

APPENDIX 4

Discretionary Grants

Discretionary grants are payments made to particular applicants, either organisations or individuals, at the discretion of the portfolio minister or the paying agency. Conditions may or may not be imposed in return for the grant. Discretionary grants may be ad hoc one-off payments, or grants renewed under continuing programmes.

The definition of discretionary grants excludes the following:

- ▶ grants directly associated with the provision of government services via contracting out arrangements;
- ▶ payments to states and territories and other government agencies;
- ▶ payments to overseas aid organisations;
- ▶ government income support programmes;
- ▶ programmes specifically for Indigenous peoples;
- ▶ emergency payment programmes;
- ▶ grants under commercial industry development programmes (including to increase research and development and assist exporters); and
- ▶ grant programmes specifically for educational institutions and medical research institutions.

Table 47 lists the discretionary grant programmes administered by the department and provides contact telephone numbers if further information is required.

Table 47: Discretionary grant programmes 2002–03

Responsible Group & Contact Number	Title	Description
Higher Education Group (02) 6240 8036	Framework for Open Learning	The framework informs the education and training community about developments in open learning and the options for achieving specific educational outcomes through the use of information and communication technologies. It also supports collaborative efforts to make high quality online curriculum content readily available to Australian school systems.
Schools Group (02) 6240 8898	Enterprise and Career Education Programme	The programme aims to support the development of an enterprising culture in Australian schools. It helps young people develop the skills, attitudes and attributes to make smooth transitions through and from school to work and/or further education and training.
Schools Group (02) 6240 7555	Grants and Awards	Provides grants to support the national operation of key education organisations; Australian Students Prize; core funding for the Curriculum Corporation and the Asia Education Foundation.

Table 47: Discretionary grant programmes 2002–03 (cont.)

Responsible Group & Contact Number	Title	Description
Schools Group (02) 6240 7258	Quality Outcomes	The Quality Outcomes Programme provides funding for strategic projects that support the Australian Government's key objective of improved student learning outcomes in schools and its national leadership role in school education.
Science Group (02) 6240 5022	National Innovation Awareness Strategy	Funded under the Innovation Statement <i>Backing Australia's Ability</i> , the programme offers grants on a merit basis to National Science Week projects. The programme's objective is to raise community awareness of the central role science, innovation and technology play in the achievement of Australia's economic and social goals.
Vocational Education and Training Group (02) 6240 8487	Disability Coordination Officer Programme	The programme provides information, coordination and referral services to assist people with a disability move between school, vocational education and training and higher education, to succeed in their chosen studies and move to suitable employment.
Vocational Education and Training Group (02) 6240 8818	Industry Training Strategies Programme	This programme assists in the implementation of training packages by funding a range of providers to promote and advise on the flexibilities available, with a particular emphasis on those qualifications provided under New Apprenticeships.
Vocational Education and Training Group (02) 6240 8890	Strategic Intervention Programme	The programme allows the Australian Government to respond quickly to opportunities to increase the potential for Australians to undertake training in priority areas, particularly through New Apprenticeships.
Vocational Education and Training Group (02) 6240 7333	Workplace English Language and Literacy	The programme funds enterprises (or training providers who have obtained enterprise support) to provide workers with English language and literacy skills.