

Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) – Grants Round 5

Opening date:	Thursday 20 November 2025 at 15:00 Australian Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 9:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)
Closing date and time:	Friday 19 December 2025 at 17:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)
Australian Government policy entity:	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Administering entity:	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact DFAT's Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Branch at aicctp@dfat.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than Friday 28 November 2025 at 17:00 AEDT (UTC +11:00)/ 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)
Date guidelines released:	Thursday 20 November 2025 at 15:00 Australian Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 9:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1 Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP): Grant Round 5 processes

The Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) Grant Round 5 is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)'s Outcome 1 – the advancement of Australia's international strategic, security and economic interests. DFAT works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

DFAT publishes the grant guidelines on SmartyGrants and [GrantConnect](#)



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant. Please note, you have until Friday 19 December 2025 at 17:00 AEDT (UTC +11:00)/11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30) to submit your online application via SmartyGrants.



DFAT assesses all grant applications

DFAT assesses the applications against the eligibility and assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money and compare it to other applications.



DFAT makes grant recommendations

DFAT provide advice to the decision maker (DFAT delegate) on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker (DFAT delegate) decides which applications are successful.



DFAT notifies you of the outcome

DFAT advises you of the outcome of your application. DFAT may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



DFAT enters into a grant agreement

DFAT will enter into a grant agreement with you if you have been successful. DFAT will use the content of your application in the draft agreement. Additional information may be requested.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the activity as set out in your grant agreement. DFAT manages the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership Grant Round 5

DFAT evaluates your specific grant activity, and the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership as a whole. DFAT bases this on your reports/information and other various similar sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP)'s Grant Round 5.

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 Australia-India Cyber and Critical Technology Partnership (AICCTP) is a framework agreement between Australia and India on cyber and critical technology cooperation. The Program funds research and development on critical technology standards and principles, awareness-raising initiatives and capability-building projects. AICCTP aims to accelerate cooperation in internet-of-things (IoT) security standards and best practices to promote 'security by design' as a core element of IoT development globally.

The AICCTP was established in 2020, with the first grant round opening in the same year. To date there have been four previous AICCTP grant rounds. Further details on previous successful grant projects can be found on DFAT's website at [DFAT's Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology](#).

The objectives of the AICCTP are to:

- shape international discourse on cyber and critical technologies, particularly through strengthening understanding of ethical frameworks and supporting research and development of technical standards for emerging and critical technologies
- deepen institutional linkages between Australian and Indian researchers, businesses, and government on cyber and critical technology issues
- support countries in the Indo-Pacific region to improve their cyber resilience or foster best practices in critical technology development.

The intended outcomes of the program are to:

- improve ethical standards and frameworks for cyber and critical technology
- improve cyber resilience and practices in critical technology development in the Indo-Pacific
- strengthen Australia-India relationships.

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

The AICCTP contributes to the Australian Government's commitment to work with the global community to ensure greater security and prosperity for everyone underpinned by the safe and fair development and use of critical technologies.

2.1 Context: Ethical frameworks and technical standards for emerging and critical technologies

Under the *Joint Statement on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership* between the Republic of India and Australia, both agreed to work together on digital economy, cyber security and critical and emerging technologies issues, as identified by *the Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-enabled Critical Technology Cooperation* announced on 4 June 2020.

Both Australia and India play key roles in contributing to the global development of emerging and critical digital technologies which include (but are not limited to): advanced manufacturing and materials technologies (including semi-conductors), artificial intelligence technologies; advanced information and communication technologies (such as 5G & 6G); quantum technologies; blockchain; autonomous systems, robotics, positioning, timing and sensing; biotechnologies, such as synthetic biology; clean energy generation and storage technologies, digital infrastructure (such as undersea cables and data centres); digital public infrastructure (DPI) and digital public goods (such as digital identity and digital payment systems). These technologies have the potential to dramatically impact economic competitiveness, national security, international peace and stability, and social cohesion.

The next generation of technological developments will merge new discoveries across physical, digital, and biological systems. Enhancing, and strengthening understanding of, ethical frameworks for emerging and critical technologies will ensure these technologies are designed, developed, and used in a manner that advances Australia and India's shared interests. Ethical frameworks must be grounded in existing international law, including international human rights law.

