



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Frequently Asked Questions – Jobs Fund

Jobs Fund

What is the Jobs Fund?

The Jobs Fund is an Australian Government Initiative under the Jobs and Training Compact. It is a discretionary grants program which commenced on 1 July 2009 and will end on 30 June 2011. Funding through the Jobs Fund is in the form of one-off grants of up to \$2 million to support the delivery of innovative projects that will maximise job and training opportunities in local communities, while also delivering positive environmental, heritage and social outcomes.

Are the funds time limited?

Funding under the Local Jobs stream and Get Communities Working stream will not extend past 30 June 2011. DEEWR will not make payments for any work done or expenses incurred by projects after 30 June 2011.

What happens once funding for these projects runs out?

The Jobs Fund is supporting projects that have the potential to be sustainable and provide long-term employment opportunities for job seekers in areas of high unemployment.

Projects which expect to exist beyond 30 June 2011 were required to demonstrate their economic sustainability.

How will the Jobs Fund generate real jobs and skill people for the future?

A key factor in selecting projects for funding was their ability to create and sustain jobs. Jobs will be created directly, for example, through employing staff to manage or work in projects or work in social enterprises. Projects could also lead to indirect job creation as the economy of local communities benefit from the flow-on impact of the projects.

Will there be another round of funding where applications can be submitted?

No. The second round for funding under the Local Jobs stream and the Get Communities Working stream is the final round.

Who can I contact if I have feedback or a complaint about the Jobs Fund?

The Department welcomes feedback in order to ensure the best possible service to the community. Complaints about the operation of the Jobs Fund should be submitted by email to jobs.fund@deewr.gov.au. The Department will investigate and follow up on all feedback received.

Second Call For Proposals

What was the process for Jobs Fund Round Two?

The second and final round of the Local Jobs stream and the Get Communities Working stream of the Jobs Fund opened on 5 November 2009 and closed on 11 December 2009. For this round, the Local Jobs and the Get Communities Working streams were tightened to focus on green jobs and training outcomes and effective Intermediate Labour Market models including social enterprises. Specifically:

- **Local Jobs** was tightened to focus on the creation of green jobs, development of green skills, promotion of energy efficient infrastructure and development of skills in future green industries, and
- **Get Communities Working** was tightened to focus on projects with an emphasis on Intermediate Labour Market models, including social enterprises, to build community capacity, improve community strength and amenity and provide opportunities for disadvantaged job seekers.

Separate guidelines for these streams can be found online at www.keeppaustraliaworking.gov.au/pages/JobsFund

Local/state/territory governments were not eligible to apply under Round Two, with the exception of Indigenous Community councils. Local/state/territory governments however could partner with eligible organisations to submit a proposal.

The assessment and approval process for Jobs Fund applications was a competitive and merit based process. Each application was assessed against five criteria as described in the Jobs Fund Local Jobs stream Guidelines and the Jobs Fund Get Communities Working stream Guidelines.

Projects applying for funding under the Local Jobs stream needed to successfully demonstrate that they would:

1. Have a positive impact on the environment
2. Create and retain jobs and develop skills
3. Assist disadvantaged groups/regions
4. Have strong community linkages
5. Be sustainable and viable

Projects applying for funding the Get Communities Working stream needed to successfully demonstrate that they would:

1. Create, maintain or support Intermediate Labour Market models, including social enterprises
2. Create or retain jobs and develop skills
3. Assist disadvantaged groups/regions
4. Have strong community linkages
5. Be sustainable and viable

How were applications assessed?

Decisions about whether a project received funding were made by the Department. The process is also the subject of probity scrutiny to ensure it was completed fairly and in good faith.

There was a strong response to the call for proposals for Round Two of the Jobs Fund and the field was highly competitive. Each application was assessed against the five Assessment Criteria as described in the Jobs Fund Guidelines. Each proposal was considered on its merits and in comparison with other proposals received. Financial Viability and due diligence checks were undertaken, and in some cases the Department sought clarification from proponents on matters contained in their application. The Department also took into consideration whether projects demonstrated value for money in terms of creating short and long term jobs, training opportunities, opportunities for further employment after the cessation of the Jobs Fund and the ongoing viability of the project.

