



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communications**
Office for the Arts

Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program – impacts of COVID-19

April 2020

COVID-19 (or coronavirus) is having unprecedented effects on communities in Australia and around the world. The Australian Government is working across all Government portfolios to support Australian communities. The particular effects of COVID-19 on creative and cultural activity are evident and continue to be considered as part of the national response.

Up-to-date information about COVID-19 and how it relates to the arts sector, can be found at www.arts.gov.au/COVID-19-update.

We understand the serious impact COVID-19 is having on the delivery of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural activities supported through the ILA program. Please be assured that we will continue to provide administrative support for your funded activities.

At this time the health, wellbeing and safety of the people working within, or supporting, your organisation, and communities more broadly is paramount and takes priority.

If your organisation considers that any of your ILA program funded activities may be affected throughout the COVID-19 disruption, please get in contact with your ILA Program Officer and we will work with you to make sure your grant agreement is managed as appropriately and flexibly as possible.

General contact details for the ILA program are provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Please find below responses to frequently asked questions we received from ILA program grant funding recipients. We will endeavour to update this document regularly pending developments with the Australian Government's response to the evolving COVID-19 situation and the emerging issues you raise.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Government doing?

The Australian Government has announced its economic response to COVID-19. Through the Treasury, the Australian Government is delivering substantial economic support across the economy. This will help maintain business confidence, support investment and keep people in jobs. Information about these measures can be found on the Treasury website: www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus, including descriptions of each measure, and examples of how they can be applied to businesses and individuals in different circumstances.

A COVID-19 Business Liaison Unit has been established to assist businesses affected by the situation. The Unit can be contacted by email at COVID-19Coord@TREASURY.GOV.AU and by phone on 02 6263 3030 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm AEST).

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The Minister for the Arts issued another Media Release on 9 April 2020 in relation to the Australian Government's [targeted support for Indigenous Arts, regional arts and respected charity Support Act](#).

State and Territory Governments have also announced their own economic responses to COVID-19.

Will our organisation be eligible to access these support measures?

The Treasury have developed factsheets on measures which are available at www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus. You may also wish to liaise with your organisation's bookkeeper or auditor who may be best placed to assess and provide advice on your organisation's eligibility.

The Government announced that the 2020-21 Budget has been delayed until October 2020. Does this have an effect on ILA program milestone payments commencing 2020-21?

The Government has passed legislation to ensure that milestone payments falling due before the Budget on 6 October 2020 will be honoured.

Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 disruption, we may need to consider changes to the deliverables and budget for our organisation's ILA funded activity. Are we able to do this and what would such a process involve?

We are very aware that the impacts of COVID-19 will mean that many organisations will have to review and revise their 2019-20 deliverables and budgets. If this applies to your organisation, please email your ILA Program Officer and we will work with you to make sure your grant agreement is managed as reasonably and flexibly as possible. Every effort will be made to make this process as simple and streamlined as possible.

On 22 March 2020, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts issued a Media Release in relation to the Australian Government's economic response for [the cultural and creative sector and COVID-19](#). The Media Release states that the Office for the Arts has been given discretion under the Commonwealth Grant Rules to provide reporting and other grant condition relief to organisations with existing Australian Government funding arrangements. These include:

- Bringing forward payments
- Delaying or removing reporting requirements
- Varying the purposes and outcomes of funding
- Extending timelines for projects
- Allowing organisations to use money provided for a deliverable to be repurposed to pay essential bills such as wages, rent or utilities.

You are encouraged to speak with your ILA Program Officer about options that could provide flexible support during these difficult times. If you're not sure who that is, please email ILA@arts.gov.au and we will direct you to the right person.

Our organisation has had to close its doors temporarily, how will this impact on meeting our Commonwealth grant agreement deliverables and performance indicators?

We understand that some organisations may have to consider the difficult decision to close their doors to the public during the COVID-19 disruption. At this time, the health, wellbeing and safety of the people working within, or supporting, your organisation, and communities more broadly is paramount and takes priority at this time.

If this applies to your organisation, when you have time, please let your ILA Program Officer know of this arrangement and we can work with you to make sure your grant agreement is managed as reasonably and flexibly as possible.

Our organisation applied for the 2020-21 ILA program Open Competitive Grant Opportunity, when will applicants be notified of the outcomes?

The closing of the 2020-21 Open Competitive Grant Opportunity is now 30 June 2020 11:59pm (AEST). Please refer to the table below for an indicative timeframe:

Activity	Timeframe
Application period	Opens: 9am AEST, 24/02/2020 Closes: 11.59pm AEST, 30/06/2020
Assessment of applications	4-6 weeks
Approval of recommended applications by the decision maker	2 weeks
Negotiation of Commonwealth funding agreements with successful applicants	4-6 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity or agreement	September 2020
End date of grant activity or agreement	To be negotiated

Where can I go for more information?

The Australian Government has announced an economic response to support businesses and individuals.

Information for businesses and employers:

- [Government response to COVID-19](#)
- [Business Helpline or call 13 28 46](#)
- [Small Business Support](#)
- [Support for Business](#)
- [Taxation Issues](#)

Information for individuals and employees:

- [Government response to COVID-19](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Government Payments](#)
- [Economic Support Payment](#)
- [Employee Eligibility for Job Keepers Response](#)
- [Job Seeker Affected by Self-isolation](#)
- [Taxation Issues](#)

If you receive funding from the Australia Council please refer to their website:
www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about/COVID-19

ILA Program contacts

Email: ila@arts.gov.au

Phone: 1800 006 992

Office for the Arts: www.arts.gov.au

Useful websites

Australian Government: www.australia.gov.au/

Department of Health: www.health.gov.au/

National Indigenous Australians Agency: www.niaa.gov.au/

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations: www.oric.gov.au/training/COVID-19