Standards create trust and consistency, foster innovation and drive economic growth. There is opportunity to create more transparent approaches to technical standards setting and to promote stronger coordination between standards development organisations to reduce duplication and overlap.

2.2 About the AICCTP Grant Round 5 opportunity

The AICCTP's 2025-26 grant opportunity (Round 5) of \$1.6 million (total value) will consider research proposals from Australian and Indian researchers and businesses that seek to advance cooperation, knowledge and collaboration on protecting and securing critical infrastructure, emerging and critical technologies, and supporting Indo-Pacific countries to improve their cyber resilience.

Proposals must demonstrate a collaborative model, which sees Australian and Indian stakeholders combine knowledge and resources to advance and protect our collective interests in cyberspace and critical technology. Proposals can involve multistakeholder and cross-disciplinary partnership, which utilise Australian and Indian expertise. Proposals can be designed to be scalable and replicable in India, and/or build capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

AICCTP Grant Round 5 priorities

- 1. Development of international standards to support the deployment of transparent and securely designed technologies (including but not limited to artificial intelligence,**

quantum technologies, digital public infrastructure, biotechnologies and emerging space technologies):

- Brokering and supporting industry-led multi-stakeholder research collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers on **setting international standards**, to ensure technology markets are transparent and competitive, and that products/services are secure and safe by design.
- Increasing collaboration between industry, research institutions and government to advance the **adoption** of trusted and secure technologies in the Indo-Pacific, including through **innovative use-cases** that cater to regional priorities.
- Collaborating on **ethical models and pathways** to drive access to, and adoption of, trusted and secure technologies in the Indo-Pacific, including securing supply chains and promoting 'safety by design' practices.

2. Building cyber resilience and security in the Indo-Pacific

- Collaborating on research and pathways that support countries in the Indo-Pacific region to improve their **cyber resilience** and **adopt trusted technology** and ICT services, cybersecurity services, and digital public infrastructure.
- Collaborating on **building the resilience of critical infrastructure assets**, including submarine cables, combatting cybercrime and securing supply chains.

3. Defending an open, free, secure and interoperable internet in international forums through governance mechanisms

- Collaborating on research that promotes a **multi-stakeholder model of internet governance** and strengthens the capacity for all stakeholders, including industry, civil society, academia, and the technical community, to develop and engage on internet governance mechanisms.

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has announced a total of \$1.6 million for AICCTP Grant Round 5.

- The minimum grant amount is \$100,000
- The maximum grant amount is \$200,000

Grantees cannot use funding from other Australian Government, state, territory, or local government sources to fund the delivery of the same project.

DFAT reserves the right to offer less funding than that requested by the applicant.

The grant amount is designated per proposal, and not per partnering institution. Funding is not apportioned to particular geographic regions in Australia and India.

3.2 Grant project period

Grant projects can take place up to a maximum of two years, commencing on the date the grant agreement is executed. Grant funds will be allocated over the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.

4 Eligibility criteria

You can apply for grants under any Australian Government program, but if your applications for the same project are successful, you must choose either a grant under the AICCTP or the other Australian Government grant.

DFAT cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Australian and Indian institutions are eligible to apply.

You must also be one of the following entity types:

- a company incorporated in Australia or India
- a company incorporated by guarantee
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an incorporated association
- a partnership
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation
- a business and/or industry undertaking collaborative research
- a think tank or research organisation
- an Indian or Australian government-owned research entity.

Indian institutions must partner with at least one Australian institution to apply for the grant, as the Australian institution will be responsible for receiving and distributing monies under the grant (in line with the financial regulations of Australia ([Reserve Bank of Australia](#)) and India ([Foreign Contribution Regulation Act](#))). If there are multiple Australian institutions involved, only one can be identified as the lead institution for the purposes of administering the grant monies.

We welcome research collaborations with third countries as part of the Australia-India research partnerships.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- an Australian or Indian Government state, territory or local government agency
- an individual
- unincorporated association
- overseas resident/organisation
- any organisation not included in section 4.1.

