



Australian Government

Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Department of Infrastructure
and Regional Development

Business

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Stronger Communities Programme – Round 3

Fact Sheet

The Stronger Communities Programme supports the Australian Government's commitment to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia.

The programme will fund small capital projects in each of the 150 federal electorates to improve local community participation and contribute to vibrant and viable communities.

What does it offer?

A total of \$22.5 million is available in Round 3 of the programme. Each electorate will receive \$150,000 for allocation to successful applications. A maximum of 20 projects will be funded in each electorate.

For each project, the grant amount will be up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

- The minimum grant amount is \$2,500.
- The maximum grant amount is \$20,000.

No more than 50 per cent of your total eligible project cost can be funded from the Commonwealth government grants.

You can fund your share of eligible project costs from any source including state and local government. Your contribution can be either cash or in-kind.

How does it work?

Your local Member of Parliament (MP) may choose to participate in the programme. If they do, they must consult with either an existing consultation committee or establish a new consultation committee with representatives from the local community.

The MP and the consultation committee identify potential applicants and projects in your electorate. The identified projects must be consistent with the intended programme's outcomes and criteria.

Your MP will invite potential applicants to apply for a grant to deliver specific projects. The invitation will include a link to an online application form and details on how to apply. Your MP must advise the department of the basis for project selection.

To be eligible you must be invited by your MP to apply and your project must

- deliver social benefits to your community
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure
- have at least \$5,000 in eligible expenditure.

Your project should be scheduled for completion by 30 June 2018.

The grant amount and project in your application must be the same as that detailed in your invitation and reported by your local MP to the department.

Who can apply?

To be eligible you must

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be one of the following entities

- a local government agency or body as defined in Appendix A of the [programme guidelines](#)
- a not for profit organisation that is a legal entity (the [programme guidelines](#) provide detail on how you must demonstrate your 'not for profit' status)
- a trustee acting on behalf of a property trust with responsibility for a community asset.

For further information on programme eligibility refer to the [programme guidelines](#).

What is a legal entity?

A legal entity is an entity that has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right, and to be held responsible for its actions.

Can I apply if my organisation is not a legal entity?

If your organisation is not a legal entity you are not eligible to apply. However, there may be a parent organisation that is a legal entity that could apply on your behalf provided they also meet the programme's eligibility criteria.

The parent organisation can apply as a lead applicant and must:

- meet the programme's eligibility criteria
- be the main driver of the project
- submit the Stronger Communities Programme online application
- if successful, enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth
- ensure that the grant is spent on the project and in accordance with the agreement.

What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include:

- purchase of materials
- equipment hire, lease or purchase directly related to the project
- fit out, alterations and/ or extensions to existing premises
- modifications to leased buildings or grounds for example refurbishing where you have support from the owner.

The projects listed below are a guide of the types of projects that are eligible:

- upgrades, construction and fit-out of community spaces, e.g. men's sheds
- fit-out of community centres, health centres, e.g. kitchen upgrades and equipment purchases such as computers, TVs and furniture and fittings
- bike paths
- sporting facilities upgrades including new scoreboards, spectator seating, goalposts, new turf, fit-out of changes rooms, new canteen, new lights, medical equipment, upgrade drainage and water systems, gymnasiums
- streetscapes
- skate parks
- purchase of equipment for local SES

- upgrade of facilities to provide disabled access
- purchase of vehicles and trailers for community transport/services, surf lifesaving, medical transport
- park furniture upgrade or installation including shade/shelters, BBQs, toilet facilities, drinking fountains.

How will my application be assessed?

It is important to note that being invited to submit an application by your MP, does not guarantee that your application will be successful.

We will assess your application for completeness and against all the eligibility criteria.

To be recommended for funding, your project must meet all eligibility criteria as these projects provide the best value for money.

The Departmental Approver decides which grants to approve taking into account the eligibility assessment of the department, any reputational risk to the Australian Government, information you provide, and the availability of grant funds.

When can I start my project?

You may start your project from the date you submit your application online and receive an automatic confirmation from the department. However, if you choose to start your project before you enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth, any costs incurred are at your own risk. You will not receive any funding if your application is unsuccessful.

What will I need to do if successful?

You must enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage).

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the project.

How do I apply?

You should read the [programme guidelines](#) before you apply.

To apply you must

- be invited by your MP to submit an application for your project
- complete the online Stronger Communities Programme application form accessed by the link in the email you receive from your MP
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

Where can I find more information?

Visit business.gov.au or call **13 28 46**.