



## Funding Options for PBCs

Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) can access funding through one or more of the following four funding streams. If you are unsure which funding stream is appropriate to apply for you can seek advice from the Native Title Representative Body/Service Provider (NTRB/SP) in your region or your PM&C Regional Office on 1800 079 098.

### PBC basic support funding

This funding is **provided through NTRB/SPs** to meet basic compliance obligations.

NTRB/SPs will work closely with PBCs to develop a transition plan to self-sufficiency.

More information  
is on Page 2

### PBC capacity building funding (White Paper)

**PBCs and traditional owner bodies** can apply for funding to support activities that will assist them to take up economic development opportunities and to develop their organisational capacity.

This funding is available **across Australia**.

More information  
is on Page 4

### Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund

PBCs can apply for this funding for business plant and equipment to support commercial activities.

This fund supports **Indigenous business development** and is focused on remote and regional Australia.

More information  
is on Page 7

### Community Led grants

Community Led grants can assist communities to address emerging needs and/or opportunities that they have identified as priorities.

**Applications** are open to:

- Individuals
- Communities
- Service providers, including PBCs.

More information  
is on Page 10



# PBC basic support funding

## Frequently asked questions

### **What is PBC basic support funding?**

PBC basic support funding is provided through Native Title Representative Bodies/Service Providers (NTRB/SPs) to assist PBCs meet basic statutory compliance. .

### **When does the funding round close?**

NTRB/SPs apply for funding on behalf of PBCs as part of their annual funding applications to the Department. You should speak to the NTRB/SP for your region early in the calendar year if you would like to apply for basic support funding.

### **How much funding is available?**

There is no cap on funding. However, funding is limited and funding applications must be considered equitably and against competing priorities.

Funding is generally provided on an annual basis for a maximum period of four years.

### **What types of activities does the funding cover?**

Basic support funding is tailored to the specific needs of your PBC. For example, support may be used for retaining a part-time bookkeeper, to assist with holding meetings or to assist with basic office equipment.

### **What cannot be funded?**

Funding is not intended to cover economic development or activities covered under other funding streams.

### **Is PBC basic support funding means tested?**

*Example: Our corporation has set up a charitable trust to administer a significant amount of money for the benefit of native title holders. Does this preclude us from receiving basic support funding?*

In considering applications for PBC basic support funding, the Department takes into account whether there are alternative sources of funding available and the need for the funding.



### **How do I apply?**

PBCs submit applications through the relevant NTRB/SP. The NTRB/SP assesses the application, and makes a recommendation to the Department.

You should speak to the NTRB/SP for your region if you would like to apply for basic support. You can seek basic support funding even if the NTRB/SP do not already represent you.

If successful, the NTRB/SP will receive funding to distribute to the PBC or alternatively manage on behalf of PBCs.

### **Who should I contact if I need more information?**

To find out more, you can call your local PM&C Regional Office on 1800 079 098. You should also speak with your NTRB/SP about accessing this funding.



# PBC capacity building funding under the Northern Australia White Paper

## Frequently asked questions

### **What is PBC capacity building funding under the Northern Australia White Paper?**

As part of the Northern Australia White Paper, the Government provided \$20.4 million in funding over an initial four years to be targeted at capacity building for PBCs. The funding will assist these native title holding corporations to generate economic benefits through the effective and sustainable management of their land. Although the new funding was announced as part of the developing Northern Australia process, it will be available to PBCs throughout Australia.

### **When does the funding round close?**

There is no closing date for applications and the Department will consider applications at any time.

### **Who can apply for funding?**

Any PBC can apply for funding or several PBCs can apply for funding as a group.

In addition, other parties, such as native title representative bodies and service providers, law firms and interest groups can apply to receive and administer funding on behalf of, and with the authorisation of, a PBC or group of PBCs.

Applicants must meet other eligibility criteria outlined in the IAS Grant Guidelines (see <https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/indigenous-affairs/indigenous-advancement-strategy-grant-guidelines-march-2016>) and undergo financial viability checks and risk assessment.

