



**Australian Government**

**Department of Social Services**

# Disability Employment Centre of Excellence

**Public Briefing**

13 September 2024

# Acknowledgement of Country



*The Department of Social Services acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, water, culture and community.*

*We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.*

# We invite you to join the discussion

Use the QR Code for Disability  
Employment Centre of Excellence  
Grant Opportunity Webinar:



# Probity Statement

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 Commonwealth Grants Rules Principles 2024.

For today's event, this means that:

- this presentation will be made publicly available on the DSS website; any inconsistencies from this presentation the website takes precedence - these guidelines may be changed by DSS, when this happens the revised guidelines are published on GrantConnect
- any views expressed, or information provided, by attendees to this event will be considered, along with the views expressed and information provided by other stakeholders.

# Overview

## Key Topics


1. Purpose and intended outcomes
2. Grant opportunity guidelines
3. Applying for the grant opportunity
4. Consortium requirements
5. Establishment and operational activities
6. Core functions of the Centre
7. Evaluation of the Centre of Excellence
8. Selection criteria
9. Application process
10. Assessment of grant applications
11. Notification of application outcomes



**The Disability Employment Centre of Excellence (COE) expected to commence in March 2025**

**This will support the new Disability Employment program commencing 1 July 2025**


# Purpose and Intended Outcomes



**The Centre will be an evidence-informed, best-practice Hub.**

**It will collect, translate, disseminate and deliver disability employment related research, evidence and training.**


**The Centre is expected to commence in March 2025.**



**The Centre will support all providers deliver employment outcomes for people with disability.**

**The intended outcomes are to:**

- **increase the delivery of quality employment services**
- **improved understanding of employer needs**



# Centre of Excellence - Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Key elements</b>
26 August 2024	Grant Opportunity Forecast Notification and Grant Opportunity Guidelines released
4 September 2024	Grant opportunity opened
16 October 2024	Questions regarding grant should be sent no later than 5pm AEDT
23 October 2024	Grant opportunity will close 23 October 2024 9pm AEDT
November-December 2024	Assessment, selection and approval of successful grantee
January 2025	Outcome notifications sent to applicants
28 February 2025	Earliest start date of grant opportunity to commence
Up to 13 June 2025	A suite of information and practice-based resources on the topics of disability awareness and employer engagement for employment service providers must be delivered.
1 July 2025	New specialist Disability Employment Program commences.
1 September 2025	The Centre of Excellence online hub must be launched no later than 1 September 2025.
30 June 2028	End date for grant opportunity

# Applying for the grant opportunity



## **APPLICANT CRITERIA**

**Strong understanding of disability employment**

**Demonstrated leadership in employing people with disability**

**Demonstrated ability to leverage relationships and leading partnerships**

**Expertise in identifying relevant evidence**

**Ability to enter into a 4 year grant agreement.**



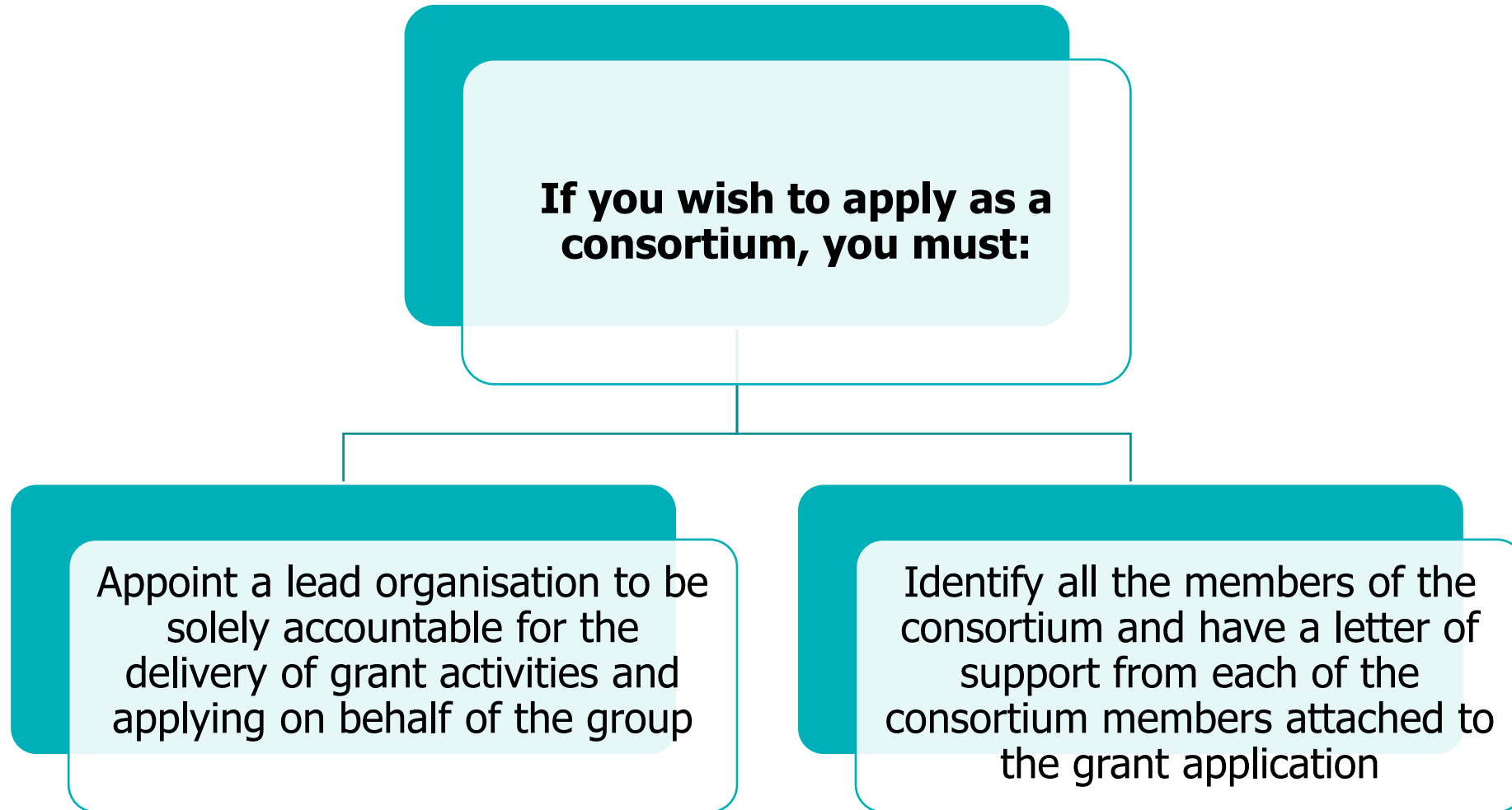
## **INELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS**

