



Regional and Small Publishers Cadetships Program – Applications are now open

As part of the landmark reforms being made to Australia’s media laws, the Turnbull Government is providing much needed support to regional and small publishers through the \$60 million Regional and Small Publishers Jobs and Innovation Package. The Package includes:

- \$48 million Regional and Small Publishers’ Innovation Fund
- Regional and Small Publishers Cadetships Program, supporting 200 cadetships
- Regional Journalism Scholarships Program, which will support 60 journalism scholarships.

What is the Regional and Small Publishers Cadetships Program?

The Government is supporting 200 cadetships over two years through the Regional and Small Publishers Cadetship Program to drive employment opportunities in regional media and ensure journalists continue to provide informative and compelling regional news. The program will increase journalism resources to help publishers (which includes print publishers, eligible television and radio broadcasters, and online news media outlets) compete in a rapidly evolving media environment.

Cadetships are being supported via a wage subsidy, with eligible organisations able to apply for a subsidy or grant of up to \$40,000 (GST exclusive) per journalism cadet. There is a requirement that employing organisations match the government funding.

How can I apply for cadetships?

Applications will need to be made through the online application form which can be found on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au. You should ensure that you read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (available on GrantConnect) before you complete the application form.

Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm AEST on 27 July 2018.

Am I eligible to apply for cadetships?

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- be a regional publisher; or
- be a small metropolitan publisher; and
- satisfy the eligibility criteria which are set out in section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



Regional publishers must meet all of the eligibility criteria, except for the turnover threshold and the control test (criteria 3 and 7). Small metropolitan publishers must meet all of the eligibility criteria, except for the requirement to be a regional publisher (criterion 2).

The eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. You must be a non-income tax exempt company
2. You must be a regional publisher
3. You must have an annual average turnover of more than \$150,000, but less than \$30 million, for the three years prior to the date that you lodge your application
4. You must have the primary purpose of producing public interest journalism, or be applying for cadets to work on projects directly related to the production of public interest journalism
5. Your central management and control must be in Australia
6. You must not be formally affiliated with a political party, union, financial institution, non-government organisation, or a policy lobby group
7. You must be majority owned by Australian residents
8. You must have robust and transparent process for dealing with complaints about your content
9. You must have a code of conduct or similar framework which relates to the provision of quality journalism.

We strongly suggest that applicants review section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines which sets out further details about the eligibility criteria.

How many cadetships can I apply for?

Of the 100 cadetships in each year of the program (financial years 2018–19 and 2019–20), at least 80, but not more than 90, will be for regional publishers. The remaining cadetships will be made available for small metropolitan publishers.

Subject to the above, there is no limit on how many cadetships an applicant can apply for. However, applicants should carefully note the requirement to provide matched funding (see section 2.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information).

Applicants only need to submit one application, even if they intend on applying for multiple cadetships. The application form will ask applicants how many cadetships they are applying for.

What can I use the grant funding for?

Grant funding may be applied to the following costs incurred in employing a journalism cadet:

- direct remuneration (base salary)
- superannuation

- other applicable leave entitlements
- the costs of cadetship training, up to a cap of \$4,000 (GST exclusive) per journalism cadet.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be considered through a two-stage, open competitive grant process.

We will first review your application to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria. Only applications that meet all of the eligibility criteria will progress to the competitive assessment stage.

If you satisfy the eligibility criteria, the merits of your application will be assessed relative to the grant guidelines and other applications.

As part of the competitive assessment stage, an assessment committee will consider whether your proposed cadetship(s) represent efficient, effective, economic and ethical use of funds.

Following the assessment of all applications, the assessment committee will provide recommendations to the Minister, who is ultimately responsible for awarding grants.

When will I find out the outcome of my application?

The Department of Communications and the Arts expects to notify successful applicants before September 2018. Unsuccessful applicants may not be notified until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

Where can I go for further information?

Consult the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further information about the program. If you want more information, contact the Department of Communications and the Arts at RegionalInnovation@communications.gov.au or on (02) 6271 1400.