### **How much funding is available?**

There is approximately \$5-6 million in funding available per year.

## **What types of activities does the funding cover?**

There are three elements to the funding:

- Direct support to increase the capacity of PBCs to take advantage of economic opportunities. This may include:
  - Support to pursue income and employment providing opportunities linked to native title
  - Support to enter into negotiations over the development of land
  - Support to prepare deeds to facilitate the transfer of contractual rights and obligations to PBCs in a post-determination context.
- Support for training to build long-term organisational capacity within PBCs and to obtain professional expertise (for example, business or agribusiness consultancies, and accountancy or legal services).
- Direct support for effective native title agreement-making. This may include the costs of holding or organising PBC meetings to progress or sign native title agreements.

The application kit on the Department's website includes more detailed information on the types of activities covered by the funding.

Approved PBC projects include:

- Strategic and business planning
- Financial and governance training
- Economic development projects.

## **What cannot be funded?**

Funding will not be provided for:

- Activities that are more appropriately funded by other Government agencies (including State/Territory and local Government) under their priorities
- Retrospective items or activities
- Costs reasonably covered by proponent parties.



**How will the funding be provided?**

The Department may award grants as one-off payments, or on a single year or multi-year basis at its discretion.

**My corporation has been set up to become a PBC at some point in the future. Is it eligible for the funding?**

No. Funding is only available for corporations that are already PBCs.

**What if my PBC already gets basic support funding through a native title representative body or service provider?**

PBCs will be asked to indicate any other sources of government funding in their application, including PBC 'Basic Support' provided and administered through a native title representative body or service provider. Other funding will be taken into account to ensure the same things are not funded twice.

**Can I submit an application in hard copy?**

Applications should be completed online. If you cannot access the online application smart form you should contact your local PM&C Regional Network Office on: 1800 079 098.

**Can PM&C Regional Office staff help me prepare my application?**

Staff in PM&C's Regional Offices are available to answer any queries you have on the application or funding process. See [indigenous.gov.au](http://indigenous.gov.au).

**Who should I contact if I need more information?**

All enquiries should be directed to the PM&C Regional Office on 1800 079 098.



# Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund

## Frequently asked questions

### What is the Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund?

In 2016, the Commonwealth made a \$115 million Indigenous Entrepreneurs Package election commitment. This will position Indigenous businesses to capitalise on major opportunities across the economy, including those created through the success of the Indigenous Procurement Policy which has resulted in more than \$407 million to over 700 businesses.

The Indigenous Entrepreneurs Package had three components: the development of the first Indigenous Business Sector Strategy, refocusing Indigenous Business Australia's business support programme on early stage entrepreneurs across Australia and a \$90 million Indigenous Entrepreneurs Fund (IEF).

The objective of the IEF is to support Indigenous businesses to succeed. IEF support is focused on businesses in remote and regional Australia.

### What kind of help can a business get from the IEF?

The fund can provide support in two ways:

1. **Business Advisory Service** – assisting businesses to identify market opportunities, business planning, considering viability and connecting businesses to other capital and specialist support services.
2. **Grants for business plant and equipment** – provide one-off grants for business plant and equipment, where finance is not available or additional support is required to attract finance. This can include grants for purchasing items required to start or grow a business.

### Business Advisory Service under the IEF

Business Advisors can provide targeted assistance for start-up and expanding Indigenous businesses in regional and remote Australia, where not available elsewhere. Other services that provide business advisory services, such as IBA and Many Rivers, should be considered where appropriate.

The Department has engaged six independent Business Advisors to support Indigenous businesses under the IEF. An important role of Business Advisors is to link Indigenous



entrepreneurs with services in their region, including commercial and concessional lenders.

Business Advisors are located in PM&C offices in Sydney, Townsville, Darwin, Adelaide, Perth and Broome.

