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Australian Government
Department of Finance

Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles 2024

Information for Ministers

Overview

The *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024* (CGRPs) take effect from 1 September 2024. While the CGRPs replace the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines* (CGRGs), the requirements of the CGRGs are maintained and enhanced.

Where you, as minister, are the decision-maker for a grant program, there are new requirements as to how officials brief you, and for you to record and report your decisions.

Briefing requirements

Where you are the approver for a grant/s, there are briefing requirements for officials and reporting requirements for you when you make decisions. Officials are required to provide clear advice to you on the grant applications or proposals. This includes the use of the following mandatory categories:

a) which applications fully meet the selection criteria,
b) which applications partially meet the selection criteria, and
c) which applications do not meet any of the selection criteria.

Officials **must** also:

- indicate which of the applications can be supported within the available funding, and
- recommend that applications that do not meet any of the selection criteria be rejected.

In addition, officials:

- **should** also make any other specific recommendations regarding grant applications, which could include recommendations based on 'other factors' that you may take into account in your decision-making, as outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines, and
- **may** include rankings of applications, if appropriate.

Recording requirements

The CGRPs maintain your requirement to record in writing:

- the basis for approving any grant or group of grants, by reference to the grant opportunity guidelines and the key principle of achieving value with relevant money, and
- the basis for approving any grant or group of grants applications which officials have recommended be rejected.

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The CGRPs introduce new requirements, that you **must** also record in writing:

- the basis for not approving any grants or group of grants which officials have recommended be approved, and
- any conflicts of interest relating to grants you have approved.

Reporting requirements

The CGRPs maintain your requirement to report to the Minister for Finance the following decisions:

- a grant in your own electorate (paragraph 4.11), and
- where you approved a grant/s when officials assessed the proposal as 'recommended be rejected' for funding (paragraph 4.12), noting the reporting frequency has changed to as soon as practicable.

Under the CGRPs, the Minister for Finance must table a copy of a report received under paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12 in each House of Parliament within 30 days of receiving a report. These decisions must also be recorded on GrantConnect as soon as practicable.

Overview Ministerial decisions and reporting requirements

Advice by officials	Ministerial decision	Does the basis for the decision need to be recorded?	Does the decision need to be reported to the Finance Minister and published?
Approve grant	Approve grant	✓	✗*
Approve grant	Reject grant	✓	✗
Reject grant	Approve grant	✓	✓*
Reject grant	Reject grant	✗	✗
No recommendation	Approve grant	✓	✗*
No recommendation	Reject grant	✗	✗

*Ministers must report to the Finance Minister, and publish, grants approved in their own electorate, except in limited circumstances. The Minister for Finance must table reports under 4.11 or 4.12 of the CGRPs in both Houses of Parliament, within 30 days of receiving a report.

For further information, contact grants@finance.gov.au.