

ACT ROAD SAFETY FUND

The ACT Road Safety Fund (the Fund) was established in July 2015 to fund projects and initiatives related to road safety research, education and road trauma prevention, in support of the ACT Government's road safety strategy.

Funding arrangements

The Fund is financed by a \$2.50 road safety contribution (RSC) which is levied by the Government on ACT motor vehicle registrations. This levy is separately identified on registration renewal notices. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate receives an appropriation of \$700,000 each year, which is equivalent to the anticipated income from the RSC.

The Fund is to be used to provide funding to:

- road safety awareness activities including public awareness campaigns;
- encourage and promote road safety education in the ACT community;
- promote and stimulate research and investigation on road safety issues, and the implementation of accident and injury counter measures, especially in the area of accident prevention and injury minimisation;
- support or facilitate the construction of any physical improvements to any land in the ACT to promote road safety, for example road safety audits, feasibility studies, evaluations and research into road design and construction; and
- aid in the establishment of initiatives aimed at rehabilitating persons seriously injured or traumatised as a result of road accidents.

Road Safety Fund Grants Program

A Road Safety Fund Grants Program is undertaken annually. The notional cap for the community grants program is \$400,000 per annum (which is equivalent to the amount spent by the former NRMA-ACT Road Safety Trust as part of its grants program).

ACT Government agencies are excluded from the annual grants program. However, they are eligible to seek funding from the Fund for specific initiatives eg. Learn to Ride centres, Safe System Performance Review etc.

The Fund's Advisory Board may recommend that the Minister agree to total grant funding of more than \$400,000 if a large number of high quality applications are received in any given year. The Advisory Board comprises eight members who are appointed by the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety. The role of the Advisory Board is to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister about the application of the Fund, including the allocation of an annual grants program.

Funding of other projects and initiatives

Following the completion of the annual grants program – the Fund may also be used to sponsor other projects and initiatives using any remaining balance of the Fund. There is no notional cap on the amount which can be spent on other projects and initiatives using the remaining balance of the Fund.

Each year the Advisory Board seeks advice from the ACT Road Safety Taskforce about any ACT Government projects or initiatives which could be progressed using the remaining balance of the Fund. The Road Safety Taskforce comprises ACT Government Agencies that have a role in, and contribute to, the delivery of the Territory's road safety strategy.

The Taskforce is required to provide the Advisory Board with a business cases or detailed project proposals. The Board then assesses all proposals from the Taskforce and seeks the Minister's agreement to funding any recommended projects using the remaining balance of the Fund.

High level assessment framework

The Advisory Board assesses all funding proposals (both community grant applications and other funding proposals) in accordance with the below assessment framework and guiding principles. Funding is considered when:

- The proposal is consistent with the purpose of the Fund and terms of reference; and
- The proposal falls under one of the current strategic priority areas agreed to by the Advisory Board (note 1); and
- Project would contribute to the body of road safety knowledge or support road trauma reduction; and
- Value for money (note 2).

Note 1 - Strategic priority areas

The strategic priority areas for 2017-18 are:

- 1) vulnerable road users;
- 2) speed management;
- 3) impaired driving;
- 4) linking of sustainable transport with road safety; and
- 5) incentive / rewards based approaches to road safety.

Note 2 - Value for money

Value for money can be assessed based on the links between proposed outcomes or projected deliverables, benefit to the community and the amount of funding sought.

Guiding principles

The Advisory Board has regard to a number of guiding principles for all funding proposals which meet the high level assessment framework. Key principles include:

- The purpose of the road safety fund community grants program is to fund programs and initiatives which will improve, or contribute to improving, road safety in the ACT; and
- Grants will generally be for small to medium projects (up to \$50,000); however, the Board may consider one off larger projects (up to \$100,000).