



National
Native Title
Tribunal



Guide to Australian Government Funding Sources

Updated
July 2009
Research Unit

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Introduction

The Guide to Australian Government Funding Sources provides information on funding and assistance programs that may be available from Australian Government departments and their agencies, and from private entities, for initiatives which might be associated with native title and related agreements, including Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Examples of such initiatives include Indigenous economic and social development, land management, conservation and cultural heritage protection.

The Guide provides an overview of relevant programs in a standardised and streamlined format, with links to further details about each program.

Programs are categorised into:

- Economic development and business support
- Employment
- Heritage protection and environment
- Land acquisition
- Community infrastructure
- Capacity-building.

A profile of each program includes an outline of its purpose, general eligibility requirements, assistance provided, closing date and where to find further information.

This Guide is updated on a regular basis, but details such as funding cycles and closing dates will need to be verified by the reader using the contact information provided.

The National Native Title Tribunal accepts no responsibility for errors, omissions or for the currency of the information contained in the Guide. In this respect, the reader's attention is drawn to the Disclaimer.

Please note: The Guide is **not** an exhaustive compilation of all Australian Government funding sources for Indigenous people or entities. Links to further sources of information may be found at page 34.

Section 1 – Economic Development and Business Support

Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)

Westpac in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Purpose

The Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS) increases employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians by giving Indigenous businesses access to culturally appropriate commercial finance and professional and mentoring support services through a participating financial institution.

General eligibility

To apply for the scheme, you must:

- Have an ABN
- Be at least 51% Indigenous Australian owned (for companies this refers to shareholders), or for a partnership of two people, have at least one partner who is an Indigenous Australian
- Have at least 50% Indigenous Australian employees
- Utilise funds for the establishment of a new business, expansion or acquisition of an existing business that will lead to an increase in Indigenous employment
- Conduct a lawful business that does not involve the sex industry, or the production and distribution of pornography, and that is not culturally or socially inappropriate in the relevant local community
- Not be insolvent or in un-discharged bankruptcy
- Have total business debt liabilities (including ICAS finance) that do not exceed \$500 000 at any one time.

Assistance

Financial support for loans ranging from \$50 000 to \$500 000 is available over a three year period in conjunction with professional and mentoring support services. Financial support includes:

- An interest rate subsidy declining each 12 months to a market rate at the end of three years to ease the cost of financing new Indigenous businesses
- A subsidy of a portion of the bank's application/establishment fee(s) refunded to the applicant, whether successful or not, to encourage new lending applications (at time of writing up to \$820)
- A professional and mentoring support services subsidy.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

Check the [Information for Indigenous Business](#) website

Or call the Indigenous Employment hotline on 1802 102 or visit a participating [Westpac](#) branch.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the Westpac and DEEWR websites.

Indigenous Business Australia - Enterprises Programme

Agency: Indigenous Business Australia (IBA)

Purpose

The [IBA Enterprises Programme](#) aims to provide Indigenous people with skill development services and alternate funding products to achieve greater independence from Government and improve business management capabilities.

The programme provides eligible Indigenous applicants with a range of funding products for the acquisition, establishment and/or development of commercially viable small to medium sized enterprises that have demonstrated, or have the potential, to achieve long-term commercial viability.

General eligibility

Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Commercial viability – applicants must demonstrate how the business will repay the loan in accordance with the agreed terms
- Security – borrowers must provide adequate assets of sufficient real value that can be sold to recover the loan funds in case of default
- Satisfactory credit report
- Management skills.

Assistance

Based on the viability of an application, IBA can offer financial assistance with the:

- Acquisition
- Establishment or
- Expansion of the enterprise proposal.

IBA Enterprises will also provide assistance to:

- Develop your enterprise idea
- Plan your enterprise
- Facilitate training in how to manage and operate your enterprise
- Develop a marketing strategy and products
- Grow an existing enterprise.

The assistance IBA Enterprises offers does not need to be linked to a loan application nor do you need to be an existing client.

Closing dates

Not applicable.

Further information

If you wish to discuss a business proposal or require further information to assist with developing a proposal please contact:

IBA Enterprises Programme

Freecall: 1800 804 754 or
Email: enterprises@iba.gov.au or

Website: <http://www.iba.gov.au/> or at
[IBA offices](#) nationwide.

Information is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).
Click on your State/Territory, using map or text links to find the contact details for your local ICC.

Freecall: **1800 079 098** to be connected to the nearest ICC, except in
Nhulunbuy area – call 1800 089 148
Kalgoorlie area – call 1800 193 357
Kununurra area – call 1800 193 348

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the IBA website.

