be de-identified. Registered applicants will be notified of updates to the documents via email from the GrantConnect website.

The department cannot assist you to address assessment criteria, determine eligibility or complete your application.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria in Section 4.

Only eligible applications and applications that meet other specified requirements, including compliance, will move to the next stage. We consider eligible applications through an open competitive grant process.

We will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6). We consider your application on its merits and against other applications, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria;
- how it compares to other applications; and
- whether it provides value with relevant money.[4]

We will rate your application using the Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix.

Table 5: Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix

Rating (for individual criterion)	Score
Excellent – response to this criterion, including all sub-criteria, exceeds expectations.	5
Good – response to this criterion addresses all or most sub-criteria to a higher-than-average standard.	4
Average – response against this criterion meets most sub-criteria to an average but acceptable level.	3
Poor – poor claims against this criterion but may meet some sub-criteria.	2
Does not meet criterion at all – response to this criterion does not meet expectations or insufficient or no information to assess this criterion.	1

A score out of 5 will be applied to each of the assessment criteria. These scores will be weighted as per the below:

Criterion 1	30%
Criterion 2	20%
Criterion 3	20%
Criterion 4	20%
Criterion 5	10%

A total of 100% is the highest score any application can receive.

Only applications that score a total above 75% against the assessment criteria will be considered for funding, in the first instance.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money[5], we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant;
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives;
- the relative value of the grant sought;
- the extent to which the geographic location of the application matches identified priorities; and
- how the grant activities will target consumers.

8.2   Who will assess applications?

The department will establish assessment team(s) to assess eligible and compliant applications.

The assessment team will be the relevant policy team in the department. In addition, the assessment team may comprise staff from across the department and could include contractors/consultants who will undertake training to ensure consistency in assessment.

After applications are assessed, they will be quality assured and referred to an assessment committee for further consideration, including value with relevant money. The assessment committee will be made up of staff within the Technology Assessment and Access Division of the department and may include representatives from other areas of the department and from outside of the department, as appropriate. The Chairperson is the Director of the Quality Use of Medicines Section.

We may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required/expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRGs.

The assessment committee may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Decision Maker which applications to approve for a grant.

8.3   Who will approve grants?

The Assistant Secretary, Pricing and PBS Policy Branch (the Decision Maker) decides which grant(s) to approve taking into account the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant opportunity.

The Decision Maker's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant;
- the grant funding amount to be awarded; and

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[5] See the Glossary for the definition of 'value with relevant money'.

- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to receive feedback. A request for individual feedback should made to the department within five (5) days of being notified of the outcome by emailing QUM@health.gov.au. We will respond to your request for feedback in writing within fourteen (14) days.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Further grant opportunities

If there are not enough suitable applications to meet the program's objectives, we will deliver subsequent grant opportunities through a targeted or closed non-competitive process.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use the whole of government grant agreement templates in this program and will select the most appropriate depending on the size and complexity of your grant activities.

Each agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on the Department of Finance's website. We will use a schedule to outline the specific grant requirements.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your grant activities before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Decision Maker. We will identify these in the agreement.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Standard Grant Agreement

We will use a standard grant agreement.

You will have 20 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

Whilst you are required to be compliant with all relevant laws and regulations, you will be requested to demonstrate compliance with the following legislation/policies/industry standards:

- **Working with Vulnerable People (including children)** *if relevant to your activities*
  As appropriate, where the different legislation will be relevant, based on which jurisdiction the entity works in.
- ***Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act)***
  The requirement to comply with Australian Privacy Principles where the contracted service provider for the contract does not do an act, or engage in a practice, that would breach an Australian Privacy Principle if done or engaged in by the agency.

To be eligible for a grant, you must declare in your application that you comply with these requirements. You will need to declare you can meet these requirements in your grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

10.2.1 The Multicultural Access and Equity Policy

The Multicultural Access and Equity Policy obliges Australian Government agencies to ensure that cultural and linguistic diversity is not a barrier for people engaging with government and accessing services to which they are entitled. For example, providing access to language services where appropriate.

10.2.2 Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

The Australian Government is considering appropriate ways to apply the requirements of the CCSF to grant recipients. A child safety clause is likely to be included in a grant agreement where the Commonwealth considers the grant is for:

- services directly to children; or
- activities that involve contact with children that is a usual part of, and more than incidental to, the grant activity.

A child safety clause may also be included in the grant agreement if the Commonwealth considers the grant activity involves children more broadly.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement published with this grant opportunity or notified to the successful applicant prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement, you must always comply with your state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

The Australian Government has commissioned the Australian Human Rights Commission to develop a series of tools and resources to assist organisations to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

10.2.3 National Redress Scheme

The [National Redress Scheme](#) for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy makes non-government institutions named in applications to the Scheme, or in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that do not join the Scheme, ineligible for future Australian Government grant funding. The National Redress Scheme Grant Connected Policy came into effect on 1 January 2021.

10.3 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid;
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage);
- any financial contributions you must make;
- any in-kind contributions you will make; and
- any financial contribution provided by a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

Progress payments

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on delivery of the grant activity.