**Providers receiving funding from the Commonwealth to deliver employment services as:**

- **Disability Employment Services**
- **Workforce Australia**
- **NDIS provider**
- **Australian Disability Enterprise**



# Consortium requirements



# Establishment and Operational Activities

## **The following must be undertaken to deliver the Centre:**

- ✓ Undertake all necessary planning and administrative steps relating to the establishment and running of the Centre.
- ✓ Select, appoint and maintain suitably qualified and experienced staff
- ✓ Recruit a suitably qualified director of the Centre.
- ✓ Establish the governance of the Centre.
- ✓ The department will assist the successful applicant in setting the Centre's work program, undertake market research to develop the Centre's name and branding elements for the Centre and distribution of material ahead of the Centre's website being launched.

# Activities to deliver the core functions

## Development and delivery of resources

**The successful organisation or consortium must develop and deliver free and accessible resources, tools and training:**

Disability awareness and employer engagement resources must be delivered progressively up to 13 June 2025

Map existing research nationally and internationally and develop and deliver resources suitable for individuals, organisations and groups including :  
First Nations, CALD LGBTIQ+, young people and school leavers

Targeted resources and training on employment service practice, employer engagement, cultural competency, human rights and customised employment

An evidence-base of what works including a suite of best practice resources

# Website development

**The successful applicant must develop and maintain a Centre of Excellence website.**

- **Must be in place by 1 September 2025**
- **To host resources, tools and information**
- **Must be fully accessible and meet standard requirements**
- **The domain name, website and all content, code databases and related materials will be owned by the Commonwealth**

# Collaboration and Engagement

**Collaboration and engagement is essential to the success of the Centre. The successful applicant must:**

## **Engage and collaborate with all stakeholders:**

- Employment consultants
- Peak bodies
- Representative bodies
- Employers
- People with disability, their families and carers
- Advocacy organisations

## **Establish ongoing relationships or partnerships with:**

- Relevant organisations to share knowledge, access resources and avoid duplication
- Research Centres or hubs

## **Collaborate with employment service providers to:**

- Learn from experience and expertise
- Work out what is needed

# Promotion, communication and evaluation

**Effective promotion and communication of Centre activities will:**

- help to build trust with employment services
- develop awareness and use of available resources

An **independent evaluation** will be undertaken.

The successful applicant will participate in evaluation activities and work with the independent evaluator.

# Just in case you missed the QR code

Use the QR Code for Disability  
Employment Centre of Excellence  
Grant Opportunity Webinar:



# Assessment Criteria



**Criterion 1** – Capacity and capability to establish and operate the Centre of Excellence



**Criterion 2** – Proposed model, governance, and staffing structure of the Centre of Excellence



**Criterion 3** – Delivery of core functions of the Centre of Excellence



**Criterion 4** – Demonstrate how engagement and collaboration will be used to establish the Centre of Excellence



**Criterion 5** – Deliver value for money for Government



# Targeted information

## Draft Activity Work Plans

- Are expected to demonstrate clearly the objectives, deliverables, timeframes and measures of success to establish and deliver core functions of the Centre
- Includes risk management, detailed stakeholder engagement strategy and budget plan

## Independent Evaluation

- The department will undertake an independent post implementation review and evaluation
- The successful grantee will work closely with the evaluator

## Intellectual Property Clauses

- The department requires full intellectual property rights of content developed, to ensure freely accessible resources to all stakeholders across the disability employment sector.

# Application Process

## TO APPLY

Visit the GrantConnet website at:

**[www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au)**

You will find the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, application form, templates and questions and answers

**Your application MUST be submitted by  
9pm AEDT on 23 October 2024**

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

For any questions contact:

**Community Grants Hub**

**Phone: 1800 020 283**

Or

**Email:**

**[support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)**

**Questions should be sent no later than  
5:00pm AEDT on 16 October 2024**

# Assessment of grant applications

Late applications will not be accepted

The community grants hub will review all applications against the eligibility criteria

Only eligible applications will be assessed

Applications will be assessed on:

- its merits, based on how well it meets the assessment criteria, and
- how the application compares to other applications

The department will write to all applicants on the outcome of their application

# Questions and Answers

Please note that per the probity statement at the start of this session, any views expressed, or information provided, by you will be considered, along with the views expressed and information provided by other stakeholders.

The presentation along with the questions and answers to the questions will be published on the Grant Connect website.

# Thank You!

## Get in touch

---



[www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)

---



[support@communitygrants.gov.au](mailto:support@communitygrants.gov.au)

---

**The presentation will be published on the Centre of Excellence DSS website**

