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# Transcript

**Mr Leighton:** Hi everyone and thanks for joining us today. My name is Daniel Leighton and I’m the branch manager of the Information Linkages & Capacity Building Branch, at the National Disability Insurance Agency. I’d like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today. I’d also like to pay my deep and personal respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Joining me today are my colleagues Meg Price and Kim Taylor. And we’re here today to talk to you about how to get your pitch right for the upcoming information linkages and capacity building, or ILC rounds, focused on individual capacity building, mainstream capacity building, and economic and community participation. Also joining us today is Amber, as our Auslan interpreter.

Personally I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to talk with you about the upcoming ILC rounds. These rounds will be the first time that we’ll be seeking activities that align with the ILC investment strategy, which looked at the overall approach to ILC, and what we’d learned from earlier grant rounds. Based on your feedback, we’ve made some significant changes to improve the effectiveness of the ILC investments, and ensure that activities were replicable and scalable for national impact. In today’s webinar, we’ll provide you with some background information on ILC, and the ILC investment strategy, and then we’ll focus on providing information on the upcoming grant rounds; including outlining the types of activities we look to fund, under each round, so that you can consider which program is the best fit for your ILC proposal, and your organisation. Let me begin by introducing Meg.

**Ms Price:** Thanks Daniel. ILC helps people benefit from a more inclusive, accessible and connected Australia. ILC compliments the work of the NDIS by providing grants to organisations so that all people with disability can benefit, regardless of whether or not they’re eligible for the scheme. ILC also seeks to prevent, reduce or delay the need for people with disability to access specialist disability services by improving access to community and mainstream services, and building the skills and capabilities of individuals to participate and contribute to the community and economy. To date the NDIA has awarded 351 ILC grants. To a total value of $110.7 million, GST inclusive. This has been across a number of grant rounds, including disabled persons family organisation round, jurisdictional based grant rounds, national readiness rounds, and strategic grants.

Through the implementation of these grants, we’ve learned that annual grants are a lot of work for you to administer, that single year grants provide too short a time to make a difference, that a more strategic approach to investment should be taken. That programs should be scalable nationally. That outcomes must be measurable. And that many smaller organisations would benefit from organisational capacity development. These learnings have informed the ILC investment strategy.

The NDIS released the ILC Investment Strategy in December 2018. The Investment Strategy outlines a clear purpose for ILC, including investment principles and objectives. In response to feedback from the sector, the NDIA has adopted a more strategic approach to ILC by specifying funding, and delivering four programs that are consistent with the ILC policy and outcomes framework. The four programs are, Individual Capacity Building, including a sharpened focus on organisations run by and for people with disability; National Information Program, Mainstream Capacity Building Program; and the Economic and Community Participation Program.

The National Information Program was the first program to be implemented, with applications closing on 10 May this year. This round is currently in assessment. The NDIA will implement the remaining programs over the coming months. So the next opportunity to apply for ILC funding will be for the Individual Capacity Building Program. And this grant round will open on 19 August 2019. This will be followed closely by the Mainstream Capacity Building Program, and the Economic and Community Participation Program. Both of these grant rounds will open on 9 September 2019. The detailed Grant Opportunity Guidelines, also called GOGs, will be made available upon the opening of each grant round. We encourage applicants to familiarise themselves with the GOGs, and to consider which program is the best fit for your ILC proposal. The information we provide you today on each of the upcoming grant round opportunities, will help you to understand the objectives and priorities for each of the rounds. This will help you to begin planning your ILC application. Now I’ll cross over to Kim.

**Ms Taylor:** Thanks Meg. The Individual Capacity Building Program is being established to enable systematic, nation-wide access to peer support, mentoring and other skill building skills for people with disability, carers and families. A national network of organisations run by and for people with disability, or their family and carers, referred to as Disabled People’s Organisations & Family Organisations, otherwise called DPOFOs, will be supported as the primary delivery mechanism for this program. Organisations that are not DPOFOs may also be funded, but they must be led by, and support, a specific cohort of people. For example, where an organisation supports people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This program will also enable DPOFOs to apply for funding to support them, to strengthen their organisational capacity. Only organisations that meet the definition of a DPOFO, and/or priority cohort led organisation, are eligible to apply. The definition of a DPOFO and priority cohort led organisation will be outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

There is up to $100 million available in this grant round, GST exclusive. And this will be available over a three-year period. Applications for the Individual Capacity Building grant round will open on 19 August and close on 27 September 2019. With grants being established in February 2020. There are three intended outcomes for this round. They are, people with disability have the skills and competence to participate and contribute to the community, and protect their rights. People with disability have increased motivation, confidence and empowerment to act. And people with disability participate in, and benefit from, the same community activities as everyone else.