Indigenous Business Australia - Investments Programme

Agency: Indigenous Business Australia

Purpose

The [IBA Investments Programme](#) has a central role in working with the private sector and local Indigenous people to encourage and foster Indigenous economic independence. The Programme invests directly in business opportunities, often through joint venture arrangements with expert industry partners and Indigenous organisations, communities and/or individuals. The objective is to participate in businesses that provide for profit distribution, employment opportunities and asset growth.

General eligibility

The primary criterion in assessing a new proposal is clear evidence of long term commercial viability.

To determine the project's commercial viability, the Business Development Unit will carry out an evaluation of the business plan, historical financials, and cash flow projections. The viability of any joint venture partner(s) and their management experience will also be evaluated, including an assessment of assets.

As well as assessing commercial viability, the Business Development Unit will also examine potential Indigenous employment and training outcomes, as well as opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in the management and decision making processes for the business.

Assistance

If, after the initial assessment, the proposal is deemed to have merit, IBA may contract an expert consultant to perform a full analysis and appraisal of the venture (due diligence) to determine viability. A full due diligence may require additional information (e.g. legal and related matters, summary of tax position, and customer and market information).

Should the submission meet all criteria, the proposal will be presented to IBA's Board of Directors for their final decision.

The [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005 \(Cth\)](#) s 148(2)(d) specifically requires that IBA have regard to the desirability of making specialist expertise available to Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders engaged in commercial activities.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

IBA Investments Programme
Freecall: 1300 662 746 or
Email: investments@iba.gov.au or

Website: <http://www.iba.gov.au> or at
[IBA offices](#) nationwide.

Information is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).

Click on your State/Territory, using map or text links to find the contact details for your local ICC.

Freecall: **1800 079 098** to be connected to the nearest ICC, except in
Nhulunbuy area – call 1800 089 148
Kalgoorlie area – call 1800 193 357
Kununurra area – call 1800 193 348

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the IBA website.

TQUAL Grants

Agency: AusIndustry (program delivery arm of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism (DRET))

Purpose

The objective of the *TQUAL Grants* program is to stimulate sustainable growth in the Australian tourism industry by supporting initiatives that:

- Develop innovative product, services or systems within the tourism industry
- Contribute directly to long-term economic development in the host region
- Develop or support high quality visitor services and experiences.

Assistance

TQUAL Grants is a highly competitive merit-based grant program. It offers grants, exclusive of GST, for eligible projects—ranging from \$5,000 to \$500,000—in three categories:

Category 1: Innovative tourism projects—grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Category 2: Integrated tourism development projects—grants range from \$100,000 to \$500,000

Category 3: National or sectoral tourism initiatives—grants range from \$25,000 to \$500,000.

Category 1 applicants

The following organisations can apply for a category 1 grant providing they meet the applicant eligibility requirements:

- Private sector businesses
- Non-profit organisations
- Regional tourism or regional economic development organisations
- Local government agencies.

Category 1 projects

Category 1 projects should aim to stimulate the development of innovative tourism product, service(s) or system(s).

In order to support tourism operators in the key phases of product development, category 1 grants are divided into three options for:

- Project initiation—grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000
- Project planning—grants range from \$40,000 to \$75,000
- Project implementation—grants range from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Category 2 applicants

The following organisations can apply for a category 2 grant providing they meet the applicant eligibility criteria:

- Regional tourism or regional economic development organisations
- Local government agencies

- Non-profit organisations.

Category 2 projects

Category 2 projects should aim to enhance the overall tourism appeal of a large area by encouraging inter-regional collaboration to achieve greater tourism benefits.

Projects funded under this category will be large scale, collaborative, multi-faceted activities that involve a number of regions.

Category 3 applicants

The following organisations can apply for a category 3 grant providing they meet the applicant eligibility requirements:

- National tourism peak bodies
- National tourism industry associations
- National tourism sectoral industry associations.

Category 3 projects

Category 3 projects should aim to provide strategic support to the Australian tourism industry by funding national or sectoral peak bodies to develop national projects which offer leadership to industry.

Projects funded under this category must have national benefit or application and advance the industry as a whole.

Category 3 projects would be expected to showcase innovation, encourage productivity gains and support world's best practice across all elements of the tourism supply chain.

General eligibility

Contact AusIndustry

Closing date

Contact AusIndustry.

