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 <p>Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts</p>	<p>Meeting / Event Brief</p> <p>MB25-002170</p>
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To: Minister Wells

Subject: MINISTER WELLS MEETING WITH ABC FRIENDS

Date & Time:	Thursday 27 November, 10:20am-10:50am
Meeting type & Location:	In person, APH
Traditional custodians:	Ngunnawal
Staffing:	s22(1)(a)(ii)
Intended objective:	s22(1)(a)(ii)
Key Attendees:	Ms Cassandra Parkinson, President, ABC Friends National
Stakeholder's objective:	To brief you on ABC Friends's priorities and concerns regarding the ABC, including s22(1)(a)(ii) continuation of ABC funding under the Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy.
Media	N/A. This is a private meeting.

Purpose – why you are attending:

- Ms Cassandra Parkinson, President of ABC Friends National requested a meeting with you to discuss the ABC. s22(1)(a)(ii)
- s22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Matters / Issues:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy (IPBS) funding

- The funding for the ABC's IPBS activities will terminate on 30 June 2026. Ms Parkinson wrote to Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on 20 October 2025, urging the government to renew and extend the ABC's IPBS funding (**Attachment C**). This letter was copied to you.
- ABC Friends National is coordinating [an online campaign](#) in support of the ABC's IPBS funding ask, which began after remarks by the ABC Managing Director at an ABC Friends event in October 2025. The campaign calls on the government to renew the ABC's IPBS funding, and to announce the extension in the 2025-26 MYEFO.

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Background:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

- IPBS funding: In the October 2022 Budget, the government committed \$32 million over 4 years to expand the ABC's transmission infrastructure, content production and media capacity training in the Pacific region. This funding terminates on 30 June 2026.
 - In the 2023-24 Budget the government announced an additional \$8.5 million over 4 years to 2026-27 to expand ABC Radio Australia's FM footprint in the Pacific region. This measure included \$1.3 million per annum ongoing from 2027-28 for the running and maintenance of the new FM sites.

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s22(1)(a)(ii)

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**Consultation: ABC Friends**

Name: Ruvani Panagoda
Position: A/g Assistant Secretary
Branch: Broadcasting and Gambling
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Date Cleared: 24 November 2025

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Section: National Broadcasters & VAST
Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments:

- s22(1)(a)(ii)
- s22(1)(a)(ii)
- Attachment C: Letter from ABC Friends to Minister for Foreign Affairs – 20 October 2025

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Senator the Hon Penny Wong
 Minister for Foreign Affairs
 Parliament House
 Canberra
 senator.wong@aph.gov.au

20 October 2025

Dear Minister

ABC Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy

I am writing to you on behalf of ABC Friends to urge the government to renew and expand funding for the ABC's Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy (IPBS) in this year's MYEFO.

ABC Friends is deeply concerned that if the government does not commit to the program's renewal before the end of this calendar year, the ABC will be unable to plan for its future. Contracts will be left in limbo and the ABC will be obliged to make provisions for redundancies. Such moves could create uncertainty and confusion in participating countries.

The ABC has done a magnificent job in delivering the program, doubling the footprint of ABC Radio Australia in the Pacific, expanding its bespoke Pacific content and increasing engagement with Indo-Pacific audiences. Among its many achievements has been the development of the Timor-Leste media sector and the Pacific Local Journalism Network.

Costs have increased substantially since 2022 and without indexation the ABC will deliver less content and fewer activities in 2026-27 than it did four years ago. We therefore recommend that funding be indexed in line with inflation, a commitment of \$9.2 million for 2026-27, increasing annually.

There is also a strong case to increase funding to \$20 million per year (indexed annually) so the ABC can provide services to a wider audience. Increased funding would help fill the vacuum that followed the withdrawal of US funding for international media. Using the experience gained from the Pacific Local Journalism Network, the ABC could, for example, establish a Southeast Asian Local Journalism Network to offer high value news and current affairs.

ABC Friends is a volunteer not-for-profit organisation with more than 85,000 members and supporters across Australia. We campaigned vigorously in marginal seats at the recent federal election to encourage voters to support candidates who champion a strong independent ABC. We have long supported the ABC's international program and we welcomed your government's decision in 2022 to grant \$32m for the IPBS.

The work your government has done to rebuild Australia's relationships with our neighbours in the Indo-Pacific and Southeast Asia has been inspirational. A continuation and expansion of the IPBS will give further expression to Australia's desire to forge deep and lasting connections in the region.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassandra Parkinson".

Cassandra Parkinson
 President

cc: The Honourable Anika Wells MP, Minister for Communications

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	<p>Australian Government</p> <hr/> <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts</p>	<p>Meeting/Event Brief</p> <p>MB25-000116</p>
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To: The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Communications and Minister for Sport

MEETING: ABC - Mr Kim Williams AM and Mr Hugh Marks

Timing: TBC, Wednesday 4 June 2025 (30 mins)

Venue: Virtual

Meeting with: Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), Mr Kim Williams AM, Chair and Mr Hugh Marks, Managing Director.

Our Proposed Objectives:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Their Objective:

To brief you on ABC's strategic priorities including s22(1)(a)(ii) Indo-Pacific broadcasting activities.

Key Points:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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s22(1)(a)(ii)



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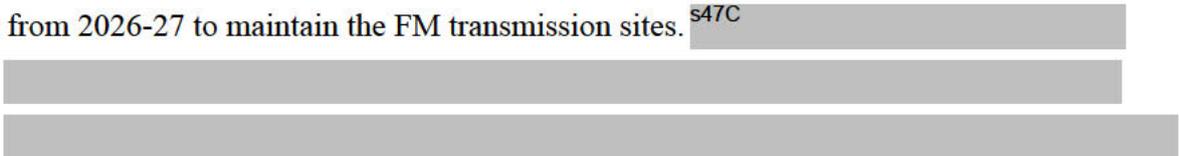
s22(1)(a)(ii)



Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy

14. The ABC has received funding of \$40.5 million over the five years from 2022-23 under the Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy (the Strategy) to expand its FM transmission infrastructure, bespoke content production and media capacity building in the Indo-Pacific.

15. The bulk of this funding terminates in June 2026, except for \$1.3 million per year ongoing from 2026-27 to maintain the FM transmission sites. s47C



16. s47C



s22(1)(a)(ii)



Name: Andrew Hyles
Position: A/g First Assistant Secretary
Division: Media Policy
Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Date Cleared: 29/05/2025

Contact Officer: Margaret Lopez
Branch: Media Industry & Sustainability
Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Attachments:

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS25-000321



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

To: The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications (for decision)

Subject: PacificAus TV – Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Critical Date: Please action by 11 March 2025 ^{s47C}

s47C

[Redacted content]

Key Points:

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[Redacted content]

2. In the 2023-24 Budget, the government committed \$22.7 million to PacificAus TV over 4 years from 2023-24 to 2026-27. The current guidelines support the delivery of the first 2 years of funding to Free TV until 30 June 2025 (MS23-004267 refers).

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[Redacted content]

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MS25-000321

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5. Subject to your approval of the guidelines, we will publish the grant opportunity on GrantConnect to allow Free TV to apply.

