



Remote Australia Employment Service

Draft Grant Opportunity Guidelines now out for consultation

The new Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) is starting on 1 November 2025. To prepare for the new service the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has released the draft RAES Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs). The draft RAES GOGs are for the information of stakeholders and potential applicants to allow them the opportunity to provide feedback to the NIAA. Feedback received through this consultation process will inform development of the final GOGs that are expected to be released in May 2025.

A common way to provide funding for a program is through a grant. All grant opportunities need to have GOGs developed. GOGs are the documents which provide potential applicants with all the information required to understand the purpose of a grant opportunity and how to make an application.

The design of the RAES GOGs is not yet final. These are draft GOGs and are subject to change pending consultation feedback and other considerations by Government.

The feedback provided through this consultation process, along with feedback we have already heard from previous consultations, existing evidence and learning and successes of jobs trials, will help inform the new service, starting on 1 November 2025.

Background

The RAES is the second stage in the Government's commitment to change the way it delivers remote employment programs and services through replacing the Community Development Program (CDP). This service will support job seekers in remote Australia who are currently receiving income support payments to build their skills and address barriers to employment. The first stage of replacing CDP was the Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program which began in December 2024.

Implementation of the RAES contributes to the broader employment services reform signalled by the Government through its White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities, and response to the findings of the House Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services.

Let us know what you think

We want to hear from potential eligible organisations that may want to apply for funding to deliver remote employment services in their community. We would welcome your feedback on the draft Remote Australia Employment Service GOGs. Please note, feedback on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is out of scope as the RAES will initially use the existing IT system to support transition from the CDP. Feedback on regional boundaries is also out of scope at this stage.



Section 3.1: Grants available

The Provider Payment Model has been revised to support key deliverables, high quality case management and quality employment placement support with supplementary payments.

1. Service Fees
 - a. Designed to provide high-quality case-management support to participants around engagement and pre-employment activities.
2. Remoteness Loading
 - a. Designed to acknowledge the increased costs of living and business operations and reduced access to services in remote and very remote Australia, to ensure services are delivered to communities with a smaller number of participants.
 - b. Payment will be based on a 4-tier scale:
 - Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+) Remoteness Index
 - RAES Caseload per RAES Region (currently known as CDP caseload and regions)
 - RAES communities per RAES region (area m2)
 - National Indigenous Australians Agency Regions
 - c. Payment will be paid in advance, on commencement and then re-calculated every six months per region.
3. Employment Placement Support (EPS)
 - a. Provides tailored support to participants to enter into and retain employment.
4. Employment Outcome Fees
 - a. Designed to acknowledge the work and costs of getting participants into work. An outcome payment is payable when a participant achieves employment for 4, 12 and 26 weeks of continuous employment.

Table 1: Overview and additional detail on elements of the proposed Provider Payment Model:

Payment Type/Description	Payment period	Payment includes:
Service Fee		
Paid monthly, payable on average caseload numbers	Nov 25 - Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management of job seekers • Job Plans, assessments, and assessment support (including referrals) • Support to address non-vocational barriers, including social and wellbeing support • Cultural activities and community priorities • Training, skills, qualifications for the caseload • Pre-employment support (mentoring, training, skills, qualifications) • Reverse marketing and engagement with Employers/Industry • Social Participation Options • Cost of program administration
Payable monthly in arrears, based on commenced caseload	March 2026 onwards	
Remoteness loading	On commencement, then every 6 months	Acknowledges the added costs of delivering in the remote and very remote regions/sites



Payment Type/Description	Payment period	Payment includes:
Payable six monthly in advance based on a set formula, recalculated every six months		
Employment Outcomes, Post Placement Support, Employer Incentive Payment Up to \$19,000 paid for placement of a participant into employment, with a focus on delivery of quality post placement support.	Payments made at milestones from commencement into employment, subject to eligibility 4 Week 12 Week 26 Week Subject to eligibility criteria of Full/Partial outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment placement support (when placed into jobs and ongoing support while in the job) • Support for Employers • Subject to submission of evidential requirements
Community Projects Payable monthly based on a submission and approval process of proposed community projects	Payable on project approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible pool of monies for Providers to scope, and deliver and/or facilitate projects co-led with Community • Projects will support participants to build and reinforce skills, supporting employment pathways and enterprise development • Will support youth employment pathways • Will include projects that generate income • Acquittal Process required

Section 5.1: Eligible grant activities

The RAES aims to engage quality providers to deliver participant-led high quality services to remote and very remote regions. Grant activities that are eligible for funding under RAES include:

- Case Management
 - Engaging participants that require targeted, individualised and comprehensive services to achieve positive outcomes.
- Participation Options
 - Participation Options are meaningful activities developed by providers in consultation with participants and community to benefit community and increase participant job readiness.
- Community Projects
 - Local initiatives which are co-designed with community and focus on employment pathways and job creation, enterprise development and/or local industry development.
- Stakeholder Management
 - Acknowledges the requirement of providers to build strong relationships across community and with local organisations to ensure supports and services are available to participants and community



- Administration, Staffing and Operations
 - Activities and on-costs related to the delivery of remote employment services

Section 5.3 Eligible expenditure

Designed to provide guidelines on eligible expenses funded under RAES to ensure participants receive support to work towards achieving individualised goals.

Section 6: Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria and supporting documentation will be used to assess and address your ability to deliver holistic, user-centric employment services to participants and communities of Australia in a remote and very remote context.

Section 12: How we monitor your grant activity

A comprehensive risk-based approach will be employed to assess and address the performance of providers and the service with an aim to ensure timely reports are provided for service performance and compliance and overall provider performance.

How will the grant process work?

It is expected the grant round will open in May 2025 for interested organisations in [Remote Australia Employment Service \(RAES\) regions](#) (currently known as CDP regions) to apply. Interested organisations will be able to view and apply for funding on [GrantConnect](#).

The draft GOGs propose that the new service will be an open competitive process. This means that the NIAA will assess applications against the eligibility criteria, it will then compare eligible applications against other applications from the same region.

The NIAA will advise the decision maker on each application's ranking and merits.

Grant assessments are expected to be conducted in July and funding decisions made in August with a view to execute funding agreements in September. This is a draft timeline and will be impacted by the number of applications received.

Next steps

If you wish to provide feedback on the elements of the draft GOGs or have questions, please email RemoteEmploymentService@niaa.gov.au or complete [this survey](#) by 21 April 2025.

The NIAA will review and use this feedback to help finalise the design of the GOGs before the grant round is expected to open in May 2025.

More information

For more information on remote employment services, visit www.niaa.gov.au/remote-services

To receive regular updates on remote employment, [subscribe to our Remote Employment e-newsletter](#)

You can also speak to a NIAA office in your local area. Find the [nearest office to you](#)

