

Higher Education Gender-based Violence (GBV) Equity and Response Uplift Projects.

Grant EOI Questions and Answers

About the Grant Program

The Department of Education has opened an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for grant funding to support a small number of **Higher Education Gender-based Violence (GBV) Equity and Response Uplift** projects.

Table A and B higher education providers are eligible to apply. Grants will be awarded to support research and trial initiatives that promote equality of opportunity in higher education and strengthen equity practice at both national and institutional levels, with a particular focus on embedding equity-centred, trauma-informed responses to GBV under the [National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence](#) (National Code).

The EOI process opened on Monday 13 July 2026 and will close at 5:00 pm (AEST) Friday 21 August 2026. The Guidelines can be found at: www.education.gov.au/highereducationgbvregulator/grant-program

Questions

Where the department has received questions from higher education providers in relation to this EOI, these are published (unidentified) below along with the department's response.

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Question	Answer
Q. Is there a limit to the number of EOIs that may be submitted by a higher education provider?	A. The department will only accept one EOI proposal as the lead applicant from each Table A or B provider. This limitation reflects the maximum grant funding available overall, and per project, and the anticipated volume of EOI submissions. See also Q&A below regarding joint proposals.
Q. Are higher education providers permitted to submit an EOI proposal with one or more higher education providers?	A. As per page 4 of the EOI Guidelines, joint proposals between two Table A or B providers are permitted. One university must be nominated as the lead applicant and will be responsible for submitting the EOI and, if successful, entering into the Conditions of Grant. A university may be listed as a partner provider

	on one or more lead applications while also submitting its own application as a lead applicant. However, lead applicants must demonstrate that the proposed partner provider has the capacity to deliver and address any associated risks. The department would expect that the letter of support that accompanies the lead proposal also addresses this. In practice, this means that each Table A or B provider may submit one proposal as a lead applicant but may be listed as a partner applicant on more than one proposal. As per the EOI Guidelines, note that the Conditions of Grant will be entered into with the lead applicant only, and that the maximum grant amount available remains \$400,000 per project, per year. See also Q&A regarding multiple partner providers.
Q. Are non-higher education providers permitted to be joint project partners?	A. As per the EOI Guidelines, only Table A and Table B providers are eligible to be named as project partners. This is consistent with the eligibility requirements under the <i>Higher Education Support (Other Grants) Guidelines 2022</i>. However, proposals may draw on the expertise of third-party organisations where this supports project delivery. Utilising the expertise of third-party organisations through collaboration (as opposed to partnership) is not precluded, provided that: • The activities fall within the eligible expenditure items in the EOI Guidelines (page 5); • The application clearly demonstrates the rationale for collaborating with third party organisations; and • The Project Plan, Estimated Funding, and Capacity to Deliver sections of the application form take into account the provision of expertise by another organisation, including the details of expertise, capacity, risk management and delivery arrangements. As per the EOI Guidelines, note that the Conditions of Grant will be entered into with the lead applicant only, and that the maximum grant amount available remains \$400,000 per project, per year.

Q. Will the department consider EOI proposals that focus on a particular setting or context?	A. Projects may apply to specific higher education settings or contexts provided that the proposal aligns with the objectives of the program, as specified in the EOI Guidelines, and meets the assessment criteria outlined on pages 5-6.
Q. Would the department consider EOI proposals that incorporate the development of sector-wide learnings such as a community of practice, shared implementation tools, or mechanisms for sector-wide uptake?	A. The department recognises the value of cross-institutional collaboration, sharing best practice and activities that contribute to sector-wide capability uplift. These considerations are reflected in the Grant Program's objectives and assessment criteria, including expectations that projects contribute to the evidence base, support transferability of approaches and share learnings across the higher education sector. However, the primary purpose of the funding is to support the design, testing, implementation and evaluation of practical, evidence-informed approaches that strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence and support implementation of the National Code. The focus is on developing and trialling solutions that improve provider practice in the identified priority response areas and inform equity policy and practice at both institutional and national levels, rather than on dissemination or collaboration activities (such as a community of practice) as a deliverable. While collaboration and sector engagement may strengthen a proposal, applicants should ensure these activities are clearly linked to the project's objectives, implementation outcomes and contribution to improved practice. They are intended to support the delivery and impact of the project, rather than being the primary focus of the funding at this time.
Q. Can a joint EOI proposal include multiple partner providers?	A. As per page 4 of the EOI Guidelines and the accompanying application form, EOI proposals may be submitted by Table A or B providers either individually or in partnership. A joint proposal must comprise one lead provider and one partner provider. Joint proposals are therefore limited to two eligible higher education providers and consortium proposals involving more than one partner provider are not eligible under this EOI.
Q. Can staff on-costs be included within the budget request for the EOI?	A. As per page 5 of the Guidelines, staff costs directly related to the delivery of the project are considered an eligible expense. This would include reasonable employment on-costs associated with staff who are directly engaged in delivering the project.

	In submitting your project proposal, you should ensure that staffing costs, including any associated on-costs, are clearly identified and justified in the project budget and directly attributable to the proposed project activities and deliverables. As with all proposed expenditure, project costs will be considered as part of the overall value for money assessment of the proposal.
Q. Can International students be considered an eligible primary cohort, or would projects focused on International students need to demonstrate alignment with one or more of the identified equity cohorts?	A. While International students are not identified as a standalone priority cohort within the EOI Guidelines, International students may be included in a proposal where the project aligns with one or more of the priority cohorts identified in the EOI Guidelines. For example, a project focused on students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds may include international students where they are a relevant part of that cohort. Applicants should clearly identify the relevant priority cohort or cohorts and demonstrate how the project aligns with the grant objectives, the National Code and the published assessment criteria.
Q. Are projects focused on women from CALD backgrounds expected to focus solely on the experiences and support needs of people experiencing GBV, or may they also consider broader institutional response capability?	A. Consistent with the objectives of the grant program, projects should support implementation of the National Code, particularly Standards 4 (Safety and Support) and 5 (Safe Processes). This would include activities that strengthen institutional capability in areas such as responding to disclosures, risk assessment and safety measures, support pathways, investigations, decision-making processes and the management of Gender-based violence matters in a trauma-informed and culturally responsive way. A project focused on women from CALD backgrounds may consider broader institutional response capability to improve institutional responses, maximise student outcomes and support implementation of the National Code.
Q. Can project teams involve staff from other universities apart from the lead and partner providers?	A. Please see above response regarding the potential involvement of third-party organisations. Collaboration with third-party organisations is intended to enable applicants to access specialist expertise or capability from organisations outside the higher education sector, while maintaining the EOI requirement that joint proposals comprise a lead provider and a single partner that are both Table A or B.
Q. Given that projects will not commence until partway through the 2026-27 financial year, should the EOI proposals	A. As per page 5 of the EOI Guidelines, a total of up to \$2.4 million (GST exclusive) grant funding is available

include project timelines and budgets that separate the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 financial years? Is it instead acceptable to consider the entire funding period more broadly with funds rolling over between financial years?	to support projects across 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years. Funding of up to \$800,000 is available over the life of each project, with a maximum of \$400,000 available per financial year. Applicants should develop their proposed project timelines and budgets on the basis of expenditure occurring across the 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years. Following the assessment process and execution of conditions of grant, it is likely that projects will commence towards the end of 2026 (and effectively have a duration of approximately 18 months). Specific deliverables, milestone payments and reporting requirements will be negotiated in the process of executing the CoG.
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Document History

Version	Date Published
1.0	24 July 2026
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4.0	14 August 2026