Payment penalties or reduced payments may be applied by the department should you not deliver key program and grant deliverables as outlined in the agreement.

10.4 Grants Payments and GST

Payments will be GST Exclusive. If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax (GST)](#), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let the department's Grant Manager know in writing to QUM@health.gov.au if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- Name;
- Addresses;
- nominated contact details; and
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

You can request a variation by submitting a formal request in writing to the department's Grant Manager at QUM@health.gov.au detailing sufficient information to make an informed decision on your request in relation to achieving grant objectives and value with relevant money.

12.1.1   COVID-19

As a result of COVID-19, service providers may need to identify alternative methods of service delivery. The department will support flexibility in the delivery of planned services to enable contracted organisations to adapt to the changing environment. The department will consider its approach to reporting over this time and be flexible in reporting requirements under the terms of the Schedule.

12.2   Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed grant activity milestones and outcomes;
- planned events and collaborative engagements;
- contributions of participants directly related to the grant activity;
- expenditure of the grant; and
- risks arising during the grant activity.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Activity Work Plan and Budget

Final Activity Work Plan(s) and Budget(s) based on those provided with the successful applications will be required and approved by the department prior to implementing the activities.

Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes;
- explicitly detail issues and address all grant delivery issues experienced, including delays, risk management and mitigation;
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date;
- show how you are tracking against your performance indicators, targets and deliverables;
- include how you are tracking against your approved budget; and
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad hoc reports

We may ask you for ad hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress or on any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved;
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement;
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred;
- include a declaration that the grant funds were spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant's funds; and
- be submitted within 90 days of completion in the format provided in the grant agreement.

12.3   Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The financial acquittal report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

12.4   Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by submitting a formal request in writing to the department's Grant Manager at QUM@health.gov.au detailing sufficient information to make an informed decision on your request in relation to achieving grant objectives and value with relevant money.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5   Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a grant activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This [name of grant activity or project] received grant funding from the Australian Government.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct, and is consistent with the CGRGs.

These guidelines may be amended periodically by the department. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The department's Complaint Handling Process applies to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to grant.atm@health.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the relevant Commonwealth entity.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

> Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
> Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
> Website: Commonwealth Ombudsman

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the department's staff, any member of a committee, an advisor, and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer

- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently, or

- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict-of-interest policy on the Australian Public Service Commission's website.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect

- why we collect your personal information

- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or

where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time require you to arrange for you, your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to non-disclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential

2. the information is commercially sensitive

3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively

- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities

- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery

- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations

- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner

- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to documents held by Australian Government entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. Access may be refused if a document contains "exempt" material, such as commercially valuable information or the personal or business information of a third party.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
            FOI Unit
            Department of Health and Aged Care
            GPO Box 9848
            CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: foi@health.gov.au

14.   Consultation

- Consultation has been undertaken by the department on the redesign of the QUDTP Program.
- The department held stakeholder co-design forums on the QUDTP Program grant opportunities on 18, 19 and 25 October 2022.
- Forum participants included peaks, researchers, health professional organisations, consumer advocates, and Primary Health Networks (PHNs).
- Through the forums, the department provided an overview of the grant opportunities, and engaged in a productive co-design discussion with participants.
- Participants raised a number of QUM matters through the co-design discussion, including:
    - the need for culturally appropriate and culturally safe training, education, resources and activities that best support identified priority groups; and
    - the importance of an integrated delivery focus, and a population health approach which includes health promotion and early intervention.
- These discussions have formed the basis of this grant opportunity design.

15. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
Commonwealth Child Safe Framework	in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, the Australian Government has introduced the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, a whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for creating and embedding a child safe culture and practice in Commonwealth entities
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
*Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017 (*CGRGs)	establish the Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. The CGRGs contain the key legislative and policy requirements and explain the better practice principles of grants administration
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
consumer	a person who uses Australian health services, as well as their family and carers
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria

Term	Definition
grant	for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[6] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money[7] is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
health literacy	the skills, knowledge, understanding, motivation, capacity and confidence of a person to access, understand and use information to make well informed decisions about their health and health care, including using medicines safely and effectively.
Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)	a list of health professional services, subsidised by the Australian Government.

form.

nt money is defined in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), chapter 1, section 8 Dictionary.

[7] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105 Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
National Medicines Policy (NMP)	Australia's National Medicines Policy is a cooperative endeavour to bring about better health outcomes for all Australians, focusing especially on people's access to, and wise use of, medicines.
National Redress Scheme	the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy makes non-government institutions named in applications to the Scheme, or in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, that do not join the Scheme ineligible for future Australian Government grant funding. The National Redress Scheme Grant Connected Policy came into effect on 1 January 2021.
National Strategy for Quality Use of Medicines (NSQUM)	outlines the principles, partners, building blocks and approach for achieving quality use of medicines in Australia.
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)	a Schedule that lists all of the medicines available to be dispensed to patients at a Government-subsidised price.
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act)	the PGPA Act establishes a system of governance and accountability for public resources with an emphasis on planning, performance and reporting. It applies to all Commonwealth entities and Commonwealth companies.
Quality Use of Diagnostics, Treatments and Pathology (QUDTP) Program	the QUDTP Program is an Australian Government initiative administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The Program provides funding to improve the way medicines and medical tests are prescribed and used.
relevant money	a. money standing to the credit of any bank account of the Commonwealth or a corporate Commonwealth entity; or b. money that is held by the Commonwealth of a corporate Commonwealth entity.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria

Term	Definition
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with relevant money	A judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources, and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Identified Priorities and Areas of Need

The department has identified a number of priority groups – your grant activity may target one or more of the identified priorities or areas of need. In addition, you may identify alternative priorities or areas of need where you can demonstrate this with supporting evidence. It is not a requirement that your application address one of these areas.

