Alice Springs Core After-Hours Youth Services

Grant Funding Guidelines

March 2018
Key dates

Alice Springs Core After-Hours Youth Services Grants

Applications open........................................................................................................... 17 March 2018
Closing date for applications......................................................................................... 6 April 2018

Grant applicants for after-hours youth services for Alice Springs will be notified of the outcome of the assessment process by early May 2018.

How to apply

Read these Guidelines and complete all sections of the Application Form.

For collaborations, one Application Form only is required that is to be completed and signed by the lead organisation. A full description of support of the partnering organisations/groups is required.

Attach a detailed budget plan, relevant supporting documents and written confirmation of commitment from any other organisation/community groups you will be collaborating with.

Applications should be emailed to TF.oya@nt.gov.au with attention to the Grants Officer. Alternatively, you may post to Community Engagement, Territory Families, PO Box 37037, WINNELLIE NT 0820 with attention to the Grants Officer.

Applicants can contact Territory Families for further information at TF.oya@nt.gov.au or by phone on 08 8999 3862 or 1800 652 736 (free call), or any questions about completing the Application Form, or if you need clarification about the Guidelines.
Overview

The Northern Territory Government wants young people living in Alice Springs to thrive. Government wants them to be safe, healthy and happy, to succeed in school and to have the opportunities they need to grow into responsible, contributing adults.

Working with support of community partners, such as non-government organisations, local government, the business community and community elders, the Northern Territory Government provides support for a diverse range of prevention and early intervention activities for young people. For example, funding for NT Youth Week provides activities and events across the Territory for all young people, while through the recent Innovation Youth Grants program, funding was provided for early intervention activities for vulnerable young people in the Alice Springs community.

Through the Alice Springs core after-hours youth services grants, funding is available for regular after-hours and night-time youth activities. The Northern Territory Government is seeking applications to deliver core after-hours youth services in Alice Springs which provide safe, accessible places where young people can hang-out, have something to do and get access to the support and help they need from trusted adults.

Background

The need for this funding came out of the current government commitment to improve after-hours service delivery in Alice Springs. Government has committed $1.75 million in funding for Alice Springs and Tennant Creek until 2019-20 to achieve this.

Since late 2016, Territory Families has continued to fund after-hours services for young people addressing safety and engagement activities at night, recreational activities including school holiday programs¹, and linkages to support services.

In the same period, youth justice reforms established the Youth Outreach and Re-engagement Team and local coordinated campaigns across NTG agencies focused on interaction with young people at risk at peak times. Improved service delivery monitoring and analysis of outcomes from funded organisations has provided a greater understanding of the cohort and their needs and can be compared with data from related indicators such as the incidence of young offenders coming into contact with the justice system. This has focused the need on more targeted prevention and early intervention approaches for 10 – 17 year olds considered “vulnerable”, especially the younger age group of 10 to 14 year olds. For example, according to youth justice statistics from the Department of Attorney General and Justice, in the NT there were 4.5 times as many 10-14 year olds arrested in 2016-17 as in 2007-08, and almost twice as many 15-16 year olds.²

Consultation has occurred with stakeholders from Alice Springs in the non-government and government youth sector and NT and Commonwealth government agencies that work with young people, including a two-day workshop in May 2017. This consultation, along with reports dating back to 2006 regarding youth services in Alice Springs, has explored what young people want and need; gaps in services across the continuum of needs affecting young people’s development and well-being; and opportunities for better collaboration and coordination of services.

In particular, consultation has identified three key things:

- Young people want better access to fun things to do and safe places they can go to at night and on the weekends to hang out, have fun, talk to supportive adults and be given support.
- Alice Springs youth services sector want to develop stronger more collaborative working relationships including improved coordination across the range of services and resources available.

¹ Including a mix of cultural, education, sports and recreational activities
² Department of Attorney General and Justice youth justice statistics 2007-08 to 2016-17
• The need for sustainable and stable core services that offer young people support all year round, not just in school holiday peak period are a priority.

Stakeholders have identified a significant gap in the number and variety of engaging activities and safe places for this cohort to have fun together, be positively engaged and come into contact with mentors or opportunities to extend their development pathways. Service providers were keen to encourage linkages between referral processes and activities, and explore alternative ways to include transport home in a service delivery model through the improved coordination of services and resources.

Workshop attendees were supportive of a coordinated service model and to work together including sharing available resources to gain the best result for young people and the communities of Alice Springs. In the 2017 winter school holidays Territory Families funded an alternative model of service delivery that shared the transport capacity of two organisations. This was broadly acknowledged by the community as a success.

In September 2017, a Youth Services Innovation Fund was launched to address ideas raised during the consultation process including partnerships between service providers. This grant program for school holiday activities was advertised and applications were assessed by a local panel of NT Government and non-government representatives. The grant round introduced new players and strengths into the service mix to meet the interests of young people. Examples of funded innovative projects included engaging elders, remote youth workers, volunteer transport providers, and Alice Springs Library.

In response to calls for better coordination across youth services (including both non-government government services) a Regional Youth Programs Coordinator was established in Alice Springs from November 2017. This role ensures greater communication across service providers and government and has participated in a range of campaigns across NTG agencies including the coordination and the evaluation of 2017/18 summer school holiday programs in Alice Springs.

Purpose

The purpose of this fund is to provide young people with safe places where they can go after-hours, be engaged in constructive and meaningful activities that increase their self-esteem and personal development and connect them to the support they need. Funding should help build service capacity and collaborative working relationships with other service providers.

