

Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grants Round 2021 Questions and Answers – 9 August 2021

General

Q. What is the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program?

A. The Queensland Disability Advocacy Program aims to ensure Queensland has a coordinated approach to disability advocacy service provision, with a supporting framework and specified requirements. This funding model provides a coordinated approach to the delivery of disability advocacy services across Queensland through a grants funding program.

Q. What is advocacy support for people with disability?

A. Disability advocacy supports people with disability, through individual one on one support and through action on systemic issues, to safeguard their rights, experience equality and overcome barriers that can affect their ability to access services and participate in the community.

Q. How does the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program differ from the previous funding model for advocacy support?

A. Under the current funding arrangements, organisations provide individual advocacy services to people with disability in specific locations. These services play a critical role in providing support to people with disability in these regions. The new advocacy program funding model aims to provide equitable distribution of funding to support people with disability throughout all Queensland regions, particularly in regional and rural areas, by allocating an amount of funding to each region.

Q. What is being funded under the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants?

A. Grants are available for organisations to deliver:

- the first-ever centralised **Queensland Disability Advocacy Hub**, which will have an important leadership role for advocacy statewide, including establishing the Queensland Advocacy Network and identifying and escalating systemic issues
- **specialist services** providing individual advocacy support for First Nations people with disability; people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; and children and young people with disability aged up to 18 years
- **regional individual advocacy** support to people with disability throughout Queensland.

Q. What does an open grants round mean?

A. An open grants round is a way of making sure that all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for available funding. This ensures that everyone who is eligible to be considered for funding is able to make an application. Open competitive grant rounds have open and closing dates for applications, and eligible applications are assessed against published criteria.

Q. How can my organisation apply for a grant?

Details about how to apply for a grant, as well as the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Guidelines can be found at: www.communities.qld.gov.au/funding.

Q. When does the funding start and end?

A. The Queensland Disability Advocacy Program funding will commence from 1 January 2022 and end on 30 June 2023 (18 months).

Q. What if my organisation is already funded to deliver disability advocacy services on behalf of the Queensland Government?

A. All organisations currently funded to delivery advocacy services will need to re-apply for funding for the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants round.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for a Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grant?

- A. To be eligible to apply your organisation must:
- be able to demonstrate experience in providing disability advocacy services in Queensland for at least the past 12 months
 - be a registered business
 - be able to support the overarching purpose of the program as outlined in the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Guidelines
 - if successful, be able to demonstrate compliance with relevant requirements of the *Disability Services Act 2006* including worker screening requirements.

More detailed information on the eligibility criteria can be found at www.communities.qld.gov.au/funding.

Q. Can I apply for disability advocacy funding for a specific type of disability?

A. Any eligible organisation may apply for funding under the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants round. There is no funding available for specific disability types under this funding round and applicants must be able to demonstrate how they will deliver services for all people with disability.

Q. How much funding is available for the grants round?

A. The total funding amount available for the grants round is \$5.9 million from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023 (18 months). The detailed funding distribution is outlined in the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Guidelines, which can be found at www.communities.qld.gov.au/funding.

General

Q. What are the total number of advocacy hours delivered across the state, with breakdowns of number of advocacy hours by Local Government area, or region?

A. Between 1 July 2019 and 31 December 2020, advocacy funding provided by Queensland government funded advocacy organisations to deliver more than 34,000 hours of support to more than 3,400 people with disability.

Q. What are the types of advocacy issues dealt with by the Queensland government funded advocacy organisations across the state?

- Mainstream access issues: Legal issues, Housing/Tenancy, Health/Mental Health, Service Provision, Administrative (includes complaints, appeals processes).
- NDIS related issues: Access to Scheme, Plan Review and Service provision, Decision-making support, Access to Scheme.

Q. What are the level of hours and regions in which advocacy requests were not met by advocacy providers?

A. For the purposes of this grant round, the requested information is not publicly available.

Q. What is the average cost of an advocacy hour by regions/providers or the state-wide average of the cost/per hour of advocacy?

A. For the purposes of this grant round, the requested information is not publicly available.

Q. Any there any other statistics, figures or state-wide information that would assist respondents to prepare a well-informed submission to the grants round?