Further information

For further information about the *TQUAL Grants* program, visit the [website](#) of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism, or contact the delivery agency, [AusIndustry](#), or call the AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46

Or email hotline@ausindustry.gov.au

Status of program: Applications closed on Thursday, 11 June 2009. The current round of TQUAL Grants will utilise all of the currently available funding for the program. The program will be evaluated and the Government will consider any future funding arrangements. You can register for [email updates](#) at the AusIndustry website.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the AusIndustry and DRET websites.

Section 2 – Employment

Indigenous Wage Subsidy (IWS)

Agency: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

The [Indigenous Wage Subsidy](#) provides an incentive to employers to employ eligible Indigenous job seekers on an on-going basis. The Program is managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

General eligibility

To be eligible for the Indigenous Wage Subsidy the job must be:

- Paid under an Award or Certified Agreement
- Ongoing (that is, the employer knows of no reason why the position will not continue indefinitely)
- A full-time position of 35 hours per week or more, full-time specified in the relevant Award or Agreement OR a part-time position of at least 15 hours per week, every week for the 26 week subsidy period
- Not receiving wage subsidy funding from any other government program (see guidelines for exceptions).

The employee must be:

- An unemployed Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- If 21 years of age or over, receiving an eligible income support payment, or
- Participating in a CDEP project – and consequently not in receipt of income support (the job must be outside of CDEP grant funding) or
- If under 21 years and not in receipt of income support, registered with Centrelink or a Job Services Australia provider as looking for work.

Indigenous job seekers must be unemployed and actively looking for work. If they are 21 years of age or older they must be receiving an eligible income support payment. They can be a CDEP participant. If they are under 21 they do not need to be receiving an income support payment.

Assistance

From 1 July 2009, the subsidy will comprise two components:

- A set rate subsidy of \$4400 for full-time positions and a retention bonus of \$1100 after 13 and 26 weeks of employment and
- A set rate subsidy of \$2200 for part-time positions and a retention bonus of \$550 after 13 and 26 weeks of employment.

The Retention Bonus is available for positions with job start dates after 1 July 2009.

Career Development Assistance of up to \$550 (including GST) can be reimbursed to employers when their IWS employee (with job start dates after 1 July 2009) commences in an accredited training course within their first 26 weeks of employment.

Closing date

[Applications](#) should be submitted within 28 days of the employee commencing employment.

Further information

Wage Assistance

Indigenous Employment Program Branch

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

10 Mort St, Canberra ACT 2601

or

GPO Box 9879

Canberra City ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6121 6000 or 1802 102 (Indigenous Employment Line)

Email: waadmin@deewr.gov.au

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEEWR website.

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme

Agency: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

The [New Enterprise Incentive Scheme](#) (NEIS) assists eligible job seekers to start new, viable small businesses.

Eligibility

To participate in NEIS you must be registered with a Job Services Australia provider. Your provider can tell you if you are eligible. You also must:

- be at least 18 years old when you begin receiving NEIS Assistance
- be available to participate in required training and work
- full time* in your proposed NEIS business
- not be an undischarged bankrupt
- not have received NEIS Assistance for a similar business activity
- not have received NEIS Assistance in the previous two years.

* or less hours as allowed where someone has been assessed as having a partial capacity to work, or reduced work participation requirements, or those who are volunteers to employment services.

As well, your NEIS business must be:

- not currently operating on a commercial basis
- independent, capable of withstanding public scrutiny, and lawful
- assessed as commercially viable by a NEIS provider
- not based on the purchase or takeover of an existing business
- not competing directly with existing businesses, unless it can be demonstrated that there is an unsatisfied demand for the product or service, or the product or service is to be provided in a new way
- established, located and operated solely within Australia in an area of skills shortage for those less disadvantaged job seekers.

Assistance

NEIS provides accredited small business training, business advice and mentoring for eligible job seekers, as well as ongoing income support for up to 52 weeks.

Your NEIS provider will help you decide whether you should undertake a Certificate III in Micro-Business Operations or a Certificate IV in Small Business Management. This will depend on the type of the small business you are planning. During the training you will also develop a business plan which will need to be approved by your NEIS provider.

If your business plan is approved, you will receive NEIS Assistance which is:

- NEIS Allowance for up to 52 weeks
- NEIS Rental Assistance for up to 26 weeks (if eligible)
- business mentoring and support during your first year of business operation.

Closing date

N/A

Further Information

Call 13 17 64 or visit [Job Services Australia](#)

These [Guidelines](#) set out the administration and delivery requirements for the provision of services that must be supplied by Approved Organisations, and relate specifically to NEIS-PPP Trainees.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEEWR website.

Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Project

(Please note: this program is listed as being under review as at 1 July 2009)

Agency: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

The [Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Project](#) encourages private sector companies to generate job opportunities for indigenous people. It allows them to use elements of the Australian Government's Indigenous Employment Program to develop and tailor their Indigenous employment strategies to meet their business needs.

General eligibility

Private sector companies who wish to generate job opportunities for Indigenous people.

Assistance

A flexible package of funding is available to all Corporate Leader organisations. The funding, for example, can be tailored to the particular organisation's business needs and may assist in the development and implementation of a strategy that could include assistance for pre-employment training, mentoring or cross-cultural awareness training.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

[Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations](#)

10 Mort St, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6121 6000 or
1802 102 (Indigenous Employment Line)

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEEWR and Workplace websites.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) (Reformed 1 July 2009)/CDEP Work Experience Subsidy (CWES)

Agencies: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)/Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Important changes to CDEP

The reformed CDEP program is part of an integrated approach to employment services for Indigenous Australians which commenced with the introduction of [Job Services Australia](#) from 1 July 2009. The new services will work in partnership to provide greater support to Indigenous Australians in finding sustainable employment.

New participants will be referred to CDEP by a Job Services Australia Provider. New participants will receive an appropriate income support payment rather than CDEP wages. (see Assistance below)

Current CDEP participants at 30 June 2009 will be able to access CDEP wages where CDEP is continuing until at least 30 June 2011 to support their transition to the new arrangements. Wages will be phased out on a community by community basis over a three month period from 30 June -30 September 2011.

Current participants will also be required to register with a Job Services Australia Provider in their area by 30 September 2009. Participants will need to comply with their participation requirements including attending training, job interviews and other activities outlined in the Employment Pathway Plan agreed with their Job Services Australia Provider.

The reformed CDEP program will only operate in communities where there are limited economic opportunities. CDEP ceased in areas with established economies on 1 July 2009.

[Job Services Australia](#) will work together with the [Community Development and Employment Projects](#) (CDEP), the reformed [Indigenous Employment Program](#) (IEP) and other training and service organisations focused on helping Indigenous Australians. [Job Services Australia providers](#) will work with local communities to develop jobs and training opportunities.

CDEP Work Experience Subsidy (CWES)

Purpose of CWES

The aim of the CDEP Work Experience Subsidy (CWES) is to increase employment for CDEP participants by supporting employers, through a wage subsidy, who provide paid work experience to new CDEP participants (on income support). The subsidy is linked with the CDEP Work Readiness services stream and will be funded through the IEP.

Eligibility

Participant

To be eligible for CWES, the participant must be:

- Of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and be accepted as such by the community in which he/she lives or has lived

- Currently unemployed and registered with a Job Services Australia provider
- In receipt of an eligible income support payment and
- Referred to an employer by a CDEP provider.

Employer Eligibility

Employers in the private, public or community sector who have an Australian Business Number are eligible to apply for CWES.

Eligible work experience positions

Positions are eligible if they:

- Involve a normal employer/employee relationship subject to the applicable legal industrial arrangement, made under Commonwealth, State or Territory law (eg, an Award or Collective Agreement) and
- Are for a minimum of seven and a half hours per week or
- Meet the subsidised/non-subsidised ratio requirements.

For fuller details click [here](#).

Assistance

Participant

The amount of subsidy will be based on the rate of Newstart (single, no children) plus remote allowance for participants aged 21 years and over, and Youth Allowance (18+, no children, not living at home) plus remote allowance for participants under 21 years of age. The subsidy amount covers placements for a minimum of 7.5 hours per week, to a maximum of 15 hours per week and is paid at an hourly rate.

The hourly rate at the time of placement will continue throughout the life of the work experience placement and will not be subject to CPI increases applicable either to Newstart or Youth Allowance.

Where a participant under 21 years commences a placement, the rate of subsidy will apply for the life of the placement, and will not increase, regardless of whether the participant turns 21 over the course of the placement.

Subsidy rates will increase annually on 1 July each year for new participants and will be consistent with either the Newstart or Youth Allowance rate at that time.

Where a work experience participant's gross work experience wage is less than the amount of subsidy payable to the employer, the department will reduce the subsidy payable to equal the amount of the participant's gross work experience wage.

Employer

CWES payments are paid retrospectively to the employer. All CWES placements will be for a minimum of 13 weeks with the first payment becoming due to the employer after 13 weeks from commencement of the new CDEP participant. Employers should submit the application form within 28 days of the job seeker commencing employment.