This funding is to pay for operating costs after-hours and night time youth activities and through this grow an organisation’s capacity and support sustainable services for vulnerable young people. Examples of things you might put the funding towards include:

• Staff to deliver extended services.
• Running costs such as utilities and other bills.
• Administrative and organisational costs related to delivering services after-hours and at night.
• Program review and evaluation.
• Staff training or development.

Regardless of how the funding is spent, the organisation will be required to provide evidence of budgeting and planning to ensure they are realistic and fit for purpose, respond to community needs, that it will benefit the organisation (e.g. it will not commit the organisation to much higher costs long term).

Target group

Services should be targeted for 10-17 year olds especially vulnerable young people, with a focus on 10-14 year olds. For the purposes of this funding, ‘vulnerable young people’ refers to children and young people who are at risk due to one or more of the following: family issues, including family violence; housing

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3 At 15 February 2018 an early tally of data from the holiday program showed over 3,000 individual attendances to the 11 funded projects over the 6 week period of operation.
instability; substance misuse; lack of attendance/engagement with school; at risk of or experiencing abuse; and being involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour through being on the streets at night.

Service requirements

It is preferable that a number of locations and service options are available to ensure that young people are provided with a choice of where to go, including:

- A centre-based site - a safe place for young people and families to physically access.
- A mobile site – providing outreach into spaces where young people and families come together, including nearby communities and town camps.

The service should offer:

- Regular after-hours and night time activities that ensure the cultural needs of the young person, their families and their community are at the centre of all decisions, interactions and practices.
- Regular, consistent and age-appropriate activities that are structured and unstructured and that support positive outcomes for the young person.
- Activities should be meaningful, culturally relevant and build the self-esteem and confidence of young people.
- Where necessary the service should provide referrals to other services for case management or support.
- Trusted adults and other mentors to talk to.
- Access to transport home or to a safe place that is integrated into the service.

In addition, the service should:

- Ensure Aboriginal people including traditional owners are central to consultations to develop culturally inclusive programs and services.
- Have the capacity to involve families, elders, volunteers and community to participate or assist delivery.
- Be culturally safe and family focused.
- Be connected up with other services and organisations offering activities, programs and support services (including making the site available for other service providers to deliver programs activities and support).
- Consider opportunities to deliver activities and services in other youth friendly spaces, including the Youth Outreach and Engagement Team facilities.
- Have the capacity to scale activities and services up or down according to need, including operating during peak/high-risk times.
- Be staffed by people trained in working with young people within a strengths based approach.
- Have evening operational hours that do not detract from school attendance.
- Have clear boundaries regarding appropriate behaviour.

Funding offered

Total funding available in Alice Springs for this grant round is $1 300 000 per annum over two years (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2020). There is a maximum cap of $650 000 per application per organisation permitted. The selection panel may consider approval of funding over this capped amount if two or more organisations submit a collaborative application.

One or more organisations proposing to work in partnership or in a consortium are encouraged to make a singular collaborative application. A ‘lead organisation’ would be the applicant and, if successful, only the lead organisation would enter into a funding agreement with the Northern Territory Government, and would be responsible for the grant.

This document, the Grant Funding Guidelines, will form part of the Funding Agreement.
Funding is available for staff, program and administration costs related to the delivery of after-hours and night-time youth activities. Priority is given to the support of programs for young people between 10 and 17 years with particular emphasis on programs related to younger teenagers.

Please note that funding for school holiday activities will be advertised separately subject to availability of funding.

**Administration:**

In determining the level of funding a proportion of fixed costs will be taken into account including: rent and hire, rates, utilities, maintenance, insurances, postage, phone and internet, photocopy, stationery, registration fees, bank charges and audit fees.

**Staff:**

Funding is available for staff time to ensure that the services are delivered as outlined in your applicanton.

The level of funding will be determined taking into account the number of full-time/part-time staff appropriate to the effectiveness of organisation. Consideration will be given to the support which will be provided by volunteers.

**Programs:**

In determining the level of funding, account will be taken of costs including: volunteer training, staff training, travel expenses, particular program materials, and equipment, program activities and events, and transport costs.

**Who can apply?**

Non-government organisations, local government and community organisations, including partnerships and consortiums eligible for funding. Organisations must be incorporated under the Associations Act and be able to demonstrate experience in delivering culturally safe services to young people.

**Selection criteria**

Consideration will be given to applications that clearly address the following selection criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Selection criteria</th>
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<td>Organisation has demonstrated experience in developing and delivering services and programs to young people, including the provision of after-hours and night-time youth activities.</td>
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<td>Organisation has demonstrated experience in working well with other organisations.</td>
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<td>Organisation demonstrates experience in working with clients through a strength-based and trauma informed approach and supports the empowerment of young people by involving them in the development and delivery of activities.</td>
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<td>Organisation demonstrates high level of cultural competency, including Aboriginal involvement in governance and service delivery.</td>
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<td>Capacity to scale activities and services up or down according to need and in response to peak times, local community events or outreach work.</td>
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<td>Capacity to provide safe transport home or to a safe place that is integrated into the service.</td>
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<td>Commitment to a process that will collect evidence of what works best and makes the most difference for young people.</td>
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Assessment

A locally based assessment panel with representatives across the Alice Springs community (i.e. government, non-government sector, business community, elders) will assess all completed grant applications against the eligibility and selection criteria. The panel will consider local needs, existing service delivery programs and make recommendations for funding according to the program objectives outlined in these Guidelines.

Further information or Feedback

If you require further information about the funding guidelines, application process or outcome of the process please contact TF.oya@nt.gov.au or phone 08 8999 3862 or 1800 652 736 (free call).

If you would like to provide official feedback or a complaint about the grant process, selection criteria or outcome of your application please do so in writing. This can be emailed to TF.complaints@nt.gov.au.