### **Grant funding under the IEF**

The IEF will also make available one-off grants with a priority on business plant and equipment, where commercial finance is not available.

The intent of IEF grants is to provide plant and equipment to support the start-up and expansion of Indigenous businesses in regional and remote areas to succeed. Business opportunities that generate employment for Indigenous Australians will have priority.

### **What's the difference between broader IAS grants and IEF grants?**

The IEF is for Indigenous businesses. The IEF is a key foundation in supporting Indigenous businesses to have opportunities to grow and take part in the economy.

### **Who can access IEF advisory support and grant funding?**

Applicants must be an Indigenous enterprise, or an Indigenous Australian wanting to start their own Indigenous enterprise. An Indigenous enterprise is a business that is 50 per cent or more owned by Indigenous Australians. A social enterprise or registered charity may also be an Indigenous enterprise if it is operating a business.

### **How do I apply?**

Organisations can apply for IEF support at any time.

Potential applicants should discuss proposals with the local PM&C Regional Network office before preparing an application.

### **Who should I contact if I need more information?**

All enquiries relating to the IEF should be directed to the PM&C Regional Network on: 1800 079 098.



## Community Led grants

### Frequently asked questions

#### **What are IAS Community Led grants?**

The revised IAS Grant Guidelines include a new Community Led grants process that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and service providers to seek grant funding to address emerging needs and/or opportunities that they have identified as priorities.

Under the IAS Guidelines organisations are required to perform the following before submitting their application form:

- Discuss their idea with their PM&C Regional Network Office or the relevant Programme Area
- Consult the IAS Grant Guidelines and the relevant application kit.

Community Led grants can assist communities to address emerging needs and/or opportunities that they have identified as priorities.

Applications are open (at any time) to:

- Individuals
- Communities
- Service providers, including PBCs.

#### **What does Community Led mean?**

The Community Led process enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and service providers to seek IAS grant funding at any time for projects that address an emerging need or opportunity. In this way, the Department is able to respond to the priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and groups.

#### **Does my proposal have to be 'community led'?**

Not necessarily. Organisations can apply for grant funding under the options outlined in the IAS Grant Guidelines. However, you must clearly demonstrate your claims against the relevant selection criteria. You must first discuss your proposed project with your local PM&C Regional Network office.



### **What is the ‘initial proposal’ stage of the Community Led grant process?**

The IAS Grant Guidelines and the Community Led Grants Application Kit require potential applicants to discuss their project proposals with their local Regional Network Office before preparing an application.

This will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and service providers to work more closely with the PM&C Regional Network in the scoping and development of proposals.

To assist applicants, the local PM&C Regional Network office may invite applicants to provide a short initial proposal which outlines the project. An initial proposal is not an application for funding.

The local Regional Network office will be able to advise the potential applicant on the extent to which the proposal addresses regional and national funding priorities under the IAS before an application has been prepared.

### **We have a proposal for a national project. Can we apply for a Community Led grant?**

Yes. Enquiries relating to national projects, projects relating to tertiary education or for projects across multiple regions, should be directed to the National Office by email to: [iasgrants@pmc.gov.au](mailto:iasgrants@pmc.gov.au).

### **I have a current PM&C funding agreement. Can I still apply for funding under the Community Led application process?**

Yes. Regardless of any current funding agreement you have with the Department you can apply for funding under the Community Led process at any time. However, you must first discuss the proposal with your local PM&C Regional Network office, before lodging an application. Contact details for PM&C Regional Network offices are provided at Annexure 2 of the IAS Grant Guidelines.

### **How do I apply?**

Organisations will be able to apply for Community Led Grants at any time. As a first step, potential applicants must discuss their proposal with their local PM&C Regional Network office, by calling 1800 079 098 and asking to speak to a staff member in their local office.

For enquiries relating to national projects, projects relating to tertiary education or for projects across multiple regions, please email [iasgrants@pmc.gov.au](mailto:iasgrants@pmc.gov.au).