Further Information

[CDEP Work Experience Subsidy](#)

Indigenous Employment Program Branch

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

GPO Box 9879
Canberra City ACT 2601

Switchboard Toll Free: 1300 653 227 (calls from mobile phones charged at mobile rates)
TTY: 1800 260 402

Fax: 02 6276 9617
Email - waadmin@deewr.gov.au

[Centrelink](#)

Information may also be obtained from an [Indigenous Coordination Centre](#) (ICC)
Phone: 1800 079 098.

For the following locations call:

- Nhulunbuy 1800 089 148
- Kalgoorlie 1800 193 357
- Kununurra 1800 193 348

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the FaHCSIA and DEEWR websites.

Section 3 – Heritage Protection and Environment

Working on Country Program

(An element of the [Caring for our Country Program](#))

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

[Working on Country](#) will:

- Support Indigenous aspirations in caring for country
- Protect and manage Australia's environmental and heritage values by providing paid employment for Indigenous people to undertake environmental work on country, and
- Provide nationally accredited training and career pathways for Indigenous people in land and sea management, in partnership with industry and others

General eligibility

- An Indigenous group or organisation wishing to do work on country; and/or
- An Indigenous organisation that is legally incorporated that can manage the contract; or
- A not-for-profit body that is legally incorporated in Australia that can act as a contract manager for an Indigenous group or organisation; or
- A local government authority or natural resource management body that can act as a contract manager (works that are considered part of the local government's normal responsibility are not eligible).

However, the area where the project will be carried out must have a current environmental management plan. This plan must be at an appropriate scale for the work that you want to do. Generally, this will be at a local property scale, rather than a regional scale. It needs to be detailed enough to provide a framework for the activities that you want to undertake.

Assistance

Funding for Working on Country is available from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2013, with \$90 million to be invested over the next five years. Funding can be spent on wages and administrative costs. Some funding is available for training and travel costs, for vehicle lease, and for buying equipment and materials like traps, chemicals, safety equipment and tools.

Closing date

Contact the Indigenous Policy Branch.

Further information

Indigenous Policy Branch

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

Phone 1800 552 008 (free call)

(02) 6274 2939 (we can call you back)

Email workingoncountry@environment.gov.au

[Working on Country](#) website:

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Indigenous Heritage Programme

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

The [Indigenous Heritage Programme](#) is an Australian Government initiative that aims to support the identification, conservation, and promotion (where appropriate) of the Indigenous heritage values of places important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The programme may also assist in the identification of places likely to have outstanding Indigenous heritage value to Australia; that is, places of national heritage significance suitable for inclusion on the National Heritage List.

General eligibility

To be eligible you must, at the closing date for applications, be:

- A legally incorporated Indigenous organisation; or
- A not-for-profit body that is legally incorporated in Australia; or
- A Traditional Owner of the subject Indigenous heritage place; or
- An individual (who is an Australian citizen), acting on behalf of the Traditional Owners or
- With the approval and support of the Traditional Owners; or
- A local government authority (works that would be considered part of the local government's normal responsibility, e.g. maintenance of Council buildings, access roads etc will be considered ineligible).

As the Australian Government wishes to assist Indigenous community groups through the programme, preference will be given to these groups. Applications from state or territory departments, agencies or authorities (including educational institutions) will only be considered where a written request has been received by the relevant Indigenous community to undertake the project on their behalf.

Assistance

The Indigenous Heritage Programme will provide grants for projects which:

- Conserve Indigenous heritage places
- Identify Indigenous heritage places
- Undertake planning for Indigenous heritage places
- Interpret or explain a Indigenous heritage place; or
- Construct keeping places to house remains and/or objects that require restricted access.

Individual project funding for organisations will in general be available up to a maximum of \$100,000 (GST Inclusive). Individual applicants will generally be eligible for funding up to \$5000. Applications for more than these amounts may be considered where the applicant demonstrates special circumstances or a genuine requirement for additional funds.

The Indigenous Heritage Programme [Guide](#) will help you develop your project. If you need help to fill in your application form, contact an [Indigenous Coordination Centre](#), or call (toll free) 1800 079 098 (which will link to the ICC in your state or territory.)

Closing date

Contact the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for information on the next round of grants.

Further information

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 653 004

(02) 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 1666

Email: heritagegrants@environment.gov.au

Call 1800 982 280 to check eligibility.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Indigenous Protected Area Program

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

An [Indigenous Protected Area](#) (IPA) is an area of Indigenous-owned land or sea where traditional Indigenous owners have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to promote biodiversity and cultural resource conservation. The IPA program supports Indigenous communities to manage their land as IPAs, contributing to the [National Reserve System](#). There are currently (July 2009) [28](#) IPAs, and other Indigenous communities are in the process of developing their land as an IPA.