Government identified health priority areas

As part of the redesign of the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDTP) Program, the department has collated health priority areas identified by the Australian Government. These include health priority areas as recognised in the 10 National Health Priority Areas, and other key areas of need.

10 National Health Priority Areas

The National Health Priority Areas initiative is a collaborative effort involving Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. It seeks to focus public attention on health policy on those areas that are considered to contribute significantly to the burden of disease in Australia, and for which there is potential for health gain. There are currently 10 National Health Priority areas as agreed by Health Ministers:

1. Cancer control (1996)
2. Cardiovascular health (1996)
3. Injury prevention and control (1996)
4. Mental health (1996)
5. Diabetes mellitus (1997)
6. Asthma (1999)
7. Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions (2002)
8. Obesity (2008)
9. Dementia (2012)
10. Quality Use of Medicines (2019)

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

As indicated above, diabetes mellitus is the 5th National Health Priority Area. At its September 2022 meeting the Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) considered a review on the utilisation of PBS listed medicines for the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus. It was noted based on the PBS data that there was apparent use outside the PBS restrictions, including:

- Initiation on glucagon-like peptide1 receptor agonists (GLP1 RAs) without prior use of metformin, a sulfonylurea (SU) or insulin.
- Combinations of GLP-1 RAs with another GLP-1 RA, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP4) inhibitors or sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors.

Targeted population cohorts

Improving health outcomes in the following sectors and communities:

- Aged Care, particularly
  - Polypharmacy
  - Inappropriate use of psychotics
- Disability
- First Nation Peoples
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
- LGBTIQ+
- Transitions of care
- Rural and remote

Priority areas as identified by NPS MedicineWise and key stakeholders

Several overarching themes with relevance across multiple therapeutic areas have been identified by key stakeholders, including:

- medication safety and de-prescribing (for example, related to oral anticoagulants, antidepressant or opioid use)
- importance of optimising medicine choices and regimens and maximising the impact of available therapies and technologies
- prevention of disease progression, by reducing diagnostic gaps and effective management of early disease
- improvements in transitions of care to reduce medication errors and support adherence
- inappropriate polypharmacy
- active ingredient medicines and biosimilars
- cost of medicines and pharmaceutical regulation of medicine pricing
- growing importance of consumer health literacy and the role of social media in driving and addressing QUM issues
- the role of instant online prescribing services in driving QUM issues
- environmental sustainability of medicines
- complementary and alternative medicines
- ongoing challenges of COVID-19
- non-medical prescribing
- medicines access particularly with respect to mental health and diabetes medicines.

There have also been medication and condition specific priorities identified. These align with the government priorities areas listed and also include:

- topical corticosteroids and atopic dermatitis
- antidepressants in older people
- oral anticoagulants
- menopause and MHT

The relevance, importance, opportunity and value of these priority areas, as identified by stakeholders, are detailed in the following table. Based on the topic prioritisation matrix analysis (shown in the table below), the topics 'Topical corticosteroids and atopic dermatitis', 'Prevention of type 2 diabetes' and 'Opioid analgesics' were all ranked as equal highest priority areas for work, relative to the other topics examined.

Topic	Relevance			Importance		Opportunity			Value		Relative overall ranking*
	Unmet QUM/T need	Practice gaps	Disease burden	Stakeholder support	Evidence and guidelines	Collaboration & partnerships	NPS & other interventions	Health outcomes	PBS/ MBS economic impact	Health literacy	
Topical corticosteroids and atopic dermatitis	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	1
Prevention of type 2 diabetes	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	=2
Opioid analgesics	High	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	High	=2
Antidepressants in older people	High	High	High	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	High	High	3
Oral anticoagulants	High	High	High	Medium	High	High	High	High	Low	High	=4
Menopause and MHT	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Medium	Low	High	=4
Gout	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	High	6

Other condition-specific areas:
- inflammatory autoimmune conditions
- epilepsy
- renal failure
- gout
- migraine
- macular degeneration
- hypertension
- osteoporosis
- chronic airways disease

Topical corticosteroids

'Topical corticosteroids and atopic dermatitis' had the most clearly defined target audience and program scope. Therefore, a program of work on this area might be considered to have the greatest potential impact on QUM/T in the short to medium term. In addition, stakeholders warned of some urgency in this area since misinformation regarding topical corticosteroid use is currently being actively propagated in the community via social media platforms.