A. Please refer to the program guidelines for information to assist applicants in preparing their submissions.

Q. What are the service delivery reporting requirements for successful applicants?

A. Specific reporting requirements will be provided to successful applicants as part of the contractual arrangements. The data and information sought through the reporting requirements will be reasonable and proportional and will allow the department to measure and report on outputs and outcomes delivered.

Q. Can you provide a description of the major systemic advocacy issues dealt with by State Government funded providers and the number of hours of advocacy work being spent on those issues.

A. For the purposes of this grant round, the requested information is not publicly available.

Q. What is the expected timeframe for advising applicants of the funding outcomes?

A. The expected timeframe for the announcement of the funding is 15 October 2021. The timeframe is based on the extended grants application closing date of Monday 16 August 2021.

If the grants round timeframes are changed at the department's discretion, these changes will be communicated in a timely manner to applicants and the broader community.

Eligibility Criteria

Q. The eligibility criteria states an applicant must have experience in providing advocacy services in Queensland for at least 12 months. What are advocacy services?

A. The definition of advocacy services for the purposes of the eligibility criteria is outlined in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#) at pages 2 and 3:

The Queensland Disability Advocacy Program will provide grants to organisations to deliver individual advocacy services to Queenslanders with disability, their family members and carers that support them to safeguard their rights, experience equality and overcome barriers that can affect their ability to participate in the community and access services.

Although Queensland's transition to the NDIS may have created greater point-in-time focus on NDIS for advocacy services, the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program is intended to support and be accessible to all Queenslanders with disability, in all locations and of all ages and disability types, including people with impaired decision making capacity.

This includes assisting and supporting people with disability:

- *in understanding their rights*
- *in navigating the National Disability Insurance Scheme and other mainstream services*
- *in addressing gaps in support*
- *to address discrimination, conflict, and unfair treatment*
- *to make informed decisions*
- *to build capacity to advocate for themselves*
- *ensure their fundamental needs are being met*
- *through legal matters*
- *with information and referral to disability to support services, and*
- *in highlighting special needs arising during active disaster events, including natural disasters and pandemic related lockdowns or other public health related restrictions.*

Target group/service users:

Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants will be used to support all Queenslanders with disability across all disability types, including but not limited to:

- *people with disability in rural and remote areas of Queensland*
- *First Nations people with disability*
- *people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds*
- *younger people with disability.*

Q. Are collaboration/consortium applicants eligible? Are subcontracting arrangements acceptable?

A. As defined in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#) page 6 - *Who is Eligible to Apply*, an applicant can be a consortium.

Applications will be assessed against each criterion and how the organisation proposes to deliver their selected service types.

Applicants successful in obtaining funding will be required to:

- enter into a service agreement. The department's service agreement templates are located at <https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/industry-partners/funding-grants/streamlined-agreements>

- comply with the requirements and conditions within the Service Agreement, including reporting
- the Service Agreement comprises of two parts – Funding and Service Details and the Standard Terms. The Service Agreement - Standard Terms defines the departments requirements for **subcontracting**.

Q. Can an organisation apply for one or more grants or just one?

A. If your organisation is eligible and considering applying for one or more of the grant opportunities, please submit the relevant application form/s. Please note, when submitting an application form, there are two separate application forms, one is for the Queensland Disability Advocacy Hub and the other is for Specialist Individual Advocacy and Regional Individual Advocacy services.

An applicant can submit an application, if they choose, for one or both Specialist Individual Advocacy and Regional Individual Advocacy services funding within the one application form.

A separate application is required for the Queensland Disability Advocacy Hub.

Queensland Disability Hub

Q. Can the successful applicant for the Queensland Disability Hub determine the membership for the Queensland Advocacy Network?

A. The establishment requirements for the Queensland Advocacy Network are defined in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#) at page 5:

- *Establish and Chair the Queensland Advocacy Network, which will be comprised of all successful applicants under this funding round and provide a co-ordinating and information sharing forum, that helps build upon the client focus of existing advocacy services to ensure services, data capture and referrals are integrated.*

Q. Are there any specific information technology requirements that successful applicants will need to implement to ensure services, data capture and referrals are integrated?

