

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

EC23-005009

Dear colleagues

I am writing to inform you of recent actions my department has taken to remove references to a previously used acronym for the Financial Assistance Grant program and to request that your organisation do likewise.

I understand the previous acronym used for the Financial Assistance Grant program has been embedded in the program's history since its inception in 1974; however, recognising that the term can be hurtful, its continued use is inappropriate. In support of the LGBTIQ+ community, under the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cwth) and the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cwth), and as administrators of the program, it is our responsibility to ensure any short-hand references made to the Financial Assistance Grant program, both verbal and published in internal/external documents, communications and website pages, now state either the full title of the program, Financial Assistance Grant, or its preferred short-hand, FA Grant.

In instances where this is not easily achieved, for example, in references that exist in historical documents, the below disclaimer advising of the historical use of the term and the transition to the current term can be placed at relevant online access points.

This historical document is presented as originally created. It includes an acronym for the Financial Assistance Grant program that is offensive and inappropriate, and which we no longer use. The department apologises for the use of this term and the harm. Today, the program is referred to as the 'FA Grant' or the 'Financial Assistance Grant'.

I would be grateful if you would ensure these changes are reflected on your department's publicly facing websites over the next two months. I would also note the Australian Local Government Association joins us in advocating for this change that will help ensure our stakeholders, including the Australian public, feel respected, safe, and valued.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Clare Chapple, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Development and Local Government, on 0428 149 790 if you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Betts".

Jim Betts
Secretary

21 / 03 /2024

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