6. We also recommend that you delegate your powers under section 32B of the FFSP Act to Senior Executive Service (SES) officers in the Media Policy Division. This will enable SES officers to act as the Program Delegate for PacificAus TV, and exercise financial and administrative approvals relating to the grant as specified within the FFSP Regulations. The Program Delegate will be responsible for decision-making in awarding the grant, executing a grant agreement and approving payments. The grant opportunity will be undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth Grants Framework.

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Financial impacts:

8. The department will allocate \$5.675 million per year in administered funding for Free TV to deliver PacificAus TV in 2025-26 and 2026-27. This funding was committed in the 2023-24 Budget.

s42

Stakeholder Implications: Nil.**Consultation:** PM&C, DoF, AGS**Media Opportunities:** N/A**Attachments:****Attachment A:** Grant Opportunity Guidelines**Attachment B:** Risk Assessment

Cleared By: Margaret Lopez
 Position: Assistant Secretary
 Division: Media Policy / MI&S Branch
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cleared Date: 26 February 2025

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
 Section: Strategic Projects
 Ph: 02 6136 s22(1)(a)
 Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Instructions for MPS: Nil**Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned:** No**Responsible Adviser:** s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, James Chisholm, Bridget Gannon, Margaret Lopez, s22(1)(a)(ii)
 s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS25-000321

Additional Information:

PacificAus TV

Current arrangements

The government has committed \$45.4 million to PacificAus TV since 2019-20:

FY	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Administered funding (\$m)	5.675	5.675	5.675	5.675	5.675	5.675	5.675	5.675
Status	Contracted to Free TV						Will be contracted to Free TV following successful application for this grant opportunity	

Free TV has a proven record of administering PacificAus TV since 2019 and has met its obligations under the program to date. A closed non-competitive grant type for 2025-26 to 2026-27 has been chosen, which is consistent with previous grants to Free TV. In its grant application Free TV must respond to all eligibility and selection criteria, which will be assessed by officers in the Media Policy Division. A recommendation will be made and approval sought from the Program Delegate.

Financial Authority

Section 32B of the FFSP Act provides the Commonwealth with the power to make, vary or administer an arrangement or a grant of financial assistance if it is specified in Schedule 1AA or Schedule 1AB to the FFSP Regulations. If you delegate your powers to SES officers within the Media Policy Division, they will act as the Program Delegate, and will administer the grant in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the PGPA Act), the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (the PGPA Rule), and the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024* (the CGRPs).

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Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific: PacificAus TV

Opening date:	XX Month 2025
Closing date and time:	17:00 AEDST on XX Month 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Enquiries:	<p>If you have any questions, contact: Media Programs mediaprograms@communications.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than XX Month 2025</p>
Date guidelines released:	XX Month 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Closed non-competitive

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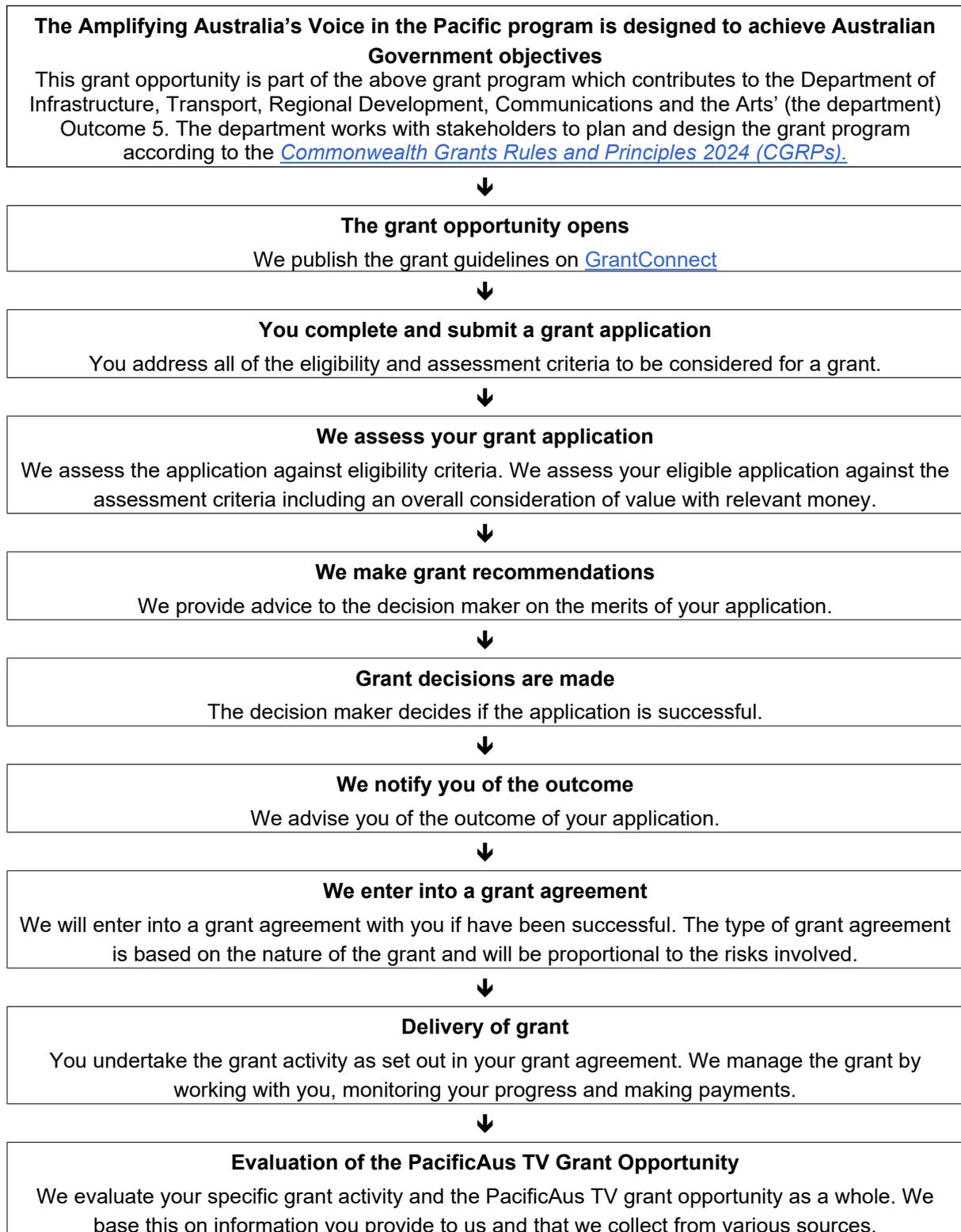
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1. Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific program: PacificAus TV Grant Opportunity processes



1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the PacificAus TV grants.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#)¹.

2. About the grant program

The Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific program (the program) was established by the Australian Government in 2019.

The Government has provided a total of \$45.4 million to the program from 2019-20 to 2026-27.

The program is part of the department's Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services.

Free TV Australia has delivered the program since its inception as a service known as PacificAus TV. In 2024, a review of the delivery arrangements of the program determined that Free TV would continue to deliver the program in 2025-26 to 2026-27 (the PacificAus TV grant opportunity).

The purpose of PacificAus TV is to strengthen Australia's cultural ties to the Indo-Pacific region by providing broadcasters in the Pacific with access to a range of Australian television content.

