



# A p p e n d i x 5

## 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 single ad hoc payments, or grants renewed under continuing programmes.

The definition of discretionary grants excludes:

- grants directly associated with 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 programme
- programmes specifically for Indigenous peoples (up to April 2004 when discretionary grant guidelines were changed)
- emergency payment programmes
- grants under commercial industry development programmes (including to increase research and development and assist exporters)
- grant programmes specifically for educational institutions and medical research institutions.

Table A5.1 lists the discretionary grant programmes the department administers, and provides contact telephone numbers if more information is needed.

**Table A5.1: Discretionary grant programmes 2004–05**

Responsible group and contact number	Title	Description
Innovation and Research Systems Group (02) 6240 5162	<i>Framework for Open Learning</i>	Promotes awareness and maximises the benefits of information and communications technology to the education and training community. Also supports the Education Network Australia initiative and aims to promote collaboration between states and territories and between sectors and systems to maximise returns on investment and avoid duplication of effort.
Indigenous and Transitions Group (02) 6240 9432	<i>Enterprise and Career Education Programme</i>	Aims to support development of an enterprising culture in Australian schools. 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.
Indigenous and Transitions Group (02) 6240 9432	<i>Enterprise Learning for the 21st Century</i>	Funds businesses, industry, education and community organisations to undertake innovative projects that support young people to build their enterprise skills, think creatively and reach their full potential.

Responsible group and contact number	Title	Description
Indigenous and Transitions Group (02) 6240 5328	Indigenous Education Direct Assistance – <i>Vocational and Education Guidance for Aboriginals Scheme (VEGAS)</i>	VEGAS provides funding to sponsor organisations that develop projects to help Indigenous students and their parents/caregivers to make decisions about their continuing education, training and employment.
Science Group (02) 6240 5022	<i>National Innovation Awareness Strategy</i>	Funded under <i>Backing Australia's Ability</i> . Offers grants, on a merit basis, to National Science Week projects. Objective is to raise community awareness of the central role science, innovation and technology play in achieving Australia's economic and social goals.
Science Group (02) 6240 5022	<i>Science Connections Programme (SCOPE)</i>	Supports innovative and interesting initiatives encouraging students to engage with science information and scientific principles. Through SCOPE, the Australian Government supports National Science Week, ABC Science Online (the Lab), the Australian Science Olympiads, the University of Newcastle's Science and Engineering Challenge and the Australian Museum's 'Science in the City'.
Industry Skills Development Group (02) 6240 8487	<i>Disability Coordination Officer Programme</i>	Provides information, coordination and referral services to help people with a disability move between school, vocational and technical education and higher education, to succeed in their chosen studies and move to suitable employment.
Industry Skills Development Group (02) 6240 8818	<i>Industry Training Strategies Programme</i>	Helps implement 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.
Industry Skills Development Group (02) 6240 8890	<i>Strategic Intervention Programme</i>	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.
Industry Skills Development Group (02) 6240 9406	<i>Workplace English Language and Literacy</i>	Funds enterprises (or training providers who have obtained enterprise support) to provide workers with English language and literacy skills.

Responsible group and contact number	Title	Description
International Education Group (02) 6240 8471	<i>Professional Services Development Programme</i>	Facilitates internationalisation of education and the export of educational and professional services through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ investigating and negotiating recognition arrangements, including funding professional bodies working towards improved international recognition arrangements</li> <li>■ assisting with Australia's efforts to increase its share of trade in professional services</li> <li>■ supporting development of industry standards, benchmarks and a quality framework to strengthen the Australian international education and training industry's capacity for export success and self-regulation.</li> </ul>
Schools Outcomes Group (02) 6240 7831	<i>Grants and Awards</i>	Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ grants to support the national operation of key education organisations</li> <li>■ Australian Student Prize</li> <li>■ core funding for the Curriculum Corporation</li> <li>■ the Asia Education Foundation.</li> </ul>
Schools Outcomes Group (02) 6240 7831	<i>Quality Outcomes Programme</i>	Provides funding for strategic projects that support the Australian Government's key objective of improving student learning outcomes in schools and its national leadership role in school's education.