A. The department has not specified information technology requirements in the guidelines and applicants can outline their planned approach in their applications.

Q. How is client privacy and confidentiality managed?

A. Privacy and confidentiality will need to be maintained by all successful applicants in accordance with relevant Commonwealth and state legislation.

Q. Should the “Web based resources and a social media channel to educate, advise and provide advice on disability trends, issues and announcements, as well as tips and resources on self-advocacy, all of which must be accessible to all people with disability regardless of disability type”, be accessible to all people with disability who may speak a language other than English?

A. As noted in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#) at page 3, *Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants will be used to support all Queenslanders with disability across all disability types, including but not limited to:*

- *people with disability in rural and remote areas of Queensland*
- *First Nations people with disability*
- *people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds*

- *younger people with disability.*

Under the 'What will be funded' section of the guidelines (pp. 4-6) *One successful applicant will be funded to provide the Queensland Disability Advocacy Hub which will include the provision of 'Web based resources and a social media channel to educate, advise and provide advice on disability trends, issues and announcements, as well as tips and resources on self-advocacy, all of which must be accessible to people with disability, **regardless of disability type**'.*

Under Assessment Criterion 1, applicants for the Queensland Disability Advocacy Hub are required to provide *a statement describing how the funding will deliver advocacy services that meet the identified requirements for that disability advocacy service type identified in the 'What will be funded' section. Applicants for the Queensland Disability Hub will be required to demonstrate how they will meet the identified requirements for the hub with reference to the QDAP target groups/users **which includes people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds**.*

Under Assessment Criterion 3 applicants are also required to describe how the applicant ensures accessible information provision (e.g. accessible office spaces, interpreting services available etc.).

Regional Individual Advocacy

Q. Can the funding for regional individual advocacy services be split between two or more organisations applying for the same regions?

- A. As defined in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#) at page 6 *What will be funded – Regional Individual Advocacy:*
- *Organisations can apply for the maximum amount of funding per region, and for multiple regions, but must be able to demonstrate capacity to provide services across the entire region/s. Multiple organisations may ultimately be approved to deliver advocacy services within a specified region. The decision about how many, and the amount of funding approved for organisations within a specified region, will be determined by the department.*

Specialist Individual Advocacy

Q. Is there a definition of the services required to be delivered for “People with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds” for the purpose of this grant?

- A. No specific definition has been provided for the purpose of this grants round and the only requirements are as specified in the guidelines.

Assessment Criteria

Q. How will the applications be assessed?

- A. All eligible applications will be evaluated against **each** of the assessment criterion by the assessment panel. The assessment criterion is detailed in the [Queensland Disability Advocacy Program Grant Guidelines](#).

Q. Will the assessment process take into account the organisations experience, size, long term relationships with clients and understand the unique aspects of delivering services in their area/specialty? Will preference be given to maintaining funding to existing organisations?

- A. Eligible applicants will be evaluated against each assessment criterion by the assessment panel. In reference to this question; assessment criterion 3 states:
In addressing the criterion, all applicants, regardless of the disability advocacy service type being applied for, should:
- summarise the history and purpose of the applicant and explain how this demonstrates the applicant's ability to deliver the activities.

Q. Will the weightings applied in the assessment process be publicly available?

- A. Weightings will not be publicly available.

How to apply

Q. How do I apply?

- A. Visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/funding.

Q. When do applications open and close?

- A. Applications open on Monday 5 July 2021 and close at 5pm Monday 16 August 2021. The grants round closing date has been extended from 2 August 2021 to 16 August 2021.

More information

Q. Where can I find more information?

- A. Visit www.communities.qld.gov.au/funding to find more information about the Queensland Disability Advocacy Program grants.

For people who currently access advocacy services in Queensland

Q. Who should I contact if I am worried about accessing my advocacy services?

- A. You should contact your service provider first who will let you know if there are any changes to your advocacy services.

If you have any concerns after talking to your service provider, please contact our Complaints Unit:

- phoning 1800 491 467 (free call)
- feedback@communities.qld.gov.au
- using the [online form](#)
- posting your feedback to:
Complaints Unit
Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
GPO Box 806, Brisbane Qld 4001.