The objective of PacificAus TV is to increase access to high quality, trusted and credible Australian television content in the Indo-Pacific, by:

- making rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2026 and 2027 available to partner broadcasters in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga, Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa including sporting, lifestyle, news, current affairs, children's, drama and entertainment programs. Broadcast partners should make independent decisions on the programming of the content provided, ensuring the content broadcast meets audience and broadcasting needs and complies with the relevant requirements within each jurisdiction.
- scoping the possibility of making these content rights available to other broadcasters in additional countries in the Indo-Pacific, including New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Timor-Leste, and providing these rights where determined possible.

¹ [Federal Register of Legislation - Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)

- scoping the potential to acquire rights to content of direct interest to partner broadcasters, such as sporting competitions featuring teams from Pacific nations, and content from the Australian national broadcasters.

The intended outcomes of PacificAus TV are:

- maintenance of Australia's broadcasting voice in the Indo-Pacific region
- increased distribution of, access to, and consumption of, high quality, trusted and credible Australian television content in the Indo-Pacific region
- increased cultural familiarity with Australia and Australian television content in the Indo-Pacific region.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government announced a total of \$22.7 million (GST exclusive) for the program from 2023-24 to 2026-27.

For this grant opportunity, \$11.35 million (GST exclusive) is available over 2 years from 2025-26 to 2026-27.

3.2 Grant period

The maximum grant period is 2 years. You must complete your grant activity by 31 December 2027.

4. Eligibility criteria

The grant opportunity is a closed non-competitive grant. We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be registered for the purposes of GST
- be located in Australia
- have an account with an Australian financial institution

To be eligible you must be the organisation listed below. Only the listed organisation will be invited to apply or submit a proposal.

Table 1: Eligible organisation

Invited organisation	ABN	Rationale for invitation
Free TV Australia	76 101 842 184	Free TV has successfully delivered the program since 2019, meeting the grant requirements and ensuring value for money. Free TV has established infrastructure and processes to deliver the grant opportunity.

	<p>Free TV has leveraged its relationship with Australian commercial and national broadcasters, sporting bodies and distributors to increase content available year-on-year.</p> <p>Free TV's delivery model is highly scalable and allows for the expansion of the activities into additional nations.</p>
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You are not eligible to apply for this grant opportunity if you are not listed as an eligible invited organisation. No other organisations will be eligible to apply.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

The eligible grant activities are:

- the provision of Australian television programming and media rights, and other actions necessary to facilitate that provision, for transmission by local partner broadcasters in the Pacific.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities.

Eligible expenditure must directly relate to grant activities and can include:

- wages and oncosts of employees or contractors that directly deliver the services provided under the grant agreement;
- travel and accommodation costs directly related to the delivery of the services provided under the grant agreement;
- cost of programming and media rights;
- production costs;
- technical and delivery costs directly related to grant activities (for example, cost of satellite uplink and downlink for international or regional broadcasts);
- research costs directly related to the grant activities;
- promotional costs; and
- any other costs in relation to the activity approved in writing by the Commonwealth.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence, such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your grant activity may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the expenditure between the grant period start and completion dates for it to be eligible.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- purchase of land;

- wages (other than for the administrative costs described above);
- capital expenditure, unless the Commonwealth has provided prior written approval;
- subsidy of general operational costs such as electricity, phone, internet, rent and property lease costs and expenses; and
- activities for which a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government body has primary responsibility.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application. All criterion have equal weighting.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

We will only award funding if you meet each of the assessment criteria. The criteria will be assessed as having been met if you demonstrate your ability to meet each of the requirements detailed below to an adequate standard.

Criterion 1: Alignment with Objectives and Outcomes

Describe how the grant activity contributes to the outcomes and objectives of the grant opportunity as described at Section 2 of these guidelines.

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

- how the activities proposed in your organisation's application align with the grant opportunity's objectives and outcomes, and
- how your organisation will identify, engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure the effective delivery of the grant objectives and outcomes.

Along with your response to this criterion you must provide a risk management plan. The risk management plan does not count towards the word limit for this criterion.

Criterion 2: Efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of relevant money

Describe how you will ensure the efficient and economical use of grant funds when delivering your activities.

A strong response will identify how the activities will achieve high quality outcomes in a cost-effective way.

Along with your response to this criterion you must provide an indicative budget. The indicative budget does not count towards the word limit for this criterion.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines.

This document may be found at [GrantConnect](#). GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information. Any alterations and addenda² will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

² Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents

To apply you must:

- complete the application form
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- submit your application to mediaprograms@communications.gov.au by 17:00 AEDST on **XX Month** 2025.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your application after the closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

We will acknowledge that we have received your application within 2 working days.

If you need further guidance about the application process or if you are unable to submit an application contact us at mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

7.1 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity around July 2025.

Table 2: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Expected timeframe
Assessment of application	1-2 weeks
Approval of outcomes of selection process	1-2 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	By 30 June 2025
Earliest start date of grant activity	1 July 2025
End date of grant activity	31 December 2027

7.2 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application process, email mediaprograms@communications.gov.au. We will respond to questions within 2 working days.

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We review your application against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, we will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6). We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives.
- how the grant activities will target audiences.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

An assessment committee made up of DITRDCA officials will assess your application on its merit.

The assessment committee may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Program Delegate whether the application will be approved for a grant and any conditions.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate, Assistant Secretary, Media Industry and Sustainability Branch will decide if the grant is approved taking into account the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grants funds for the purposes of the program.

The Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within 2 days of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within one month of your request.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample grant agreements are available on GrantConnect

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement, however we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the Program Delegate.

10.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the maximum grant amount to be paid.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on agreed milestone activities.

10.3 Grants payments and GST

If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).³ We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#).

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- business structure

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement.

Reporting requirements will include the provision of an annual program plan and annual performance report.

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.3 Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by emailing mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement. This may include:

- agreements executed with third parties to support section 5
- reports on activities listed in the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about the grant activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following: 'PacificAus TV receives grant funding from the Australian Government.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the department. When this happens, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published on [GrantConnect](#). By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#), noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers'.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The department's complaints procedures apply to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the department has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the department.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
 Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if the department staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or

- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the department in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the department's website.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the department would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By Email: FOI@infrastructure.gov.au

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013

administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
contracted service provider	A contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria should be developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:

	<p>a. under which relevant money⁴ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and</p> <p>b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.</p>
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 .
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.

⁴ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁵ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.



Guidelines Self-Assessment Risk Analysis

Grant opportunity name	PacificAus TV
Program title	Amplifying Australia’s Voice in the Pacific
PBS outcome and program	Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services. Program 5.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services
Entity	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA)
Grants administration hub	This grant opportunity is an extension of the current program which is administered by DITRDCA.
Selection process type	Closed non-competitive

Total cost of the grant opportunity over the forward estimates:

Financial year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total
\$m	\$5.675m	\$5.675m	-	-	\$11.35m

Indexation does not apply to PacificAus TV funding.

Summary of grant opportunity

This closed non-competitive grant opportunity is for Free TV Australia (Free TV) to continue to deliver PacificAus TV from 2025-26 to 2026-27. Free TV has delivered PacificAus TV since its inception in 2019.

The purpose of PacificAus TV is to strengthen Australia’s cultural ties to the Indo-Pacific region by providing broadcasters in the Pacific with access to a range of Australian television content. This includes making rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content available in 2026 and 2027 to partner broadcasters in 11 Indo-Pacific nations; extending PacificAus TV to broadcasters in additional countries; and acquiring the rights to content of direct interest to partner broadcasters.