The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy makes non-government institutions named in applications to the Scheme, or in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, that do not join the Scheme ineligible for future Australian Government grant funding. The National Redress Scheme Grant Connected Policy came into effect on 1 January 2021.

The Department of Social Services is the responsible entity for questions and advice regarding this policy (www.dss.gov.au).

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must:

- support the objectives of the AICCTP;
- be designed around the priorities (refer to section 2.2) for AICCTP's 2025 grant opportunity
- include eligible activities and eligible expenditure.

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

- joint research projects
- industry-specific user guides, advisories, standards and the like
- traditional research outputs of books, chapters, journal articles and conference publications
- technical training, conferences, workshops, seminars and events
- mentoring and support in developing critical technology governance frameworks
- new research-related information sharing and communication initiatives
- exchanges and secondments of personnel between Australia and India
- collaboration mechanisms across industries or levels of government
- other critical technology-related best practices and innovative solutions.

DFAT may also approve other activities not listed above if they are deemed to support the objectives of the AICCTP and include eligible expenditure.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities, as set out in the grant application, and confirmed in the agreement. Expenditure must be reasonable and proportional to the grant size and in line with the project outcome.

Eligible expenditure items are:

1. **Personnel** – Eligible labour expenditure for the grant covers the direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on the core elements of the project. Partners will be asked to provide the name, designation, responsibility, and number of hours given to the project of staff whose salary/consultancy fees are covered from project funds. DFAT will ask for these supporting documents at the time of due diligence. Partners will be asked to submit copies of payment receipts in their mid-term and/or end of year report.
2. **Direct costs of the eligible grant activities.**
3. **Travel** – Estimated costs for domestic and/or international economy class fares and modest accommodation and per diems that are essential for delivery of the project. Please consider carefully to what extent travel is likely to be feasible during the proposed timeframe of your

project. Travel must be best fare of the day, outlined in Australia's Department of Finance webpage: [Official International Travel – Use of the best fare of the day \(RMG 405\) | Department of Finance](#)

4. **Equipment** – DFAT will only fund 'small equipment' or software specific to the project proposal. 'Small equipment' is defined as equipment under a total of \$10,000 that is used collaboratively and, where possible, is Australian made. Computing equipment or software should be specialised and required for the completion of the project. DFAT will not fund general equipment or software that would be normally provided by institutions, such as standard computers or the Microsoft software suite.
5. **Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)** – As a key component of the program, costs associated with MEL processes and activities to inform program reporting and learning should be identified separately within the indicative budget outline.
6. **Administrative support** – Indian partners must comply with relevant Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act 2020 Rules, including regarding the cap on spend on administrative expenses.
7. **Event related costs** – including, for example, catering, venue and equipment hire.

5.3 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- any activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources (including support from the Australian Government)
- indirect costs of the project, including:
 - institutional overheads and administrative charges
 - membership of professional organisations and groups
 - non-project-related staff training and development costs
 - staff recruitment processes and relocation costs
 - debt financing
 - capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers and the construction, renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories
 - costs such as rent and utilities.

6 The assessment criteria

You must address the following assessment criteria in the application. DFAT will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion. Your application should clearly demonstrate how your proposal will meet Australian Government priorities and AICCTP objectives articulated at Section 2. 'About the Program'.

Your application should be well structured, well written and clearly explain what the project is and what it will achieve. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested.

Assessors will assess each application on its merits and rate applications as either not suitable, suitable or highly suitable, taking into account the overall application including eligibility, criterion responses, comparison with other applications, and value with relevant money.

Please note that a rating as suitable or highly suitable does not equate to being awarded a grant. It is a competitive process, often with the number of suitable and highly suitable proposals outnumber the funding available for the round.