The individual capacity building grant round will fund activities that align with the following two activity types. The first activity type is individual capacity building. These are activities that build the capacity of people with disability by ensuring that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to set and achieve their goals. Proposed activities must be for the primary and direct benefit of people with disability, and developed and delivered in collaboration with people with disability.

The second activity type is organisational capacity building. These are activities that improve the ability of DPOFOs to deliver their organisational mission, and to deliver ILC in the community. It is important to note that only applicants that meet the DPOFO criteria can apply for organisational capacity building activities. DPOFO applicants cannot apply to deliver only organisational capacity building activities. Any application for organisational capacity building must also outline a proposal for individual capacity building activities. Priority cohort led organisations are only eligible to apply for Individual Capacity Building activities.

The types of individual capacity building activities that this grant round will fund include, but are not limited to, the following. Peer led support groups for people with disability, which could involve developing and running new or existing peer to peer programs, including peer groups in person, online and/or via phone teleconference for people with disability. Peer led support groups for parents, carers and siblings of people with disability, this includes developing and running new or existing peer to peer programs. The purpose of these activities is to enable these people to reach their own potential and gain skills and knowledge so they can effectively contribute to the wellbeing, and increased capacity, of the people with disability in their lives. Capacity building activities that enable people to speak up for themselves, which could involve delivering a peer training program that enables people with disability to build their capacity, to voice their concerns, access information or resolve issues.

Also eligible is projects about leadership and professional development activities. Individual or group based, which could involve developing and delivering programs for mentoring, or building individual capacity in engaging with shaping and leading in civic and community life. Also skill building activities relevant to the NDIS environment are eligible. These are activities that are led by people with disability. Including self-management of plans and supports, for example peer mentors, for service navigation, peer led capacity building for self-management of plans, improving awareness of quality service provision, and supporting people to check and report on the quality of services. And building autonomy over one’s life, including developing and enjoying choice, and making and pursuit of active citizenship.

Activities that build connection to community through improved understanding and development of knowledge and skills is also eligible in the following areas. Respectful relationships, social connectedness, circles of support, micro boards, communication accessibility, volunteerism, or development of other personal skills in this area. Other activities to develop the capacity of individuals with disability can also be eligible too, which could involve the establishment, or piloting new or innovative supports, or services, led by people with disability for people with disability.

Scaling and extending previously ILC funded individual capacity building activities, where these activities have been evaluated and demonstrate effective outcomes for people with disability is also eligible. The types of organisational capacity building that this grant round will fund include, but are not limited to the following. Upskilling, training or developing existing or potential staff, volunteers or committee or board members to improve their leadership skills and capability. For example, leadership training for staff, board members and/or volunteers with disability. Developing and delivering strategies and activities to strengthen the involvement of people with disability and/or families and carers in organisational decision making. This could look like recruiting and supporting staff and/or volunteers with disability, or supporting leaders with disability, to operate effectively on boards and management committees.

Other eligible activities include developing and delivering strategies and activities to support knowledge and skill transfer between board members with and without disability. Also establishing and maintaining partnerships to collaborate with other organisations. For example developing formal or informal cooperative agreements to share resources or partner in program delivery. Also eligible is improving organisational systems, or processes, to deliver organisational efficiencies, including purchasing and installing a new member communication system, or strengthening the quality of organisational activities, for example, commissioning risk management framework.

Also eligible is developing and implementing strategies to upskill the organisation, or parts of an organisation to better function. Or developing organisational strategy and future outlook, including conducting needs analysis, to better understand emerging priorities, or constituent groups, as well as scoping and developing a business case for revenue-generating services that lead towards financial independence, for example, developing a new social enterprise. I’ll now go back to Meg.

**Ms Price:** The next program is the Mainstream Capacity Building program. This program aims to support improvements in the delivery of accessible and inclusive mainstream health services, to meet the needs of people with disability, families and carers. This grant opportunity is targeting mainstream health interface areas. Standard eligibility applies for this grant round and eligibility will be outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines upon opening of the grant round. There’s up to $64 million, GST exclusive, available to deliver the program over the next three years, with approximately half available for this grant round.

