

Equity Training Program

Funding guidelines

1. About the program

The Equity Training Program is a grants initiative of the Northern Territory Government. The grants provide funding for the delivery of training and employment programs for permanent residents of Australia, living in the Northern Territory, who are:

- people with a disability;
- parents returning to the workforce after an absence of 5 years or more;
- long-term unemployed migrants;
- refugees;
- mature-aged;
- very long-term unemployed people (VLTU) or those at risk of becoming VLTU.

Definitions – a general guide

- people with a disability - include people with a recognised disability, injury or health condition that impacts on their ability to get and/or keep a job.
- long-term unemployed migrant - a migrant who is a permanent resident of the NT; and since gaining their residency has been involuntarily unemployed for a period greater than 52 weeks.
- mature aged - a person over the age of 45.
- very long-term unemployed people - a person who has been involuntarily unemployed for a period of more than 2 years.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Projects must be designed to improve training and employment outcomes for people from the above target groups in the Northern Territory. Eligible programs will utilise links to existing services and establish partnership/collaborative arrangements with key stakeholders, where necessary to benefit the participants.

Projects must be run in the Northern Territory, and:

- Include VET accredited training with nationally recognised qualification or unit of competency outcomes.
- Non-accredited training that is recognised by industry may be considered on a case by case basis.
- Identify and develop clear pathways through training to employment.
- Be outcomes driven – outcomes must be realistic, achievable, sustainable and meet individual needs.
- Include an element of work experience where appropriate.
- Include transition arrangements post work experience placement.
- Complement other Australian and NT Government, and non-government programs and services, including complementary funding arrangements. Submissions need to demonstrate quite clearly that there is no other funding available to support the project.
- Include local ownership and strong partnerships – eg, between communities, services, employers, education and training providers and Government bodies.

- Preferably have links to broader community development opportunities.

Projects can include elements of:

- participation in pre-vocational and employability skills programs
- work experience
- pre and post-placement work experience support for employees and employers
- supported placement in community volunteer work with an organisation approved by Volunteering Australia
- practical assistance to overcome barriers, including non-educational support needs in training programs
- literacy and numeracy support
- vocational assessment
- mentoring
- reasonable administration costs as a component of the program.

3. Who can apply?

- incorporated organisations
- Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)
- special schools.

Applicants must have an ABN and have been operating for at least one year.

Joint applications can be accepted, provided a lead applicant is identified to drive the program.

Applications will be considered on merit against the eligibility criteria.

The Northern Territory Government actively supports local business through procuring its goods and services in accordance with the Buy Local Plan. Government grant recipients are strongly encouraged to adopt similar principles where procuring their own goods and services. For more information visit www.buylocal.nt.gov.au

4. How will organisations be funded?

Successful organisations will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement.

Grant payments will be made in three parts – 50% on commencement and signing of the agreement, 30% on receipt of an interim report and the final 20% on receipt of a final report and acquittal statement signed by an authorised representative of the funded organisation. Receipt of AVETMISS compliant data demonstrating AHC achieved by the RTO will form part of reporting requirements.

A streamlined process may be approved for small grants.

Where projects are multi-faceted, the Department may separately contract the RTO you have selected for the accredited training component.

Important note: Funding is not recurrent and grants will be allocated on a one-off basis.

5. Application process

Each application will be assessed in accordance with the objectives and expected outcome of the Equity Training Program. The program is demand driven. As such, a non-competitive selection process applies where applications that satisfy stated eligibility criteria **may** receive grant funding. Applications will be accepted until available funds are expended.

Applications must include:

- a list of project proponents/partnerships
- **how** participants from a specified equity group will be selected
- project objectives
- a detailed project outline
- a detailed budget
- details of accredited training
- evaluation criteria
- contact details for the lead partner or project proponent and for all partner organisations.

Successful applicants will be notified in writing to the lead partner or project proponent.

The Department will conduct business checks and undertake other due diligence as part of the application assessment.

Advice may be sought from appropriate organisations to assist in ascertaining the viability and relevance of the proposed project and / or contribute to its development.

6. Contact details

For further information and to apply, contact your regional Workforce Training Coordinator.

Region	Phone
Darwin	P: 08 8935 7745
Greater Darwin	P: 08 8999 3850
Alice Springs /Central	P: 08 8951 3441
Katherine / Big Rivers	P: 08 8973 8406
West Arnhem	P: 08 8943 6377
East Arnhem	P: 08 8987 0553
Barkly	P: 08 8962 4674