Criterion 1

Explain how your project will advance cooperation in cyber and critical technology issues between India and Australia and help shape a global technology environment that meets Australia and India's shared vision of an open, inclusive, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific, where the rules-based international order is upheld. (60 points)

You should demonstrate this by identifying:

- the specific problem or issue your project aims to address, why it needs to be addressed, and how your project will address it, including the rationale for your approach
- the expected outcomes and benefits of your project and how they would contribute to the objectives of the AICCTP, including:
 - how your project will shape the international discourse on cyber and critical technologies, particularly through the improved ethical frameworks, technical standards and research and development for emerging and critical technologies
 - how your project will deepen institutional linkages between Australian and Indian researchers, businesses, and government on cyber and critical technology issues, including any multi-stakeholder and cross-disciplinary partnerships if applicable; and
 - how your project will support India and potentially other countries in the Indo-Pacific to improve their cyber technology resilience or foster best practices in the development or governance of critical technology.
- how your project aligns with key policy documents, such as *the Framework Arrangement on Cyber and Cyber-Enabled Critical Technology Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Government of Australia*, *Australia's 2023-2030 Australian Cyber Security Strategy*, *Australia's Critical Technologies Statement and List of Critical Technologies in the National Interest*, and the *Joint Statement on a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Republic of India and Australia*.
- how your project supports efforts to mainstream Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in the implementation of grant activities.

Criterion 2

Explain your and your partner/s' capacity, capability, and resources to deliver the project and how you will successfully collaborate to deliver the project. (40 points)

You should demonstrate this by:

- identifying your access to personnel with the right skills and experience, including management and technical staff, and to any infrastructure, capital equipment, technology and intellectual property required for the project
- demonstrating that you have a sound project plan to manage and monitor the project
- showing how the grant activity is achievable in the context of travel and how people will participate and engage in the grant activity in a potentially restrictive environment

- if any part of the project requires the participation of stakeholders in a third country, by evidencing your experience, expertise and relationships in the third country.

7 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these AICCTP Grant Round 5 guidelines and the application form available at *SmartyGrants* and *GrantConnect*. Any alterations and addenda² to the guidelines 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:

1. complete the online application form on DFAT's online grant application system *SmartyGrants* (<https://dcg.smartygrants.com.au/AICCTPRoundFive>);
2. address eligibility criteria and assessment criteria;
3. include all necessary attachments (see 7.1 below); and
4. submit your application/s no later than Friday 19 December 2025 (no extensions will be granted):
 - 17:00 Australian Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00) / 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +05:30)

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time. If DFAT finds an error or information that is missing, DFAT may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, DFAT can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing date and time.

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

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 Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). 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 by email on aicctp@dfat.gov.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

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

7.1 Attachments to the application

DFAT requires the following documents with your application. Failure to provide all the required documents may deem your application ineligible.

1. an indicative budget

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

2. a basic project management plan including timeline and project milestones
3. a basic risk management plan, including risk mitigation strategies
4. Demonstration your organisation has conducted due diligence on the financial viability of your partner including compliance against the *Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)*
5. if applicable (for Indian partners), your *Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)* certificate
 - a. Please note an FCRA application under consideration does not preclude an Indian organisation from applying for AICCTP Grant Round 5. However, if the grant application is successful then the organisation will need to fulfill FCRA requirements at the point in time when the grant agreement is executed. Applicant organisations need to be compliant with local laws, including FCRA regulations
6. an audited financial statement (1) of your organisation (to demonstrate your overall financial viability and FCRA compliance)
7. for joint applications, a letter of support from partner organisations (see 7.2 below).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2 Joint (consortia) applications

Australian and Indian organisations may join to form a consortium for the purposes of delivering a grant activity or project. However, an Australian organisation must be appointed the 'lead organisation' and will be the sole recipient of grant payments from the Australian Government. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Australian Government. The lead organisation will be responsible for distribution of payments to any partners within the consortium. The application must identify all members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each partner.

Each letter of support must include:

1. details of the partner organisation
2. an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity or project
3. an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group
4. the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any)
5. details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates/times. DFAT will not accept late applications.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity upon signing of your grant agreement and no later than 30 days of the signing of your grant agreement.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Applications open	Thursday 20 November 2025 at 15:00 Australian Daylight Savings Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 9:30 India Standard Time (IST)
Applications close	Friday 19 December 2025 at 17:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Standard Time (AEDT) (UTC +11:00)/ 11:30 India Standard Time (IST) (UTC +5.30)
Assessment of applications	22/12/2025 – 16/01/2026
Approval of outcomes of selection process	30/01/2026
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	02/02/2026 – 27/02/2026
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	03/2026
Start grant activity	Between 16/02/2026 and 27/02/2026 It is expected that grant activities start within 30 days of receiving grant payments.
End date of grant activity or agreement	06/02/2028

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, contact aicctp@dfat.gov.au. Questions should be sent no later than Friday 28 November 2025 at 17:00 AEDT (UTC +11:00) / 11:30 IST (UTC +5.30). DFAT will respond to emailed questions within three working days. Answers to questions will be posted on [GrantConnect](#).

