

Policies and criteria for APIDS funding

Introduction

The purpose of APIDS is “to alleviate poverty of people with disabilities in the Pacific Islands.”

To achieve this purpose APIDS will:

- Collect information from and share information with people with disabilities in the Pacific Islands.
- Improve the knowledge and physical resources of people with disabilities and promote their integration into society.
- Educate the Australian community on issues of people with disabilities in the Pacific Islands.
- Initiate sustainable projects that will improve the quality of life for current and future generations
- Raise funds from public, private and government sources in Australia and internationally. The maximum amount of funds raised by the organisation will be sent to people with disabilities organisations in the Pacific Islands.
- Act as a broker between organisations in Australia who wish to support people with disabilities and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) in the Pacific.
- Establish and maintain a database of potential beneficiary organisations.
- Establish and maintain a database of potential donors and existing funding options.
- Facilitate voluntary work by Australian professionals to assist with the expertise required by relevant organisations in the Pacific Islands.
- Advocate to the Australian government to raise the priority of disability funding in the Pacific Islands.

Eligible countries

APIDS will provide funding for disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) in the following countries, all independent country members of the South Pacific Forum:

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Principles

The following principles will govern APIDS funding distribution:

- APIDS will provide support to DPOs, defined as organisations which are managed by people with disabilities
- APIDS will work in a cooperative relationship with partner DPOs in the Pacific
- Funding will not be provided to individuals
- Funding is intended to support the core business and operating costs of DPOs
- Partner DPOs must: have a written constitution; prohibit distribution of income among members; and have an annual financial audit
- Funding is intended to support DPOs which share the values of APIDS
- Funding can be provided by APIDS through a trusted third party to a DPO if appropriate
- APIDS funding allocations will be transparent

Funding procedures

- Relationships between APIDS and DPOs will be formalised through a jointly signed Letter of Agreement which sets out shared principles, policies and funding procedures
- APIDS will communicate to all organisations with whom a Letter of Agreement has been signed to advise of upcoming funding meetings
- Allocations of APIDS funding will be undertaken twice per year (usually May and November each year)
- Decision-making about allocation of funds between DPOs will be made by APIDS Directors who will give priority to the following organisations:
 - Those which represent and are mandated to support people with all types of disabilities
 - Those which have not received substantial funds from other sources in the preceding year
 - Those which have existing or emerging leaders who have a vision consistent with APIDS principles
- Any other criteria introduced for decision-making about allocation of funds will be communicated to applicants prior to the allocation process
- Funding will be provided in the form of a lump sum for an agreed period
- Funding will generally not be provided for a specific activity or project
- DPOs will be required to formally accept an offer of funding and identify their priorities for the period covered by the funding, preferably as part of an agreed strategic plan or action plan
- DPOs will be asked to advise APIDS of their activities at the end of the period covered by the funding, preferably in ways which will enable APIDS to communicate to its members (e.g. a short written report, photos, stories). Reports can be submitted verbally to an APIDS Representative member, if appropriate

- DPOs will also be encouraged to communicate with their members about their APIDS-funded activities through their own regular reporting
- Funding allocations will be communicated to all members and partners through the APIDS website
- Information about activities supported by APIDS will also be communicated through the APIDS website
- Each Letter of Agreement will include a clause relating to any breach of trust. Partner DPOs will be asked to identify appropriate consequences in the case of any breach of trust, such as misuse of APIDS funds. Visits by APIDS representatives, annual financial audits and communications with other local organisations will be used to confirm that APIDS funds have been used appropriately.