The intended outcomes of PacificAus TV include the maintenance of Australia’s broadcasting voice in the Indo-Pacific region; increased distribution of, access to, and consumption of, high quality, trusted and credible Australian television content in the Indo-Pacific region; and increased cultural familiarity with Australia and Australian television content in the Indo-Pacific region.

Policy authority for program/grant opportunity

s34(3)

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s42



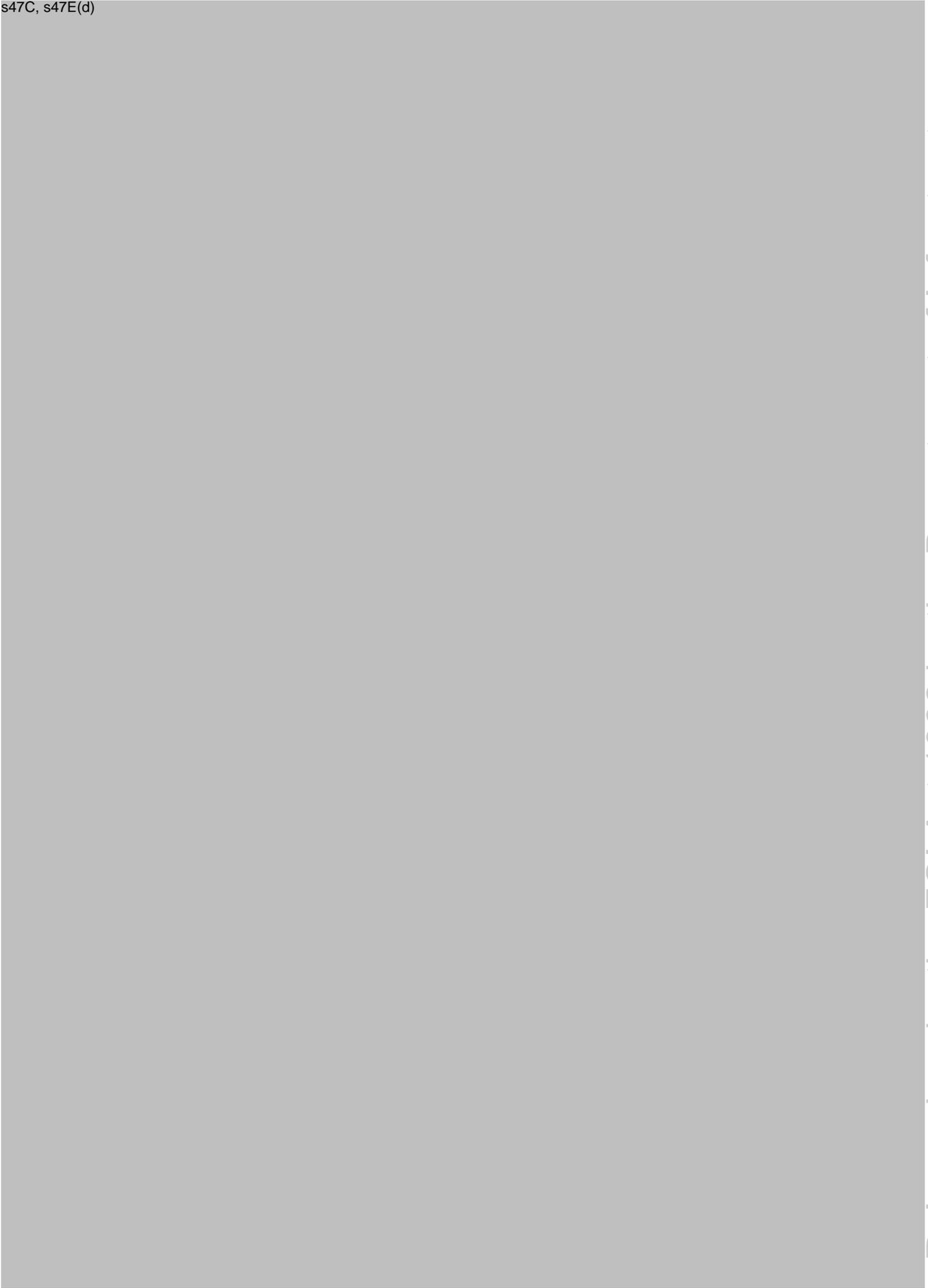
s47C, s47E(d)



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s47C, s47E(d)



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Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts



s47C, s47E(d)



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MS24-000570



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

To: The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications (for decision)

Subject: Letter to the Minister for Finance - seeking an amendment to Schedule 1AB of the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997* for PacificAus TV

Critical Date: Please action by 9 May 2024^{s47C}

s47C

Key Points:

s47C

2. Funding of \$23.0 million for the PacificAus TV program (\$22.7 million administered and \$0.3 million departmental funding) was included in the 2023-24 Budget under the measure 'Enhancing Pacific Engagement' for a period of four years commencing in 2023-24.^{s42}

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MS24-000570

3. The first two years of this funding are being delivered via a closed non-competitive grant to Free TV Australia (Free TV).^{s47C}

Free TV is required to scope the possibility of bringing content rights to new Indo-Pacific countries and territories (including but not limited to the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Timor-Leste), in addition to the nine countries already under the program (Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga and Samoa).

4. A number of the new Indo-Pacific countries and territories lie outside of the program's current geographical scope of the South Pacific.^{s42}

s42

s47C

7. Pending this change to the FF(SP) Regulations, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) will progress the PacificAus TV program in line with the program guidelines, with activity to commence in any new Indo-Pacific countries and territories from 1 January 2025 onwards.

Financial impacts: N/A

s42

s47C

Consultation: Legal Services Branch, AGS, Office of Constitutional Law, DFAT, and DOF.

Media Opportunities: N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: Letter to Minister for Finance

Cleared By: Ruvani Panagoda
Position: A/g Assistant Secretary
Division: Online Safety, Media and Platforms
Division
Mob: ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}
Cleared Date: 19 April 2024

Contact Officer: ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}
Section: Media Programs
Ph: 02 6136 ^{s22(1)(a)}
Mob: ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}

Instructions for MPS: Nil

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Adviser: ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)}

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MS24-000570

PDMS Distribution List: Shervin Rafizadeh, ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)} [redacted], Jim Betts, Samuel Grunhard, Bridget Gannon, Margaret Lopez, Ruvani Panagoda, ^{s22(1)(a)(ii)} [redacted]

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The Hon Michelle Rowland MP

**Minister for Communications
Federal Member for Greenway**

MS24-000570

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher
Minister for Finance
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

FinanceMinister@finance.gov.au

Dear Minister

Request for an amended Schedule 1AB item

I am writing to seek your agreement to amend item 33 in Part 3 of Schedule 1AB to the *Financial Framework (Supplementary Powers) Regulations 1997* (the FF(SP) Regulations), which establishes legislative authority for government spending on the Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific (PacificAus TV) program. This Schedule 1AB amendment is proposed for consideration by the Governor-General at the Federal Executive Council meeting scheduled for 20 June 2024.

Summary of the proposed Commonwealth expenditure

The PacificAus TV program was allocated \$23.0 million over four years in the 2023-24 Budget to extend the PacificAus TV initiative and maintain Australia's broadcasting voice in the Pacific region until 30 June 2027. The continuation of funding for this initiative is part of the Australian Government's commitment to deliver an Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy, which aims to boost the availability of Australian content, deepen media connections and strengthen the resilience of media outlets in the region.