8 The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

DFAT considers eligible applications through an open competitive grant process.

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

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- 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 objective/s 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 program outcomes and objectives
- how the proposed grant activities will foster productive partnerships between stakeholders.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

An AICCTP Assessment Committee, comprised of government officials with relevant subject matter expertise, will assess each application as outlined in section 8.1. The Committee will provide recommendations on successful proposals to the DFAT delegate.

The Committee may seek additional information about your organisation or your application. They may also seek additional information from other parties to help assess or verify the quality or fidelity of applications (including reference checks in relation to performance against past projects). The Committee may ask external experts to inform the assessment process. Any expert, who is not an Australian or Indian Government Official, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The DFAT delegate (Assistant Secretary, Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Branch) will decide which grants to approve, taking into account the recommendations of the Assessment Committee and the availability of funds for the purposes of the grant program.

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

- the approval of the grant;
- the grant funding amount to be awarded; and
- 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

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

9.1 Feedback on your application

Feedback on unsuccessful applications will not be provided due to the large volume of applications received and the distinct nature of each grant round. Please be mindful of this in making the decision and taking the time to apply for the grant round.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

Should you be successful, you will be required to enter into a legally binding grant agreement with DFAT. Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. Sample of a Simple Grant Agreement are available on [GrantConnect](#).

The grant agreement must be signed and executed prior to any payments being made. DFAT is not responsible for any expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the program delegate (Assistance Secretary, Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology Branch). DFAT will identify these in the agreement.

Please note, the Australian Government 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 Australian Government ('execute' means both you and the Australian Government have signed the agreement). During this time, DFAT 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, DFAT will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the DFAT Delegate.

10.2 Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws and regulations in undertaking your project. This includes any relevant requirements of India's *Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010*. DFAT cannot provide advice on your FCRA obligations or the operation of the FCRA.

You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards in the grant agreement. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements.

10.3 How DFAT pays the grant

DFAT will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Under Round 5, payments will be made in two tranches. Tranche 1 will be paid on execution of agreement in FY2025-26 (from 16 February 2026 – 27 February 2026). Tranche 2 will be paid upon satisfactory completion of the grant activity or project not later than FY2027-28 (or 16 February 2028). Payments will be made in AUD to a valid (RBA approved) Australian bank account owned by the Australian-based lead organisation. The Australian-based lead organisation will be responsible for transmitting grants payments to Indian-based partners, in accordance with their own partnership agreement.

10.4 Grants payments and GST

Payments will be GST exclusive.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. DFAT recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](https://www.ato.gov.au/).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 no later than twenty-one calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#).

³ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

12 How DFAT monitors your grant activity

12.1 Keeping DFAT informed

You must let DFAT know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or project. DFAT also needs 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.

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 DFAT immediately.

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

12.2 Reporting

As part of the DFAT grant agreement, you will be required to provide periodic reports on the progress of your activity. These requirements will be outlined in the grant agreement, including agreed implementation, project deliverables, accountability, funding, reporting and acquittal requirements. DFAT may request applicants amend parts of their proposals, such as project plans or risk management approaches, during this process. DFAT will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement.

If an acquittal report and subsequent communication between DFAT and the grant recipient shows the project will not be meeting its agreed outcomes, DFAT may request the return of grant funding and/or decide to moderate amend or cancel any further payments.

To help promote your project and outcomes under the AICCTP, DFAT may seek your participation in public diplomacy events (such as roundtables, cocktail receptions, meetings etc.) and request departmental or other Australian and Indian Government agency participation in your workshops, conferences, and project events.

12.3 Audited financial acquittal report

DFAT 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.

