

## **Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants Program Guidelines 2009-10**

The *Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants* program is an Australian Government initiative to facilitate research into issues affecting Australia's regions, and to support this research being communicated to national and regional decision makers. A total of \$203,000 (GST exclusive) is available in 2009-10.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (the Department) will assess projects for funding under the *Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants* program in accordance with these Guidelines, and make appropriate recommendations to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for decision.

Meeting the assessment criteria does not guarantee funding. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Australian Government that will include project milestones and project reporting requirements.

Funding offered under the Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants program will be limited to amounts of between \$5,000 (GST exclusive) and \$25,000 (GST exclusive) per project. Applicants are encouraged to seek partner funding for projects from other sources.

The Australian Government may choose to fund other specific initiatives through the *Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants* program, as agreed by the Minister.

The program supports the following strategic priorities:

- Australian Government regional priorities – Examples include projects that address priorities such as regional infrastructure needs, innovation, regional disadvantage including closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, regional demographic impacts (e.g. population aging and migration), regional planning and impacts of drought and water shortages, and promoting social inclusion;
- Small local government and community support – Examples include funding to support the identification of local needs, strategic planning, innovative management practices, capacity building and community services; and
- Regional development conference support – Sponsorship funding to support nationally recognised conferences that contribute to the advancement of regional issues.

An applicant must:

- be a legal entity (i.e. an individual or an incorporated entity) able to contract with the Commonwealth;
- have a track record of relevant research (the application should nominate specified personnel and referees); and
- be able to demonstrate its ability to manage risk and assure quality outcomes (e.g. be financially sound).

A project application must:

- address one or more of the strategic research priorities;
- have defined deliverables, budget and timelines; and
- represent efficient and effective use of public funding.

The following is the minimum information that will be required when seeking funding from the *Regional and Rural Research and Development Grants* (RRRDG) program.

Project Title/Name

Project Proponent

Short description of project (maximum 200 words)

Detailed description of project

Expected start and end dates

Total cost of project

Amount sought from RRRDG

Details of other funding sources and their level of contribution

Full contact details of project manager