General eligibility

The following bodies can apply for IPA funding:

- Incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, including:
- Land councils
- Community councils
- Land management agencies
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land trusts or representative bodies.

Indigenous groups seeking funding to develop an IPA on Indigenous-owned lands should:

- Have secure tenure (e.g. freehold, deed-of-grant, leasehold) over the land where they wish to establish the IPA
- Have land which features high natural and cultural heritage values
- Have a clear intention to manage the land long-term for the conservation of its natural and cultural features
- Not intend to use the IPA for any land use that will degrade the natural or cultural heritage values
- Be able to manage and protect the IPA by legal or other effective means, for example:
 - Traditional management practices can be effective means of management
 - Customary law is recognised as a form of management which satisfies World Conservation Union guidelines
 - Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation can protect IPAs, through agreements with appropriate government agencies.

Assistance

Funding for Indigenous Protected Areas has been boosted to \$50 million over five years (2008-09 to 2012-13) through the Caring for our Country initiative. The first instalment - more than \$24 million - has already been announced.

Funding proposals can be submitted at any time for:

- Establishing IPAs on [Indigenous-owned lands](#); or
- Establishing cooperative management arrangements over existing [State and Territory government-managed protected areas](#).

Closing Date

The Indigenous Land Management Section will accept IPA project applications at any time during the year. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts encourages potential applicants to contact the Indigenous Land Management Section of Parks Australia to discuss their application.

If you have any general enquires please contact the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Community Information Unit on 1800 065 823.

Further information

Director

Indigenous Land Management Section

Parks Australia

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 065 823 or
(0)2 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 2349

Website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/index.html>

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Community Heritage Grants (CHG)

Agency: The program is funded by the Australian Government and managed by the National Library of Australia with support provided by Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the National Archives of Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Museum of Australia.

Purpose

The [Community Heritage Grants](#) (CHG) Program aims to preserve and provide access to locally held nationally significant cultural heritage collections across Australia.

General eligibility

Australian community organisations which are legal entities — such as an incorporated organisation, a trust or association including:

Archives; Art Galleries; Community Groups; Genealogical societies; Historical societies; Indigenous groups; Migrant community groups; Museums; Professional Associations; Public libraries; Religious groups; Schools- including primary and secondary government schools.

Assistance

In 2009 the program provided grant funding of up to \$15 000 for preservation projects, and preservation and collection management training through community based workshops.

Closing date

Contact Coordinator.

Further information

Coordinator

[Community Heritage Grants](#)

National Library of Australia

Canberra ACT 2600

Tel: (02) 6262 1147

Fax: (02) 6273 4493

Email: chg@nla.gov.au

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the National Library of Australia website.

Education for Sustainability Grants Program

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

The Education for Sustainability Grants Program aims to support projects that facilitate changes in community attitudes and behaviours in support of sustainable development in Australia.

General eligibility

Eligible groups may include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Community groups and associations
- Industry associations
- Rural organisations
- Local governments
- Universities and further education institutions
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander corporations, councils or incorporated associations; and
- Environmental and education groups.

Assistance

The Education for Sustainability Grants Program has limited funds and competition for these resources is high. The Program is generally only able to fund a small number of strategic projects each year. Funding of up to \$100,000 per project will be considered. If you would like to discuss the suitability of a project for future funding, you should contact the Sustainability Education Section by either phone, mail or e-mail [see below].

Closing date

Contact the Sustainability Education Section.

Further information

Sustainability Education Section

[Education for Sustainability Grants Program](#)

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6274 1523

Email: ee@erin.gov.au

See also [Guide](#) for Applicants.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Section 4 – Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition: Cultural and Environmental Heritage Protection program

Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)

Purpose

This [program](#) assists Indigenous corporations to achieve long-term sustainable benefits, particularly in protection, maintenance and revitalisation of cultural and environmental heritage, through the purchase and subsequent granting of a property.

General eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Be an Indigenous controlled organisation that is:
 - Incorporated (or in the process of becoming incorporated)
 - Able to legally enter into a lease arrangement and hold title to land; and
 - Effectively governed and compliant with regulatory responsibilities.
2. Include in its membership Traditional Owners or people with traditional links to the land.
3. Demonstrate that there are no disputes about peoples' connection to the land.
4. Demonstrate commitment and capacity to own and manage land, and undertake the proposed land use.
5. Demonstrate how it will be actively involved in managing the property and the land use.