Applications for the mainstream capacity building grant round will open on 9 September and close on 18 October 2019, with grant rounds being established in March 2020. The intended outcomes of this program is that people with disability use and benefit from the same mainstream services as everyone else. The types of mainstream capacity building activities that this grant round will fund include, but are not limited to, activities which aim to address barriers to accessing mainstream health services. These include activities that address the barrier of knowledge and capacity. For example activities that build the knowledge of practitioners in relation to the person with disability and their particular condition. Activities that address the barrier of information, for example, activities for health professionals to support better understanding of the needs of people with disability to navigate the health system, and the complexity of multidisciplinary care. Activities that address the barrier of culture, including activities that build health professionals awareness and understanding of cultural needs for people with disability. And activities that build the capacity of interpreter services, to understand disability cohorts’ needs, and navigating the health system. Activities that address the barrier of attitudes, for example, patient informed awareness raising, to improve health sector services’ respect for, and understanding, of disability. Activities that address the barrier of governance, and administration, for example, the development of technology and service models, which provide efficient and accessible administration processes for people with disability, and build the capacity of the health sector to remove barriers. Activities that address the barrier of infrastructure and resource capacity. This could look like developing models of evidence-based practice for hospital disability liaison personnel, to mediate service inaccessibility. Activities that address the barrier of communication, for example, disability cohort and culturally specific training for resources for interpreters. Activities that address the geographical barriers, including the development of innovative health service models, to enable access for people with disability, in remote locations, to participate in preventative health care practices. Activities that address the barrier of inclusion, which could look like creating personal networks that connect people with disability to health information and services they may not be aware of. And lastly, activities that address the barrier of lack of appropriate skills or resources. For example, activities which upskill practice nurses to be inclusive of people with disabilities, and to provide new types of advice and support that meets their needs. Back to you Kim.

**Ms Taylor:** Thanks Meg. The final program being implemented at this time is the Economic and Community Participation Program. Standard eligibility applies for this grant round. Detailed information regarding eligibility will be outlined in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, upon opening of the grant round. This round has up to $58 million, GST exclusive available to deliver the program over the next three years with approximately half available for this grant round. Applications will open on 9 September and close on 18 October 2019, with grants being established in March 2020. The intended outcomes of this round are, people with disability participate in, and benefit from, the same community activities as everyone else. People with disability actively contribute to leading, shaping and influencing their community. And people with disability have the skills and confidence to participate and contribute to the community and protect their rights.

There are three streams for Economic and Community Participation program, with two of the three streams being commissioned in this round. The first stream is the economic participation stream. This stream aims to build the capacity of the community to create opportunities for people with disability, to contribute to community prosperity. The second stream is the social and community participation stream. This stream aims to build the capacity of the community to create opportunities for people with disability to participate in community life. The third stream, activating community inclusion, will be commissioned at a later date.

There are a range of activities that will be eligible for funding under the Economic Participation stream, these include, but are not limited to, capacity building for employers, pathways to employment, and fostering entrepreneurship. Capacity building for employers activities, to increase the knowledge, motivation and confidence of employers to seek out, employ and retain people with disability. Activities may be used to build the capacity of management teams or workplace culture, or to ensure that people with disability are supported to perform well in their job. Pathways to employment activities are place-based programs that build employable skills of people with disability through paid or unpaid placements in real work settings. Fostering entrepreneurship, these activities build capability for people with disability to develop and maintain successful self-employment. This element recognises the important role of self-employment, or entrepreneurship to flexibility, independence and choice for people with disability.

Examples of activities that could be funded under the social and community participation stream include the development of education resources for the community sector, to improve contemporary understanding, or provide pathways to involvement in civic participation and leadership. Opportunities that enhance the capacity of local communities to identify areas where inclusion practice might improve, and the tools for change. Awareness raising activities to improve the community’s knowledge and understanding of disability, or specific sectors, such as employers or sporting associations. Also creating personal networks that connect people with disability to opportunities. For example, sporting opportunities they may otherwise miss. The provision of basic training to volunteers to enable them to better relate to or work with people with disability. And now I’ll pass on to Daniel.

**Mr Leighton:** Thanks Kim. And so that wraps up the information on each of our grant rounds today. And more information will be available on each of the rounds when they open. You can find this information on the NDIS website, and also on the community grants hub website, which is found at www.communitygrants.gov.au. If you’d like to register to receive information about ILC application dates, you can do that by subscribing to our mailing list. I’d like to thank you, Meg and Kim, for joining me to present on our upcoming ILC grant rounds. I’d also like to thank all of our online audience for joining us. We hope that you’ve found this information to support you and assist you to think about your upcoming ILC proposals for these grant rounds. A recording of the Webinar, complete with captions and a transcript, will be available on the NDIS website. Thank you.

Transcript ends