

## PACIFIC CONNECT COMMUNITY MICRO-INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

### What is the Pacific Connect Community Micro-investment programme?

Another stage in building and maintaining relationships and networks between Australia and the Pacific involves assisting projects developed out of Pacific Connect dialogues and the Community through the dissemination of micro-investments. As outlined in the ICDP Annual Report 2019-2020 – “a small number of the projects could benefit from modest seed funding to maintain momentum and/or collect information, undertake exploratory research or initial surveys to gather evidence to inform project planning and development – the ICDP board or CEO would be authorised to grant seed funding up to \$5,000.”

### What is the aim of the micro-investment programme?

The Pacific Connect Community Micro-investment programme aims to maximize the potential and momentum of Pacific Connect Community projects by offering funds to innovative Community led projects that build and bolster relationships between Pacific Islanders and Australians.

### Funding Limit

Total budget for 2019/20 - **\$50,000.00**. Individual micro investments up to **\$5,000.00**. Noting that any allocation of funds will be subject to authorisation of the CEO, ICDP in consultation with the ICDP Board where necessary and through agreed reporting requirements between ICDP and the Project Team Leader.

ICDP may also choose at its discretion to provide additional funding support (within budget limits) if deemed appropriate to a specific project that has demonstrated successes based on the below criteria.

### Who can apply for micro-investment funding?

Members of the Pacific Connect Community. Membership is obtained through attendance at a Pacific Connect dialogue in Australia or in one of the six designated countries covered by the Pacific Connect programme – Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

### What are the criteria for submissions?

The following will be considered when assessing a project's suitability for micro-investment funding:

1. Must be a Pacific Connect Community member/s.
2. Project team must include both Australian & Pacific Island Pacific Connect Community members.

3. Project/concept must solve an issue within the Pacific context that will
  - encourage entrepreneurs/emerging leaders to pursue a sustainable business or
  - provide capacity building for entrepreneurs/emerging leaders to build their existing business or
  - benefit a Pacific community through encouraging and facilitating participation in economic growth opportunities
  - provision of benefits to women entrepreneurs and gender inclusion will also be looked upon favourably.
4. Offer opportunities for Pacific Connect Community members to deepen networks and develop new collaboration opportunities.
5. Project/concept must include innovative or specific use of ICT to solve the problem identified.
6. A realistic project/business plan with appropriate development/operational stages and outline of future scalable and sustainable business solutions.

## How to apply

Pacific Connect Community Project Leads/Teams are to provide a short proposal using the Application Template detailing activities and associated funding requirements using the above criteria as a guide. This can be an excerpt from the existing project proposal document (if already developed) and can be up to \$5000.00. A project can only apply for one ICDP micro investment funding amount e.g. it is one-off funding.

## The process

The CEO, ICDP will assess the submission based on the criteria and notify of successful and unsuccessful bids within an agreed timeframe and provide feedback and advice accordingly. There is no time limit on submissions or closing dates for submissions. The micro investments will be available throughout the year of allocation up to the total limit of the budget allocation and at the discretion of ICDP.

## Reporting

- **Completion of the project.** Project Managers/Leads will agree to complete the project as set out in their submission. If any project changes are required, they must be negotiated with ICDP.
- **Milestones.** Project Managers/Leads will be required to report on the progress of the project at agreed milestones.
- **Final report and evaluation.** Project Managers/Leads will be required to submit a final outcome report to ICDP on the project within one month of completion date. The reports must include an evaluation of the project outcomes and impact as per the submission criteria. A reporting template will be provided.