Assistance

The ILC will assist with:

- Cost of the property
- Settlement costs associated with the acquisition
- Where required, a facilitator to assist with development of a property plan
- Immediate costs to bring the property into suitable condition, such as:
 - Essential maintenance and repairs to address health and safety issues;
 - Limited capital development or property improvement; and / or
 - Purchase of plant and equipment.

Closing date

Contact ILC.

Further information

[Indigenous Land Corporation](#)

Freecall: 1800 818 490

Email: ilcinfo@ilc.gov.au

See also the [National Indigenous Land Strategy](#) (2007 - 2012).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ILC website.

Land Acquisition: Socio-Economic Development program

Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC)

Purpose

The [Socio-Economic Development program](#) assists Indigenous corporations to achieve long-term sustainable benefits, particularly in training and employment participation, through the purchase and subsequent granting of a property.

General eligibility

1. Application must be made by an Indigenous controlled organisation that is:
 - a) Incorporated (or in the process of becoming incorporated);
 - b) Able to legally enter into a lease arrangement and hold title to land; and
 - c) Effectively governed and compliant with regulatory responsibilities.
2. That can demonstrate commitment and capacity to own and manage land, and undertake the proposed land use.
3. That can demonstrate a need for land ownership that cannot be met through the functions of other agencies or use of other Indigenous-held land in the region.
4. That can demonstrate how it will be actively involved in managing the property and the land use.

Assistance

The ILC can assist with:

- Cost of the property
- Settlement costs associated with the acquisition
- Immediate start-up costs to bring the property into suitable condition, such as:
 - Essential maintenance and repairs to address health and safety issues;
 - Limited capital development or property improvement; and / or
 - Purchase of plant and equipment.

Closing date

Contact ILC.

Further information

[Indigenous Land Corporation](#)

Tel: 1800 818 490 (freecall)

Email: ilcinfo@ilc.gov.au

See also the [National Indigenous Land Strategy](#) (2007 - 2012).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ILC website.

Section 5 – Community Infrastructure

Indigenous Communications Program

Agency: The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

Purpose

The objective of the [Indigenous Communications Program](#) is to improve essential telecommunications services, basic public internet access facilities and computer training for remote Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Communications Program will build upon existing programs to ensure remote Indigenous communities receive greater access to enhanced and more flexible solutions to address their telecommunications needs.

\$30 million will be provided to the program over four years.

Assistance

The Indigenous Communications Program will deliver:

- A fixed or mobile community telephone to around 300 remote Indigenous communities that do not currently have access to a public telephone
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of these 300 new phones and 250 existing phones, and
- In collaboration with state and territory governments, the installation of public internet access facilities and delivery of computer training in up to 120 remote Indigenous communities that have limited or no public access internet facilities.

Eligibility

Telephone services element

Remote Indigenous communities with a population of less than 50 that do not have access to a public phone may be eligible for a community phone. Eligible remote Indigenous communities will be nominated by relevant Australian Government, state or territory agencies, or appointed community liaison officers.

Internet access and training element

Public internet access and training services will be provided to eligible communities that are nominated by state and territory governments. The public internet access and training element will target remote Indigenous hub communities, typically with a population of 100 or more, that have limited or no public internet access facilities.

Further information

Indigenous Communications Program team

Indigenous Communications Branch

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

GPO Box 2154

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Freecall 1800 355 014

Fax: 02 6271 1435

Email: bia@dbcde.gov.au

Please visit the Department's web site at <http://www.dbcde.gov.au/>

Information on the program is also available from [Indigenous Coordination Centres](#).

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DBCDE website.

Section 6 – Capacity-building

Caring for Our Country Facilitators: Indigenous Land Management Facilitators

Agency: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

Purpose

[Indigenous Land Management Facilitators](#) are people who know the grants and programs on offer from the Commonwealth Government, and can help Indigenous people access them. The [Facilitators](#) provide a practical two-way link between Indigenous land managers and other individuals and agencies involved in sustainable land management and nature conservation activities.

The Government supports a national [network](#) of Indigenous Land Management Facilitators, with at least one Facilitator in each State and Territory.

General eligibility

Not applicable

Assistance

The Facilitators provide information to Indigenous communities about the types of support and technical advice which is available to assist them with the land management issues on their lands. The Facilitators also provide feedback to Commonwealth Government policy makers on land management issues that are of concern to Indigenous communities, and help to raise awareness within government agencies and the non-Indigenous communities of Indigenous values, aspirations and capacity in land management.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

Caring for Our Country Facilitators
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
GPO Box 787
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 1800 065 823 or
(02) 6274 1111

Fax: (02) 6274 2735.