The program commenced in 2023-24, and is delivering the first two years of funding via a closed non-competitive grant to Free TV Australia (Free TV). As part of its obligations under the grant opportunity, Free TV is required to make broadcast rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content available to broadcasters in nine South Pacific countries. It is also required to scope the possibility of bringing content rights to additional countries and territories in the Indo-Pacific. Recommendations will then be made to Government for consideration and approval, which may necessitate the provision of content to be expanded past the South Pacific region, including to Timor-Leste.

The second two years of funding will be delivered following a mid-point review to determine if the existing delivery model remains fit for purpose.

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Funding information

Funding of \$23.0 million for the program was included in the 2023-24 Budget under the measure 'Enhancing Pacific Engagement' for a period of 4 years commencing in 2023-24. Details are set out in *Budget 2023-24, Budget Measures, Budget Paper No. 2 2023-24* at page 119.

Funding for this item will come from Program 5.1: Digital Technologies and Communications Services (administered) and Program 5.2: Program Support for Outcome 5 (departmental), which is part of Outcome 5. Details are set out in the *Portfolio Budget Statements 2023-24, Budget Related Paper No. 1.12, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts* at pages 75-77.

s42

To assist your department with drafting the proposed Schedule 1AB amendment and preparing explanatory materials, I have enclosed additional information about the program at **Attachment A**.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rowland MP

/ / 2024

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Attachment A – Amplifying Australia’s Voice in the Pacific (PacificAus TV) program

A. Detailed description of the proposed Commonwealth expenditure

Under the PacificAus TV program, the Government provided grant funding of \$23.0 million over four years from 2023-24 to extend the PacificAus TV initiative and maintain Australia’s broadcasting voice in the Pacific region until 30 June 2027. This funding was included in the 2023-24 Budget under the measure ‘Enhancing Pacific Engagement’.

Funding for the PacificAus TV program has been delivered since 2019-20 (\$17.1 million over the initial three years and an additional \$5.7 million to continue the program in 2022-23).

The continuation of funding for this initiative from 2022-23 is part of the Government’s commitment to deliver an Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy, which aims to boost media connections in the region.

Through the program, the Government has provided funding to Free TV Australia (Free TV) to distribute broadcast content to Pacific broadcasters for selection and inclusion in their programming. Formed in 1960, the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (now known as Free TV) is an established industry representative of all of Australia’s commercial free-to-air broadcasters.

The objective of the program is to project an accurate image of modern Australia through increased access to high quality, trusted and credible content, contributing to a diversity of media in the Indo-Pacific. Providing news and information content strengthens Australia’s contribution to discussion on issues of regional importance, whilst entertainment content showcases Australia’s lifestyle and culture.

The intended outcome of the program is to maintain Australia’s broadcasting voice in the Indo-Pacific region by providing content to broadcast partners in the Pacific. Partners make independent decisions on the programming of content provided, ensuring the content meets audience and broadcasting needs and complies with all relevant requirements in each jurisdiction.

Under the first two years of funding included in the 2023-24 Budget (2023-24 to 2024-25), Free TV will make broadcast rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content available to broadcasters in the following South Pacific countries: Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga and Samoa. This content includes lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children’s programs, drama, reality TV and sport.

As part of its obligations under the grant opportunity, Free TV is also required to scope the possibility of bringing content rights to additional Indo-Pacific countries and territories, including but not limited to: the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Timor-Leste.

The second two years of funding (2025-26 to 2026-27) will be delivered following a mid-point review of the program delivery arrangements.

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E. Decisions about Commonwealth expenditure

The first two years of funding (2023-24 to 2024-25) are being delivered to Free TV as a non-competitive grant. The grant is administered in accordance with the Commonwealth resource management framework, including the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (PGPA) Act 2013* and the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017*.

Funding decisions will be made objectively, and in accordance with the assessment process set out in the Guidelines and applicable legislative requirements under the PGPA Act.

The grant is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department). As the program delegate, an SES officer in the department is responsible for the approval of the grant and the grant funding amount to be awarded. Program officers within the department provide a recommendation following assessment of the application against the assessment criteria and in accordance with the Guidelines.

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The Grant Guidelines are based on the Australian Government Grant Opportunity Guideline template and include outcomes and objectives, eligibility and merit criteria, details of the assessment process, contracting arrangements and a timeline. The Grant Guidelines are publicly available on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au.

The delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval,
- the grant funding to be awarded, and
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

The decision maker must not approve funding if there is insufficient program funds available across financial years for the program.

Payments are made according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

Free TV is required to provide annual financial statements as well as an independently audited financial statement, which will verify that they have spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement.

F. Availability of independent merits review

Merits review of decisions made in connection with the grant would not be considered appropriate because these decisions relate to the provision of a non-competitive grant to a certain service provider, over other service providers. The Administrative Review Council has recognised that it is justifiable to exclude merits review in relation to decisions of this nature (see paragraphs 4.16 to 4.19 of the guide, *What decisions should be subject to merit review?*).

Free TV was determined to be an appropriate organisation to pursue a non-competitive grant after a due diligence process. The process for the 2023-24 to 2024-25 grant involved the consideration of the suitability of other providers, an assessment of Free TV's delivery of the previous PacificAus TV grant agreement from 2019 to 2023, and the development of a mid-point review process. Free TV was identified as the appropriate recipient as it has proven to be a strong delivery manager for the program since 2019, and given its role as the central repository of commercial industry content knowledge and ability to draw widely on its comprehensive commercial television network member base, as well as acquiring content from the national broadcasters.

The review and audit process undertaken by the Australian National Audit Office also provides a mechanism to review Australian Government spending decisions and report any concerns to the Parliament. These requirements and mechanisms help to ensure the proper use of Commonwealth resources and appropriate transparency around decisions relating to making, varying or administering arrangements to spend relevant money.

Further, the right to review under section 75(v) of the Constitution and review under section 39B of the *Judiciary Act 1903* may be available. Persons affected by spending decisions would also have recourse to the Commonwealth Ombudsman where appropriate.

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G. Consultation

Consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Free TV continues to be undertaken by the department as part of ongoing delivery of the PacificAus TV program.

The department, in collaboration with Free TV and DFAT, will continue to consult with Indo-Pacific broadcasters and overseas Australian diplomatic posts to determine what content is in demand by Indo-Pacific audiences, to ensure that the most relevant and appropriate content is delivered. Ultimately, Indo-Pacific broadcasters in the participating countries and territories will have full determination over their programming rights.

H. Input to the statement of compatibility with human rights

Human rights implications

Amended table item 33 engages the following rights:

- the rights of all people to take part in cultural life – Article 15 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), read with Article 2; and
- the right to freedom of expression – Article 19 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), read with Article 2.

Rights of all people to take part in cultural life

Article 2 of the ICESCR requires States Parties to take steps to progressively achieve the full realisation of the rights recognised in the Covenant by all appropriate means.

Article 15 of the ICESCR recognises the rights of all people to take part in cultural life.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has given a very broad interpretation to the term ‘culture’. This could potentially include the ability to access cultural events through viewing these events on television. The measure is expected to include programming rights relating to Australian content about sporting-related events, drama, comedy, children’s content, lifestyle and art among others. Arguably, the measure promotes both the right to receive information and to take part in cultural life or enjoy culture in the form of the broadcast television content.

