



Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy

Minister for Indigenous Australians

Senator for Northern Territory and Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Dear CDP Providers and remote employment stakeholders

I would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who took the time to provide feedback on the draft Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs).

Your insights will help shape the final design of the new remote employment service, which will start on 1 November 2025.

RAES marks the second stage of delivering on the Albanese Labor Government's commitment to replace the failed 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.

To prepare for the RAES the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) published the draft RAES GOGs for public consultation between 27 March 2025 and 21 April 2025. As you are aware, the Federal Election was called on 28 March – the day after consultation opened – meaning caretaker conventions were put into place until a clear election result was achieved. During this period, NIAA has been considering and incorporating your valuable feedback to meet the needs of employment services in remote communities.

Now that I have been re-appointed as the Minister for Indigenous Australians, I am progressing the important steps to open the RAES grant round as soon as possible. The Albanese Government remains committed to working in partnership with you to deliver RAES on 1 November 2025, to ensure no impact on remote service delivery continuity to support remote job seekers.

To do this, NIAA anticipates the RAES grant round will open by the end of June 2025.

The NIAA is actively working through all your feedback to incorporate it into a final version of the GOGs. The GOGs set out proposed elements of the new service, such as, the provider payment model, eligibility criteria, assessment and the overall grant selection process and built on information already shared in previous consultations.

It is important we get this right. The work to consider and update the GOGs has meant that the grant round is now expected to open at the end of this month. I acknowledge this may cause time

pressures and want to assure you we will work closely with incoming and exiting providers for a smooth transition for a 1 November 2025 RAES commencement.

Not all of the advice we received is within the scope of what can be delivered to support a new employment service. However, we are taking all of what we've heard along with feedback we have already heard from previous consultations, existing evidence and learning and successes of jobs trials, to help inform the new service.

A breakdown of the feedback received on the RAES GOGs and how it was considered in the final design of the remote employment service will be published on the NIAA's website.

The final approved version of the RAES GOGs will be published on [GrantConnect](#) with supporting information regarding what grant funding is available, how the service will work and how to apply.

Thank you again for your ongoing support to deliver this important remote employment reform.

Yamalu



Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians

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