



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Joy Burch MLA (Deputy Chair), Jayson Hinder MLA,
Alistair Coe MLA

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT No. 17
Review of Auditor-General's report No. 8 of 2013:
Management of Funding for Community Services
(tabled 29 October 2015)

In connection with the above report, recommendation 5—stated:

RECOMMENDATION 5

The Committee recommends that the Government update the Assembly before the conclusion of the Eighth Assembly and provide a current status, and plan for future developments, on each Directorate's progress towards managing grant processes online.

The responsible Minister updated the Assembly as per the above recommendation on 9 August 2016. The response is attached.

2016

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**Update to the Assembly on Recommendation five of the STANDING
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS, Report 17, October 2015 -
REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO. 8 OF 2013:
Management of Funding for Community Services**

GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Andrew Barr MLA

Minister for Economic Development

August 2016

Government Update

Total Grant Statistics		
	Value	Proportion of total grants
Total value of single purpose non online grants	\$16.0 million	40%
Total value of grants online	\$18.6 million	47%
Total value to transition online	\$3.1 million	8%
Number of grants online	31	57%
Number of grant programs	55	100%
Total number of grant recipients	770	100%
Total value of grants	\$40.0 million	100%

Competitive Grant Statistics (non-single purpose grants)		
	Value	Proportion of competitive grants
Total value of grants online	\$18.6 million	78%
Total value to transition online in 2016-17	\$3.1 million	13%
Total value of competitive grants	\$24.0 million	100%

Summaries of Grants funding for each Directorate are as follows:

Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate:

Total = \$32.4 million

No of grant programs = 16

No of online grants = 9

No of recipients = 260

Several racing and football clubs receive an annual ACT grant which is administered on an individual basis through the economic development branch of CMTEDD and will not go online.

Visit Canberra administers approximately \$4.1 million of grant funding programs for marketing and special events. All competitive grant programs are in the planning stage to go online and expected to be progressed in 2016-17.

Skills Canberra within CMTEDD now administers the ACT Adult and Community Education (ACE) grants funding program which was transferred from the Education Directorate in January this year and distributed \$190,000 to 10 service providers and this program will go online during 2016-17.

Innovate Canberra offered a total of \$2.27 million in competitive grants through funding programs such as Trade Connect, Innovation Connect, the CBR Innovation Development fund and the Screen Production fund.

A total of 91 businesses received a grant from Innovate Canberra in 2015-16.

Trade Connect provided \$300,000 to 60 companies to boost export growth.

Applications are assessed by a panel and while grant allocation is

competitive, the process is scheduled to go live during 2016-17.

Active Canberra is the new Branch for Canberra's sport and recreation activity. In 2015-16, approximately \$3.1m was distributed over 114 grants with these funds managed through SmartyGrants. The ACT Event fund totalled \$545,000 and was also managed through SmartyGrants.

Similarly the **ACT Arts fund** of approximately \$8.2m is all online with applications processed using SmartyGrants to ensure the grant program is efficient and effective in achieving its objectives.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (formerly Territory and Municipal Services)

Since the restructure in 2014-15 Transport Canberra and City Services no longer manages any grant programs which have since been absorbed by other directorates.

Education Directorate

The Education Directorate has only one Grant program called **Pre School Matters** with total funding of \$10,000. In 2015-16, 20 preschool services received a small grant of \$500 each towards initiatives that improve parental engagement. Administration of \$10,000 is straightforward and this is one example where it is not intended to shift the grants process online.

Health Directorate

In 2015-16 all Health Directorate grant funding was managed online. Approximately \$2.7 million was allocated to 39 recipients to promote healthy living in Canberra.

Environment and Planning Directorate

In 2015-16 EPD administered a total of \$881,595 which includes heritage grants, environmental grants, community gardens and rural grants. \$711,595 (88%) in grants were managed online. There was also a single purpose grant fund of \$170,000 targeted directly to the Heart Foundation's Active Living Program.

Justice and Community Safety (JACS)

In 2015-16 JACS administered three grant programs for a total of \$443,000 none of these are online as yet. However in April 2016 JACS entered into a MOU to share an annual subscription to SmartyGrants with the Community Services Directorate (CSD).

The joint CSD/JACS subscription is consistent with the ACT Auditor-General's report which recommended a centralised grant management system.

JACS also provides single purpose grant funding to the Aboriginal legal service, the Community legal centre and administers a Australian Research Council grant for justice reinvestment.

Community Services Directorate (CSD)

CSD provided \$3.5 million funding through twenty four participation programs for youth, women and seniors, as well as for social housing, disability services, NDIS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Approximately \$1.1 million is managed through SmartyGrants across twelve programs.

In April 2016, CSD commenced the function of administrator for the SmartyGrants subscription and provides guidance, training and support to effectively deliver CSD grant programs online. This is expected to transition online in 2016-17.