The measure upholds the rights outlined in Article 15 by promoting the ability of Indo-Pacific audiences to participate in cultural life by accessing Australian television content via local free-to-air broadcasters.

Additionally, as outlined in the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights *Guide to Human Rights*, the right to culture is a key human right that Australia has commitments to uphold. The measure upholds the right to culture by making cultural goods and services (in this context, broadcast television content) available for everyone to enjoy.

The amended table item impacts on cultural life and consequently must be culturally appropriate.

Right to freedom of expression

Article 2(1) of the ICCPR requires States Parties to the Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognised

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in the Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 19(2) of the ICCPR recognises the right to freedom of expression, including the right to receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of a person's choice.

The measure upholds the rights outlined in Article 19 by increasing access to a wide variety of information and ideas (through broadcast television content) in the Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion

The amended table item is compatible with human rights because it promotes the rights of all people to take part in cultural life and the right to freedom of expression.

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MS23-004267



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

To: The Hon Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications (for decision)

Subject: PacificAusTV Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Critical Date: s47C

s47C

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Financial impacts: \$5,675,000 (excluding GST) per annum across the forward estimates was allocated to this initiative in Budget 2023.

s47C



Consultation: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Finance

s47C



Attachments:

Attachment A: Guidelines for a closed non-competitive grant to Free TV

Attachment B: Risk assessment for a closed non-competitive grant to Free TV

Cleared By: Margaret Lopez
Position: Assistant Secretary
Division: Media Industry and Sustainability
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared Date: 12/12/2023

Contact Officer: s22(1)(a)(ii)
Section: Media Programs
Ph: 02 s22(1)(a)(ii)
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii)

Instructions for MPS: Nil.

Do you require a signed hardcopy to be returned: No

Responsible Adviser: s22(1)(a)(ii)

PDMS Distribution List: Jim Betts, Shervin Rafizedeh, s22(1)(a)(ii), Richard Windeyer, James Penprase, Margaret Lopez, s22(1)(a)(ii)

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MS23-004267

Additional Information:Proposed Guidelines

A closed non-competitive grant type has been chosen which is consistent with the current Free TV Grant. Free TV is the only eligible applicant and they must respond to all eligibility and selection criteria in their application.

Free TV must address three assessment criteria to provide:

- sufficient evidence to demonstrate an ability to make rights to at least 2000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to Pacific broadcasters in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga and Samoa;
- sufficient evidence to demonstrate an ability to make rights to at least 2000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to broadcasters in seven new target countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia and French Polynesia in the Pacific, including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport; and
- evidence to demonstrate ability to acquire more content from the national broadcasters; scope the possibility of bringing content rights to other additional countries in the Indo-Pacific; scope the potential for production of bespoke programming for participating broadcasters; and scope the potential to acquire rights to sporting and other content of direct interest to target nations - such as state rugby league competitions which feature teams from Pacific nations.

Further consultation

The department consulted with Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Department of Finance about both the guidelines and the risk assessment. As noted below, amendments to Schedule 1AB will be undertaken in 2024.

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MS23-004267

s42, s47C



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Guidelines - PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**

Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25

Opening date:	15 12 2023
Closing date and time:	5pm AEST on 18 12 2023
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the Media Programs Team. Email: mediaprograms@communications.gov.au . Questions should be sent no later than 14 12 2023
Date guidelines released:	15 12 2023
Type of grant opportunity:	Closed non-competitive

Released under the FOI Act 1982 by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

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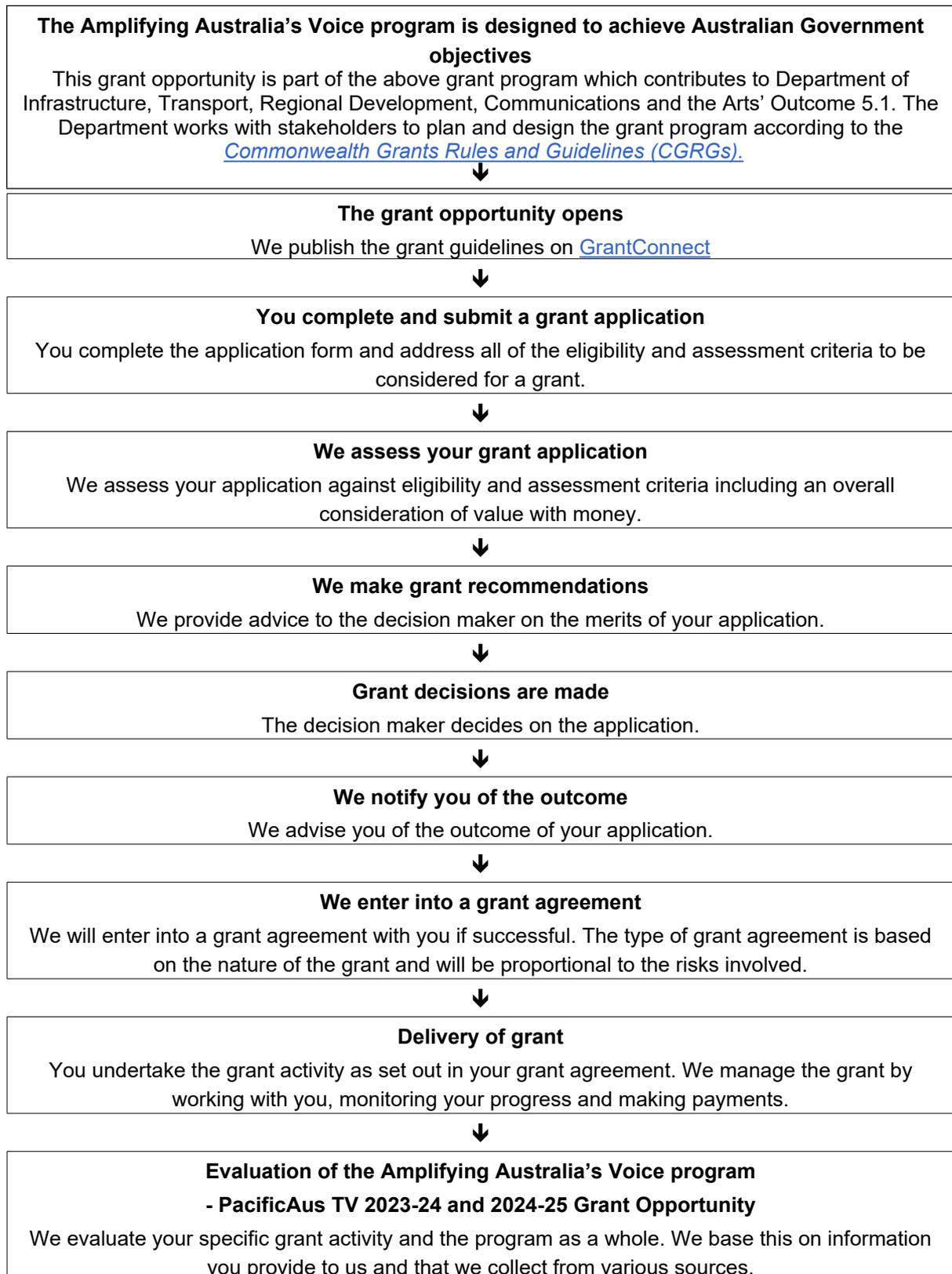
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1. Amplifying Australia's Voice program: PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25 Grant Opportunity



1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25 grant.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

2. About the grant program

The Amplifying Australia's Voice program (the program) will run over 4 years from 2023-24 to 2026-27. In the May 2023 Budget, the Australian Government allocated \$5,675,000 (excluding GST) in each of the four financial years to 2026-27 to the program.

The objective of the program is to project an accurate image of modern Australia through increased access to high quality, trusted and credible content, contributing to a diversity of media in the Indo-Pacific. This will be achieved by making the broadcast rights to a variety of Australian television content available to Program broadcaster partners. This will include making rights to at least 2,000 hours per year of Australian television content for two years including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport.

The intended outcome of the program is to maintain Australia's broadcasting voice in the Indo-Pacific region by providing content to Program broadcast partners (PBPs). This will enable PBPs to make independent decisions on the programming of the content provided, ensuring the content broadcast meets audience and broadcasting needs and complies with all relevant requirements within each jurisdiction.

Providing news and information content strengthens Australia's contribution to discussion on issues of regional importance, whilst entertainment content showcases Australia's lifestyle and culture.

The Amplifying Australia's Voice program has been delivered to date by Free TV Australia and the service is named PacificAus TV. The program is administered in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines](#) (CGRGs)¹.

2.1 About the PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25 Grant Opportunity

The first purpose of the PacificAus TV 2023-24 and 2024-25 Grant Opportunity is to continue the program, delivered by Free TV Australia for two more years. It will make rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to Pacific broadcasters in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga and Samoa including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport. Funding may also need to be allocated to fund the balance of the 2024 activities that were not able to be funded from the previous funding allocation.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-guidelines.pdf>

The second purpose of the Grant Opportunity is to make rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to broadcasters in eight new target countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia and French Polynesia - including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport.

The final purpose of the Grant Opportunity is to: acquire more content from the national broadcasters; scope the possibility of bringing content rights to other additional countries in the Indo-Pacific (beyond those specified above); scope the potential for production of bespoke programming for broadcasters; and scope the potential to acquire rights to sporting and other content of direct interest to target nations - such as state rugby league competitions which feature teams from Pacific nations.

The Grant Opportunity is expected to result in a number of outcomes, including the following:

- (a) promoting Australia and Australia's values in the Pacific (and potentially the Indo-Pacific) region, and help balance an increasing regional media presence of other nations in that region; and
- (b) build on Australia's proximity and existing cultural familiarity.

A new Grant Opportunity for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years may be developed in future.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$24,970,000 (GST inclusive) for the Amplifying Australia's Voice program. For this PacificAus TV 2025 and 2026 Grant Opportunity, \$12,485,000 (GST inclusive) is available over 2 years. \$6,242,500 is available in the 2023-24 financial year and \$6,242,500 is available in the 2024-25 financial year.

3.2 Grant period

You must complete your grant activity by 31 December 2026. Following the grant period, an evaluation period will commence.

Funding for the program was reflected in the 2023-24 Budget under Program 5.1 Digital Technologies and Communications Services.

4. Eligibility criteria

The PacificAus TV grant opportunity is a closed non-competitive grant established as part of a range of initiatives to enhance Australia's engagement in the Pacific. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) considers that this is an appropriate type of selection process as Free TV has proven to be a strong delivery manager for the program to date. It has successfully provided a package of content drawing widely on its comprehensive commercial television network member base as well as acquiring content from the national broadcasters.

While there is appetite from the national broadcasters to facilitate the program, the Government still considers Free TV to be an appropriate delivery mechanism for the program.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

The grantee is Free TV Australia, ABN 76 101 842 184.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible expenditure

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include:

- (a) Administrative costs including development of the project and any subcontractor fees and travel costs incurred in relation to the implementation strategy and each annual program plan;
- (b) Cost of programming and media rights;
- (c) Production costs;
- (d) Technical and delivery costs (e.g. cost of satellite uplink and downlink for international or regional broadcasts);
- (e) Promotional costs; and
- (f) Any other costs in relation to the activity approved in writing by the Commonwealth.

Not all expenditure on your grant activity may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

5.2 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- purchase of land;
- wages (other than for the administrative costs described above);
- capital expenditure, unless the Commonwealth has provided prior written approval;
- the covering of retrospective costs unless where arrangements have been entered into for the ongoing continuity of the Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific program including, but not limited to such costs as technical capability or broadcasting rights;
- subsidy of general operational costs such as electricity, phone, internet, rent and property lease costs and expenses; and
- activities for which a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government body has primary responsibility.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application. All criterion have equal weighting. We will only award funding if you meet each of the assessment criteria. The criteria will be assessed as having been met if you demonstrate your ability to meet each of the requirements detailed below to an adequate standard. While we are not prescriptive as to the required length of your response for each criterion, you must address all elements of the criteria in adequate detail. For instance, a criterion will not be assessed as having been met if your application fails to address one or more of the countries that have been identified to be in focus for the program.

Criterion 1

Demonstrated ability to make rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to Pacific broadcasters in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga and Samoa including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport. Demonstrated ability to complete the delivery of the 2024 Program Plan by providing evidence of full acquittal of the previous grant funding and how that relates to additional funding needs through this new grant opportunity.

Criterion 2

Demonstrated ability to make rights to at least 2,000 hours of Australian television content each year in 2025 and 2026 available to broadcasters in eight new target countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, New Caledonia and French Polynesia in the Pacific - including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport.

Criterion 3

Demonstrated ability to acquire more content from the national broadcasters; scope the possibility of bringing content rights to other additional countries in the Indo-Pacific; scope the potential for production of bespoke programming for participating broadcasters; and scope the potential to acquire rights to sporting and other content of direct interest to target nations - such as state rugby league competitions which feature teams from Pacific nations.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines and the sample grant agreement.

These documents may be found at [GrantConnect](#). Any alterations and addenda² will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified on any changes. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information.

To apply you must:

- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- submit your application to mediaprograms@communications.gov.au by 5pm on 18 December 2023.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately.

We can be contacted about the program by email to mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

We will acknowledge that we have received your application within two working days.

7.1 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity in December 2023.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Approval of outcomes of selection process	20 December 2023

² Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents

Activity	Timeframe
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	No later than 22 December 2023
Earliest start date	On signing of agreement

8. The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We review your application against the eligibility criteria.

We will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6). We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives.
- How the grant activities will target audiences.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

An assessment committee will assess your application on its merit. The assessment committee will be made up of executive level officers in the department.

The assessment committee may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you as referees. The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment committee recommends to the Program Delegate whether the application will be approved for a grant and any conditions.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Deputy Secretary, Communications and Media Group or the First Assistant Secretary, Online Safety, Media and Platforms Division in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts can decide whether to approve the grant taking into account the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may ask for feedback within 2 days of being advised of the outcome. We will give written feedback within one month of your request.

9.2 Further grant opportunities

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$24,970,00 (GST inc.) for the Amplifying Australia's Voice program.

For this PacificAus TV 2025 and 2026 Grant Opportunity, \$12,485,000 (GST inc.) is available over 2 years.

