Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) Independent Review

Terms of Reference

In accordance with the requirement under section 106A of the *Export Market Development Grants Act* 1997 (‘the EMDG Act’) to conduct an Independent Review of the EMDG program (‘the program’) within five years, the Minister for Trade and Tourism, Senator the Hon Don Farrell has appointed Tim Yeend to conduct a review.

Having regard to changes to the program since the last independent review published in July 2020 and noting there remain opportunities to continuously improve the operation and delivery of EMDG, the reviewer is asked to:

1. Review the quality of current program processes and delivery, with a focus on applicants’ experience engaging with Round 4 of the program, including:
   * communications about the program and applicants’ experience engaging with Austrade’s online, digital, phone and/or email channels
   * examination of options to improve management of grant opportunities within the model of assessing applications until expenditure is fully allocated, including grant round opening and closing processes
   * examination of options for changed allocation of grant opportunities (number and size of grants) across EMDG’s tiers
   * opportunities to improve program service delivery that save time, effort and resources for applicants, including scope to integrate EMDG systems and processes with other relevant government programs that EMDG applicants might engage with.
2. Identify how Austrade and representative bodies can work together to optimise representative body members’ ability to leverage EMDG funded support to achieve export outcomes.
3. With a focus on optimising a whole-of-Australian-government approach to support for SME’s engaging in international business, identify approaches to better connect EMDG to relevant programs and other support provided by other Australian Government organisations, including State and Territories.
4. Identify any other matters the reviewer considers are relevant to the effective operation of the program, achievement of value for money, and delivery of trade outcomes.

The independent reviewer will bring together the findings from a range of available reports, including Austrade’s client services projects, review data, external consultant research and stakeholder consultations completed since the last independent review, which explore program changes and the rationale behind them.

The independent reviewer will receive public submissions as part of this Review, consistent with the requirements of section 106A of the EMDG Act.

Out of scope of this review are proposals to amend the EMDG Act, EMDG appropriation levels or the number of tiers in place.