What is an Intermediate Labour Market?

An Intermediate Labour Market creates jobs and offers work experience and training opportunities that prepare participants for work in the mainstream labour market.

What is a social enterprise operating as an Intermediate Labour Market?

Social enterprises operating as intermediate or alternative labour markets are organisations that adopt a business model, but have an explicit social purpose. These organisations provide support to disadvantaged people who may experience exclusion from the mainstream labour market in order to assist them to secure sustainable employment and, in most cases, transition to the mainstream labour market.

Characteristics of social enterprises include the following:

- A business whose core objectives and actions centre on social purposes
- Often provides an unmet service to the community that is not being met by the commercial market
- Often employs people who have been excluded from mainstream employment and the output of high quality goods and services is balanced with supporting the well-being of the people who are employees and shareholders

- Social enterprises can be for profit or not-for-profit but frequently reinvest their profits into the organisation or into other socially beneficial activities, or are profit making but non profit distributing
- Funding models – Sponsors, donations, government grants. Social enterprises often use seed funding (resources to start an initiative or business). Social enterprises may develop income streams that allow non-profit organisations to become self-sustaining and independent overtime.

How many Round Two successful projects are there?

A total of 53 successful projects worth \$39 million have been approved. Nationally the projects are expected to create or retain over 1600 jobs, around 400 traineeships and apprenticeships and more than 1100 work experience positions.

The types of projects that were successful under Round Two of the Local Jobs and Get Communities Working streams were value adding projects which focused on job creation and demonstrated the availability of clear linkages and employment opportunities in the area. Successful projects also included a focus on social enterprises to provide training and employment opportunities to people from disadvantaged groups and regions.

The list of successful projects under Round Two is available at www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au/pages/JobsFund

How can I find out if my proposal for Round Two was successful?

Successful projects under the Local Jobs and Get Communities Working streams of the Jobs Fund have been announced. These applicants will be notified in writing. Details of the successful projects are available at: www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au/JobsFund

Unsuccessful proponents were also notified by letter. Once all applicants have been formally advised by letter of the outcome of their applications, unsuccessful applicants can request a debriefing session to discuss the outcome of their applications. The letters sent to unsuccessful applicants will provide a phone number to call and will ask them to quote their Jobs Fund proposal number. It is anticipated debriefing sessions will be held between late April 2010 and mid May 2010.

Can my organisation appeal the decision?

All decisions regarding Jobs Fund applications are final. While there are no formal appeal mechanisms, organisations can request a debrief regarding the outcome of their application.

Will there be an opportunity to receive feedback on my application submitted under Round Two of the Local Jobs or Get Communities Working streams of the Jobs Fund?

Once all applicants have been formally advised by letter of the outcome of their applications, unsuccessful applicants can request a debriefing session to discuss the

outcome of their applications. A debrief session can be booked by phoning 1300 733 514 and applicants will be asked to quote their Jobs Fund proposal number.

It is anticipated debriefing sessions will be held between late April 2010 and mid May 2010.

I was advised that my project was successful under Round Two. When will my organisation start receiving the grant funding?

DEEWR will contact successful applicants to negotiate a funding agreement which will form the legal basis for project funding under Jobs Fund Round Two.

The Jobs Fund payment structure is based on the Project Milestones. Project Milestones are set up for individual projects commensurate with the activities and outcomes to be undertaken and achieved, and taking into account the project cash flow projections.

Once the Funding Agreement is executed, the first payment is made following receipt of a valid invoice with evidence demonstrating that the first milestone requirements have been met, including any progress reports (if applicable). Generally, the first milestone includes project establishment and set up activities within the first 20 business days from the date of the funding agreement. If the project satisfies its requirements soon after the agreement is executed, the invoice for payment (with relevant evidence) could be submitted straight away.

Jobs Fund funding cannot pay for any retrospective activities or expenditure, the funding will only apply to the expenditure projects incur after the date of the Jobs Fund funding agreement.