If the current program delivery arrangements remain suitable then another similar Grant Opportunity valued at \$12,485,000 (GST inc.) may be conducted for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

We will use a simple grant agreement.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement, however we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the Program Delegate.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

10.2 How we pay the grant

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on agreed milestone activities.

10.3 Grants Payments and GST

If you are registered for the [Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#), where applicable, we will add GST to your grant payment and issue you with a [Recipient Created Tax Invoice](#).

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek

assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#).³ We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.3 of the [CGRGs](#).

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement.

Reporting requirements will include the provision of an annual program plan and annual performance report along with additional implementation plans for new elements of the program.

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.3 Financial declaration and Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The financial acquittal report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by emailing mediaprograms@communications.gov.au

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

12.8 Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about the grant activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following: 'PacificAus TV receives grant funding from the Australian Government.'

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRGs.

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts complaints procedures apply to complaints about this grant opportunity. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to mediaprograms@communications.gov.au.

If you do not agree with the way the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
 Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or

- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website.

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Australian Privacy Principles and impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the committee and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and
Communications
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By Email: FOI@infrastructure.gov.au

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.

Term	Definition
grant	<p>for the purposes of the CGRGs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁴ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement, and specifies the details of the grant
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRGs
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
Grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.

⁴ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

⁵ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES SELF ASSESSMENT RISK ANALYSIS**Program details**

Entity: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Program:

Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific

Grant opportunity:

PacificAus TV

s47C

Summary of program/grant opportunity, including program objectives and the relevant entity outcome it contributes to:

The Amplifying Australia's Voice program (the program) will run over 4 years from 2023-24 to 2026-27. The program is being implemented under the Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy. In the May 2023 Budget, the Australian Government allocated \$5,675,000 (excluding GST) in each of the four financial years to 2026-27 to the program under the Strategy. The Program is a continuation of the current Amplifying Australia's Voice in the Pacific program (PacificAusTV Program) via a new and broadened policy proposal / authority.

The Strategy aims to boost the availability of Australian content, deepen media connections and strengthen the resilience of media outlets in the region. It will support mutual understanding of Australia and our region. Activities the Australian Government supports under the Strategy will foster a vibrant and independent media sector, present an understanding of modern, multicultural Australia, and support deeper people-to-people engagement.

The objective of the program is to project an accurate image of modern Australia through increased access to high quality, trusted and credible content, contributing to a diversity of media in the Pacific. This will be achieved by making the broadcast rights to a variety of Australian television content available to Pacific broadcaster partners. This will include making rights to at least 2,000 hours per year of Australian television content for two years including lifestyle programs, news, current affairs, children's programs, drama, reality TV and sport.

The intended outcome of the program is to maintain Australia's broadcasting voice in the Pacific region by providing content to Pacific broadcast partners (PBPs). This will enable PBPs to make independent decisions on the programming of the content provided, ensuring the content broadcast meets audience and broadcasting needs and complies with all relevant requirements within each jurisdiction.

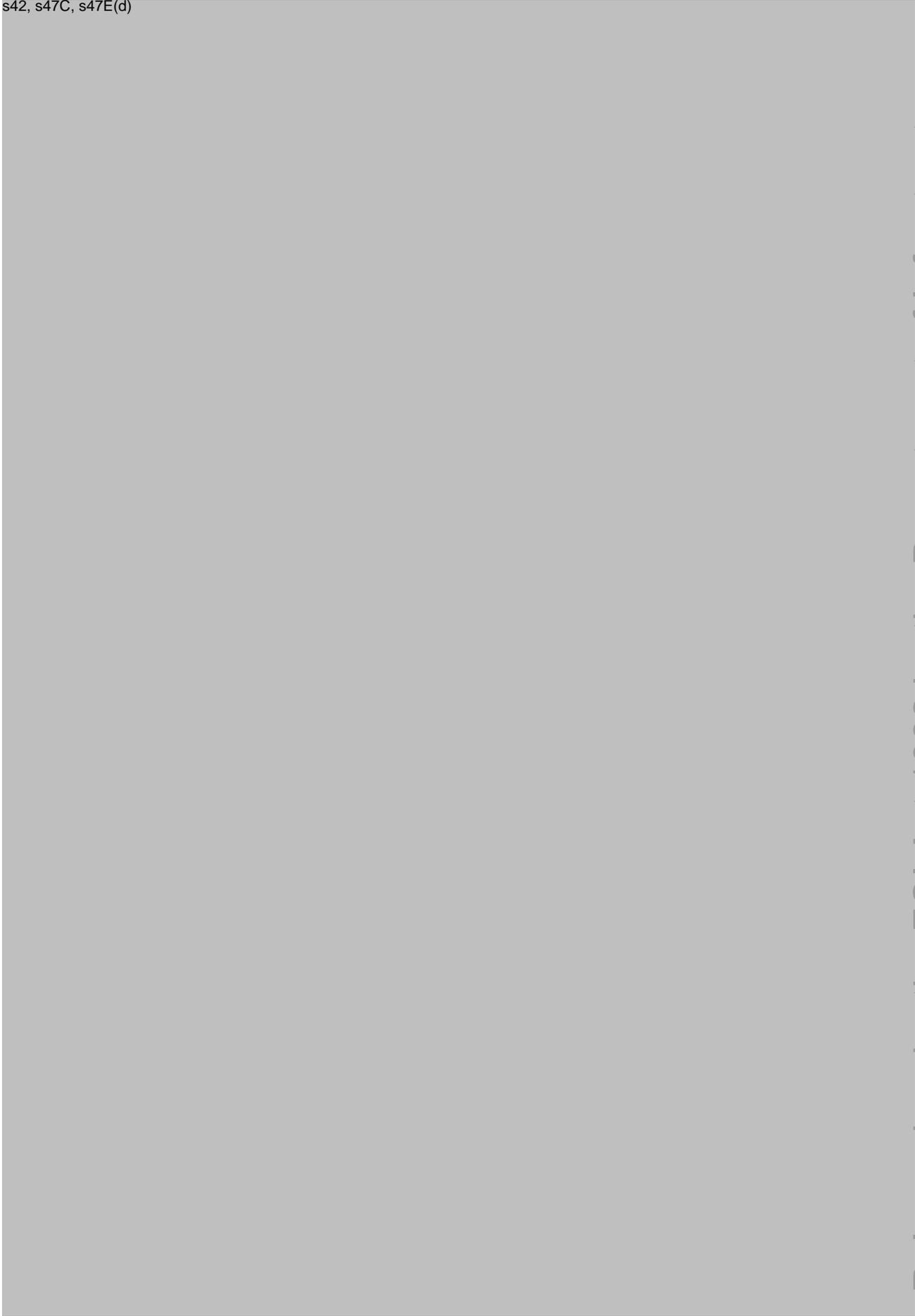
Providing news and information content strengthens Australia's contribution to discussion on issues of regional importance, whilst entertainment content showcases Australia's lifestyle and culture.

Total cost of program and cost over the Budget and forward estimates: Grant Opportunity is for \$11.35 million (ex GST) over 2 years (2023/24 and 2024/25).

Summary of activity, including operational objectives, and the relevant program objective it contributes to: Funding for the program was reflected in the 2023-24 Budget under Program 1.1 Digital Technologies and Communications Services.

s34(3)

s42, s47C, s47E(d)



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s42, s47C, s47E(d)



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