DFAT 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 will be attached to the sample grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

DFAT 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 in writing via email to aicctp@dfat.gov.au. DFAT will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

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

12.6 Record keeping

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

12.7 Evaluation

DFAT will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. DFAT 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

A grant agreement for successful applications will specify requirements for acknowledgements on all materials related to grants under the program.

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 DFAT. 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' [see <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The complaints procedures available at [DFAT's website](#) apply to complaints about AICCTP grants. All complaints about a grant process must be lodged in writing.

If you are at any time dissatisfied with DFAT's handling of a complaint, you can contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually investigate a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with DFAT.

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 a

member of DFAT, including a member of the assessment committee, 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 are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform DFAT 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.

Further information on our conflict of interest policy is available on the DFAT website in the [Conduct and Ethics Manual](#).

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 DFAT collects;
- why DFAT collects your personal information;
- to whom DFAT gives 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.

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

DFAT may also share the information you provide with the Indian Government in order to ensure grant projects meet the objectives of both the Indian and Australian governments.

As part of your application, you must declare your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to 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 DFAT 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).

DFAT 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.

DFAT 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.

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

- the assessment committee, decision-making committee and other Australian Government employees and contractors to help DFAT manage the program effectively, including for an integrity purpose
- employees and contractors of our department so DFAT can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Australian Government agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Australian Government, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary
- 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 DFAT Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By post: The Director, Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section Legal Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent BARTON ACT 0221

By email: foi@dfat.gov.au

Further information on how to make an FOI request is available on [the DFAT website](#).

14 Additional Conditions

Prospective grantees should note that the grant agreement (the Agreement) will stipulate that successful grantees must agree to comply with the following DFAT conditions (14.1 to 14.8).

14.1 Fraud

Fraud means dishonestly obtaining a benefit, or causing a loss, by deception or other means, and includes attempted, alleged, suspected, or detected fraud.

The Grantee must take all reasonable steps to prevent and detect Fraud in relation to this Agreement.

If the Grantee becomes aware of any Fraud involving any activities funded in whole or in part under the Agreement, the Grantee must notify the Australian Government within 5 business days.

This clause survives the expiry or termination of the Agreement.

14.2 Prohibited dealings

The Grantee must ensure that individuals, persons, entities or organisations involved in implementing the grant activity, including itself and its personnel:

- a. are not directly or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act;
- b. are not, and do not become listed on the 'List of Terrorist Organisations' made under *the Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) and related regulations, posted at [Terrorist organisations \(nationalecurity.gov.au\)](https://nationalecurity.gov.au)
- c. are not, and do not become listed on the 'Sanctions List' made under the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945* (Cth) and the *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011* (Cth), and related legislation, posted at <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/pages/consolidated-list.aspx>
- d. are not, and do not become listed on and the World Bank's "Listing of Ineligible Firms and Individuals" posted at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/procurement/debarred-firms>
- e. are not acting on behalf of, or at the direction of, individuals, persons, entities or organisations listed on the Lists referred to in subparagraphs (b) to (d)
- f. are not owned or controlled by individuals, persons, entities or organisations mentioned in subparagraphs (b) to (d)
- g. do not provide direct or indirect support, resources or assets (including the Australian Government under any grant activity) to individuals, persons, entities or organisations associated with terrorism or mentioned in subparagraphs (b) to (d)
- h. The Grantee will inform the Australian Government immediately if it discovers that it or a contractor, sub-contractor or grant recipient has or may have contravened this clause

- i. This clause survives the expiry or termination of this Agreement.

14.3 Anti-corruption

The Grantee warrants that the Grantee and its personnel have not made or caused to be made, or received or sought to receive, any offer, gift or payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which would or could be construed as an illegal or corrupt practice, either directly or indirectly to any party, as an inducement or reward in relation to the execution of this Agreement.

The Grantee must not, and must ensure that its personnel do not:

- a. make or cause to be made, or receive or seek to receive, any offer, gift or payment, consideration, or benefit of any kind, which would or could be construed as an illegal or corrupt practice, either directly or indirectly to any party, as an inducement or reward in relation to this Agreement
- b. engage in any practice that could contravene the Australian offence of bribing a foreign public official.

