

Submission: Inclusive Communities Fund

Dietitians Australia has made a submission to the Australian Government's **Inclusive Communities Fund consultation**, calling for food, nutrition, hydration, eating and drinking to be explicitly recognised as essential dimensions of community inclusion.

Our submission recommends that the Fund:

- explicitly include **food, nutrition, hydration, eating and drinking** in grant guidelines and assessment criteria
- enable community organisations to engage **Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs)** for training, co-design, accessibility reviews and practical advice
- support accessible menus, texture-modified food capability, adaptive eating and drinking equipment, sensory-friendly environments and inclusive food activities
- ensure people with complex eating, drinking and nutrition needs are included
- prioritise equitable access for people on low incomes and those in **regional, rural and remote communities**
- develop sustainable resources and training that can be shared nationally
- ensure community capability-building **complements rather than replaces individualised disability-related nutrition and dietetic supports.**

DA has also recommended that the Australian Government fund a **national training and resource program**, developed by Dietitians Australia with disability-led partners, to help community organisations provide safe and inclusive food, eating and drinking environments.