Email: ciu@environment.gov.au

Website: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/do/facilitator.html>

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the DEWHA website.

Small Grants for Small Rural Communities Program

Organisation: Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal. (FRRR)

Purpose

The Foundation supports the development of regional community foundations, and uses seed funding and challenge grants to move regional development project funding into a more dynamic context. Click [here](#) for details of FRRR's main aims.

General eligibility

From a long list of Grant Assessment Criteria the following are mandatory. The project must:

- Offer a clear public benefit for some or all of the community living in rural, regional and/or remote Australia
- Contribute to rural and regional renewal, regeneration and development in Australia in social, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Click [here](#) for full details of FRRR's grant criteria.

Click [here](#) for details on Indigenous-specific funded projects.

Assistance

Not-for-profit organisations can apply for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas. Applications from communities with a population of 10 000 or less will receive priority. Grants will be made in amounts up to \$5000.

Closing date

There are two rounds of Small Grants per year. Contact FRRR for details.

Further information

[Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal](#)

Tel: 1800 170 020 or (03) 5443 7300

Fax: (03) 5443 8900

Email: info@frrr.org.au

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the FRRR website.

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV)

Agency: Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) is primarily funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Purpose

Indigenous Community Volunteers is a not-for-profit organisation set up to assist Indigenous communities to become self sustaining through creating effective partnerships between Indigenous people, corporations and the wider Australian community. It seeks to bring within reach the skills, knowledge and advice that will make a difference to Indigenous communities' short and long-term development goals. It is the only organisation that offers this wide support to Indigenous communities.

ICV aims to work with sponsors to develop and nurture active partnerships built on ongoing commitment, mutual understanding and respect. ICV's work will make a difference in Indigenous communities by supporting projects designed to fill a skills gap, and not replace other community support programs.

General eligibility

Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV) will consider all skills requests from communities.

Assistance

ICV works closely with each supporting corporation, trust or philanthropic organisation to develop a sponsorship proposal and agreement which fits with the donor organisation's sponsorship principles and criteria. The agreement will clearly set out sponsors' expectations.

ICV recruits volunteers with the necessary skills to work in communities for periods from two weeks to 6 months and also to transfer their skills to communities to ensure lasting benefit. It ensures volunteers are well prepared by arranging for them to attend a cultural awareness program before arriving in a community and that they receive support in the community through a mentor system. It also monitors progress throughout the life of the project.

Travel, training and living costs are paid by ICV, and the community provides accommodation and a cultural mentor to advise the volunteer. ICV monitors each project and its outcomes; and supports the community and volunteer during the project.

ICV is an approved Deductible Gift Recipient and all donations to it over \$2 (including trading stock) are tax deductible.

Closing date

Not applicable.

Further information

[Indigenous Community Volunteers](#)

GPO Box 2213, Canberra ACT 2601

Tel: 1800 819 542 (toll free)

Email: info@volindigenous.org.au

[Regional offices](#)

[FAQs](#) for volunteers

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the ICV website.

Further Information on Programs

Indigenous Coordination Centres (ICCs)

Indigenous people can access information on government programs by talking to staff at Indigenous Coordination Centres. Working with local people, ICC staff can broker innovative and flexible whole-of-government solutions to local and regional needs, using both Indigenous-specific and mainstream funding.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs manages the network of Indigenous Coordination Centres across Australia. ICCs are multi-agency units that administer most of the Australian Government's Indigenous programs at the local and regional level, including managing the [common application process](#). Click [here](#) for ICC locations and contact details.

Source: The text on this page is either taken verbatim from, or is a précis of, material on the FaHCSIA website.

Links to Funding Programs

Note: The following links will lead to most, but perhaps not all, Federal Government funding programs for Indigenous Australians. There is therefore a fair degree of overlap. Please note that some of the links within these websites may be defunct or lead to out of date information.

[Indigenous Portal](#)

Resources, contacts, information, and government programs and services for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.

[GrantsLINK](#)

Will help you find funding that is available under a variety of grant programs for individuals, businesses and communities to help them develop solutions to local and national problems, fund ideas and initiatives or provide assistance in times of hardship. The link includes information on some State/Territory programs.

[Commonwealth Parliamentary Library](#)

Probably the best source of information on Indigenous Australians; includes links to the full spread of funding programs.

State and Territory governments are also a source of funding and grants programs.