14.4 Child protection

The Grantee must comply, and must ensure that its contractors, subcontractors and personnel comply with DFAT's Child Protection Policy, accessible at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/childprotection/>.

The Australian Government may conduct a review of the Grantee's compliance with the Child Protection Policy. The Australian Government will give reasonable notice to the Grantee and the Grantee must participate co-operatively in any such review.

If the Australian Government finds that the Grantee has failed to comply with the Child Protection Policy, the Grantee must promptly, and at the cost of the Grantee, take such actions as are required to ensure compliance with the Child Protection Policy.

If an individual, the Grantee must sign and return to the Australian Government, the [Child Protection Professional Behaviours](#) at Attachment B to DFAT's Child Protection Policy.

A successful Grantee will be required to sign and return to the Australian Government, the Working with Vulnerable People Statement of Compliance.

14.5 Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

The Grantee must comply, and must ensure that individuals and organisations involved in implementing the activity, comply with DFAT's Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) [policies](#). GEDSI refers to efforts to ensure people from all backgrounds, including women and gender diverse people, people with a disability and people facing another form of marginalisation, can equitably access, use, contribute to, influence and benefit from the design, development, and governance of cyber and critical technology.

14.6 Intellectual Property

The Grantee owns the Intellectual Property Rights in Material created by the Grantee as a result of undertaking the grant activity.

The Grantee provides the Australian Government a permanent, non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to use, modify, communicate, reproduce, publish, adapt and sub-license the Reporting Material for Australian Government Purposes. The licence does not apply to Activity Material.

The Grantee represents and warrants that the Australian Government's use of the Reporting Material for Australian Government Purposes will not infringe the Moral Rights of any person that contributed to the Material in the Reporting Material.

This Agreement does not affect the ownership of Intellectual Property Rights in Existing Material.

The following definitions apply to this clause:

- a. 'Activity Material' means any Material, other than Reporting Material, created or developed by the Grantee because of the grant activity and includes any Existing Material that is incorporated in or supplied with the Activity Material.
- b. 'Australian Government Purposes' does not include commercialisation or the provision of the Activity Material to a third party for its commercial use.
- c. 'Existing Material' means Material developed independently of this Agreement.
- d. 'Intellectual Property Rights' means all copyright, patents, registered and unregistered trademarks (including service marks), registered designs, and other rights resulting from intellectual activity (other than moral rights under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth)).
- e. 'Material' includes documents, equipment, software (including source code and object code versions), goods, information and data stored by any means including all copies and extracts of them.
- f. 'Moral Rights' means a right of attribution of authorship; a right not to have authorship falsely attributed; or a right of integrity of authorship.
- g. 'Reporting Material' means all Material which the Grantee is required to provide to the Australian Government for reporting purposes as specified in this Agreement.

14.7 Governing Law

This Agreement is governed by the law of the Australian Capital Territory, Australia.

14.8 Preventing Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)

The grant recipient must comply and must ensure that individuals and organisations involved in implementing the grant activity comply with DFAT's Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy, accessible at <http://www.dfat.gov.au/pseah>.

DFAT may conduct a review of the recipient's compliance with DFAT's Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy. DFAT will give reasonable notice (at least fourteen (14) days) to the recipient and the recipient must participate co-operatively in any such review.

The recipient must report to seah.reports@dfat.gov.au any suspected or alleged case of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment that relates to the grant activity within 48 hours of becoming aware of the case. The recipient must report to DFAT any alleged incidents of non-compliance with DFAT's Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy within five (5) business days.

In reporting to DFAT as required pursuant to clause 8 Privacy, the recipient must comply with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the privacy provisions in the Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Incident Notification Form, available on [DFAT's website](#).

15 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 Australian Government 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.
Australian Government entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Australian Government. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act

Term	Definition
<i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)</i>	establish the overarching Australian Government grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Australian Government entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Australian Government 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 Australian Government or on behalf of the Australian Government: a. under which relevant money⁴ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money⁵ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Australian Government; 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 Australian Government grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Australian Government 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.

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
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Australian Government agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Australian Government 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.
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	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. 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: • 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.