



ABN: 26 924 779 836

Diagnostic Imaging Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce Scheme

**A program funded by the
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing**

GUIDELINES Rural & Remote Support Grants

Rural & Remote Diagnostic Imaging Support Grants

Guidelines for Application

1. Introduction of Support Grant

- a. Support grants have been made available through the Diagnostic Imaging Enhancing the Rural and Remote Workforce (DI-ERRWS) to assist organisations that deliver diagnostic imaging services in rural and remote Australia to expand their services to allow for tele-radiology and e-health services.
- b. DI-ERRWS grant funding can be used to support activities associated with the expansion of existing resources in rural and remote services, such as:
 - infrastructure to allow for tele-radiology;
 - infrastructure to allow for e-health;
 - additional resources (eg. training manuals, software, information kits for participants, website development, databases, etc); and/or
 - evaluation of the activities under the Scheme.
- c. DI-ERRWS grant funding cannot be used for:
 - clinical services, such as GP visits or referral visits to allied health professionals and individual diagnostic testing (blood tests and diagnostic imaging);
 - on-going individualised case management;
 - activities that centre around an annual or one-off event (eg 'XYZ day' or 'XYZ week');
 - activities that use grant funds for profit-making initiatives (cost-recovery is acceptable) or that subsidise profits of a commercial entity;
 - research projects;
 - major capital expenditure (including the purchase of land), lease or purchase of vehicles and/or major facility development; or
 - core organisational operating costs that are not related to the activities or time period of the project, such as salaries for ongoing positions, rent, electricity and other utilities.
- d. Funding will not be provided for projects, activities or services deemed to be inappropriate or counter to the aims and objectives of the Scheme.
- e. Larger grants may be targeted to facilities taking on graduate practitioners undertaking their PDY training year to further support rural health services.

2. Eligibility

- a. Support grants are available to for-profit organisations as well as not-for-profit organisations and agencies, including non-government organisations, community organisations and peak bodies. State and local governments are not eligible to apply.
- b. The support grant is available to members and non-members of the AIR.

- c. Organisations can apply for more than one grant, providing each application is for a different purpose/activity. Consortiums may also apply for funding but must not include state, territory or local governments.
- d. Organisations that already receive funding from other sources may apply for funding under the DI-ERRWS in addition to their current funding, provided they can demonstrate that DI-ERRWS grant funding will be used for activities above and beyond those supported by existing funding and that the additional activities provide value for money in meeting the objectives of the DI-ERRWS.
- e. Support grants delivered through the Scheme will be aimed at organisations that are located in rural or remote Australia.
- f. If there are more applicants for support grants than there are places available, not all applicants who meet the eligibility and selection criteria will be offered a support grant.
- g. Support Grants valued from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) per grant will be made available to successful grant applicants to assist rural, regional and remote practices to improve their services.

3. Selection Criteria

- a. Selection of grant recipients will be subject to a rigorous and transparent process. Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the following criteria.
- b. *Appropriateness* – Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their proposal appropriately provides opportunities for increased access to diagnostic imaging services. Applicants must demonstrate that the target group, cost and setting for the delivery of the scheme align with the Government objectives.
- c. *Effectiveness* – Applicants must be able to demonstrate their project’s effectiveness in increasing access to diagnostic imaging services.
- d. *Value for money* – Applicants must be able to demonstrate efficient use of funds and leverage off other opportunities/funding resources if possible.
- e. *Sustainability* – Applicants must be able to demonstrate an element of sustainability in the project to facilitate continuity beyond the funding period.
- f. Funding under the Scheme will concentrate on any area of Australia classified as RA2 (Inner Regional Australia), RA3 (Outer Regional Australia), RA4 (Remote Australia) and RA5 (Very Remote Australia). Further information about the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remote Structure (RA) is available at:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DirClassManualsbyTopic/9A784FB979765947CA25738C0012C5BA?OpenDocument>
A look-up tool for RA categories is available at:
http://www.healthworkforce.com.au/main_rrma.asp
- g. Funding will be offered on a competitive basis. Proposals will be assessed on comparative merit and ranked accordingly. In assessing proposals, AIR may ensure a mix of proposals, to have regard to the aims and objectives of the Scheme.

4. Application Process

- a. Interested parties must apply in writing to the AIR.
- b. A call for Expressions of Interest for the DI-ERRWS support grants will be advertised nationally through Spectrum and via medical imaging department heads / practice managers. Applicants will be required to provide the following information:
 - detail about the proposed grant expenditure, including more information about the activities/services provided, evidence underpinning the design of the scheme, information about who delivers the scheme and any qualifications or training required, and information about any partnerships with other organisations;
 - evidence that the organisation can be successful in achieving/delivering the grant outcomes;
 - a detailed budget, including information about any existing funding sources or resources they can draw on;
 - detail about any processes that will be developed to help ensure sustainability of the newly funded resources;
 - detail how the scheme will be monitored and evaluated, including short, medium and long term objectives.
- a. First round applications will be considered from 1st November 2010. Applicants are encouraged to submit for any 2011 activities.
- c. Applications must be addressed to:

Professional Standards Manager
Australian Institute of Radiography
PO Box 16234
Collins Street West, Victoria , 8007

5. Schedule

- a. A Selection Advisory Group will be appointed to administer this process. The members of this group will be drawn from relevant professional groups.
- b. The Selection Advisory Group will be responsible for assessing the grant applications against the selection criteria, developing an Order of Merit and making recommendations to AIR on which applicants should be granted funding.
- c. AIR will be responsible for selecting grant recipients, and deciding on the number and amount of grants to be awarded.
- d. There will not be an appeals process for the selection of grant recipients or the amount of funding awarded.
- e. AIR will review the performance of the successful applicants after 12 months and cease funding should agreed performance objectives not be met.