

## **Grant Funding**

The Northern Territory Grants Commission is an established independent statutory authority under the Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986. Its primary role is to allocate financial assistance grants provided by the Australian Government to Northern Territory local governing bodies in the form of general purpose grants and local roads grants.

It is a requirement under the Commonwealth's Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 that there is a local government grants commission in each State and the Northern Territory to make recommendations on the allocation of funding to Local Governments made under the Act.

### **Functions**

The Commission makes recommendations to the Federal Minister in respect of the amounts of money to be allocated to local governing bodies from the money provided to the Territory by the Commonwealth under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995. The Commission also makes recommendations on such other matters relating to the finances of local governing bodies as the Northern Territory Minister for Local Government, from time to time, refers to the Commission.

### **Road Grants**

In determining Road Grants for councils, the Grants Commission has established a road factor equation. This equation is used to assess the cost of maintaining a council's roads, takes into account annual and recurrent maintenance costs and the cost of reconstruction at the end of a road's useful life.

The equation recognises the different needs of urban and rural roads and the different levels of development of these roads. The Grants Commission has determined factors that represent cost differentials in maintaining different types of roads. The different road types are: kerbed and sealed, sealed, gravel, formed, unformed, cycle paths.

### **Roads to Recovery Program**

The objective of Roads to Recovery is to contribute to the Infrastructure Investment Program through supporting maintenance of the nation's local road infrastructure asset, which facilitates greater access for Australians and improved safety, economic and social outcomes.

Roads to Recovery allocations for councils in each jurisdiction (except the ACT as it is a unitary jurisdiction) have been determined on the basis of the recommendations of the Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and the Northern Territory for the roads component of the Financial Assistance Grants. This is the same methodology as was used for this purpose in previous Roads to Recovery programs.

As announced in the 2014 Budget, the Government will provide an additional \$350 million in 2015-16 (\$700 million in total) to bring funding for the program to \$2.1 billion over the five years to 2019. Each funding recipient has a nominal annual allocation of one sixth of their total allocation in 2014-15, two sixths in 2015-16 and one sixth in each of the remaining three financial years of the program life.

### **Commonwealth Grants Department of Social Services**

This Department aspires to be Australia's pre-eminent social policy agency with a mission to improve the lifetime wellbeing of people and families in Australia. This department oversees Aged Care funding, Emergency Relief and other Children and Family related programs.

### **Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Indigenous Advance Strategy**

Indigenous affairs are a significant national priority and the Indigenous Affairs Group is leading Australia's efforts to deliver outcomes in the key areas of: getting children to school; adults in jobs; making communities safer; and, recognising First Australians in the national Constitution. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet oversees a variety of programs.

### **Homelands**

The Northern Territory Government acknowledges the importance of Aboriginal people's cultural connections to their traditional lands, and the contribution that homelands and outstations make to the economic, social and cultural life of the Northern Territory. The government is committed to improving services and living conditions on homelands. This will require the joint efforts of governments, landholders and residents. We all share responsibility for the future of homelands, and need to work together to achieve the best possible results for homelands.

The Northern Territory and Australian governments reached agreement in 2013 for the provision of Municipal and Essential Services (MES) to Homelands in the Northern Territory over the next 10 years, under the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory. This embodies various programs.  
<http://www.homelands.nt.gov.au/>

### **Special Purpose Grants**

Funding allocated to a specific project or program.

### **Other**

BRC also attracts other funding through building relationships with other organisations such as Central Land Council (CLC) and Central Australia Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS).