

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Agriculture and Water Resources Portfolio

Hearing: Additional Estimates, March 2020

Division/Agency: Agricultural Policy Division, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Topic: Educating Kids About Agriculture: Kids to Farms grant program

Background information

The Educating Kids About Agriculture: Kids to Farms grant program (the program) will run over three years from 2019-20 to 2021-22, concluding on 30 June 2022. The program was announced in May 2019 as part of the Liberal and Nationals Government's *Our Plan to Showcase Agriculture: Our Heritage Our Future*. The total program value is \$5 million (GST exclusive).

The **objective** of the program is to increase children's understanding of where and how their food and fibre is produced; and the role and importance of agriculture to Australia's way of life, regional communities and the economy.

The expected **outcome** of the program is to provide students with a hands-on, practical farm experience which provides a greater understanding of the role of agriculture and the breadth of career opportunities available in the agricultural sector.

The program is targeted at primary school children.

Applications for the program opened on 30 January 2020 and closed on 26 February 2020.

Information on the program was published on the department's website and the Community Grants Hub (through the Department of Social Services). The Grant Opportunity Guidelines were also published on the Community Grants Hub and GrantConnect.

The assessment criteria for the program, which are weighted equally, are:

Criterion 1

Contribution to program objectives.

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will describe:

- how the project will achieve the objective of the program
- how the project will engage students
- how the project will link to, and with, schools
- how the project will build on or complement (and not duplicate) existing activities
- how the project will monitor, evaluate and measure outcomes – including support for implementation of the food and fibre aspect of the Australian Curriculum.

Criterion 2

Organisational capability.

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will describe:

- details of the key personnel engaged in delivering the project/sub projects or collaboration with relevant/specialist organisations
- particular skills or expertise that personnel/project partners will bring to the project
- proposed governance arrangements to manage the project effectively – including management of consortia.

Criterion 3

Risk and value for money.

When addressing the criterion strong applicants will describe:

- how the project outputs will be delivered on time and within budget (project management arrangements)
- project risks including the level of risk and how risks will be managed
- how the project will adhere to stipulated requirements for work, health and safety, working with children and vulnerable people
- the project budget including items that are eligible, reasonable and relevant to the project activities (taking into account the scale of the project).

Number of applications received

Eight applications have been received by the Community Grants Hub, in the Department of Social Services. No applications have been provided to the department as applications are being verified by the Hub prior to clearance for assessment.