



# Remote Jobs and Economic Development program Feedback from Grant Application Survey

## Survey Results

The Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program is creating 6,000 new jobs in remote Australia. It's creating jobs that communities want and need, with good pay and conditions, such as superannuation and leave.

Since 2024 the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has conducted two competitive grant rounds for the RJED program, which has funded around 1,700 jobs so far.

Eligible employers applied for funding through a grants process to pay for wages and equipment.

[Jobs approved in Round 1 and Round 2](#) reflect a mix of full-time, part-time and casual roles in a variety of sectors, including tourism, agriculture, healthcare, retail, administration, community services and maintenance, culture and the arts.

To help improve the application process for future grant rounds, we invited organisations and the public to complete a short anonymous survey. The survey was open from 1 November to 1 December 2025 and asked about applicants' experiences with the grant application process. This included feedback on the application process and the support available during the first 2 grant rounds.

The survey was also published on the NIAA website, promoted through the [Remote Jobs newsletter](#) and advertised on the NIAA and Indigenous.gov.au social media channels to ensure wide circulation.

## Why did we conduct this survey?

### To determine:

- how the NIAA can improve the application process for future grant rounds
- what resources need to be developed and improved
- how the NIAA can support RJED employers to engage with other NIAA programs in their regions

### To understand:

- how applicants and stakeholders prefer to receive information about the RJED program



## What we heard

From the 54 responses we received, 4 themes were identified:

1. The complexity of the application process
2. Requests for increased grant writing support for applicants
3. On-the-ground support for applicants
4. Improved support materials for applicants.

### 1. The complexity of the application process

Survey respondents noted the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs) were complex and the financials and budget template were difficult to complete.

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#### What are we doing?

- The GOGs have been simplified where possible, including guidance on calculating costs
  - The budget template has been redesigned to make it easier to complete
  - Videos are now available on GrantConnect to demonstrate how to complete the budget.
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### 2. Increased grant writing support for applicants

Survey respondents said they would like a greater level of support, with many noting they were unaware of the grant writing support service or disappointment at being ineligible.

Other respondents noted the RJED Helpdesk was useful but required longer opening hours.

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#### What are we doing?

- The NIAA is promoting the availability of the grant writing support service to increase applicant awareness
  - Eligibility for the grant writing support service has been expanded to eligible applicants with less than 50 employees and a reported aggregated turnover of less than \$10 million
  - The RJED Helpdesk has extended its opening hours on weekdays from 10am to 7pm AEDT. It opened on Wednesday 11 February and will close on 30 March 2026.
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### 3. On-the-ground applicant support

Survey respondents would have appreciated in-person mentoring and on-the-ground support, including workshops, local facilitators and increased information sessions.

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#### What are we doing?

- The NIAA will hold 2 virtual public information sessions during the grant open period for Round 3.
  - RJED Round 3 is an open competitive grant process. Due to the competitive nature of the process and probity requirements, in-person mentoring and on-the-ground support cannot be offered.
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### 4. Improved support materials

Survey respondents have asked for a wider range of support materials to assist them in completing their application.

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#### What are we doing?

- The NIAA has provided further support materials, including templates for letters of support, additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), a simplified budget template, and more examples of capital expenditure.
  - The NIAA is unable to provide examples of good and poor applications due to the Commonwealth's grant rules for competitive grant processes.
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## RJED Grant Round 3 is currently open for applications

RJED Grant Round 3 opened on Wednesday 11 February and closes on Tuesday 7 April 2026. To apply visit [niaa.gov.au/employers](https://niaa.gov.au/employers) or [GrantConnect](#).

## Further Information

If you would like further information about NIAA's remote employment programs, you can:

- [Register](#) your interest to receive remote employment email updates
- Email the NIAA at [remote.jobs@niaa.gov.au](mailto:remote.jobs@niaa.gov.au)
- Contact your local NIAA Regional Office on 1800 079 098
- Visit [niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs](https://niaa.gov.au/remote-jobs)

