



# Domestic Airports Security Costs Support Program Frequently Asked Questions

The objective of the \$90 million Domestic Airports Security Costs Support Program (the Program) is to assist eligible domestic airports receiving Regular Public Transport (RPT) services to maintain regulated security screening obligations that must be met regardless of the reduced volume of aviation activity during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Program will reimburse Grantees for prescribed costs incurred between 29 March 2021 and 30 September 2021 associated with passenger and baggage security screening operations required under the Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005 (the Regulations).

**Applications for DASCS close 17:00 AEST on 1 September 2021.**

## FAQs

### Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must satisfy the following criteria:

- Operate an existing domestic airport in Australia, or be an airline who has screening authority for a terminal in a domestic airport, that is:
  - receiving RPT services and
  - required to undertake passenger and baggage security screening as prescribed by the Regulations

Between 29 March 2021 and 30 September 2021 (the Program period); and

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- be registered for the purposes of GST (where applicable); and
- be one of the following entity types:
  - a company incorporated in Australia
  - a company incorporated by guarantee
  - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
  - an Australian local government body
  - an Australian State/Territory government body
  - an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*.

The Grant Guidelines provide information for you to consider prior to applying. The Guidelines are available at [GrantConnect](#).

## What can I seek grant funding for?

Grant funds are available for Eligible Expenditure related to operating passenger and baggage screening as required by the Regulations.

For the avoidance of doubt, airport security costs not directly related to passenger and baggage security screening, other operational costs, and capital costs are not included under the Program.

## What is Eligible Expenditure?

Eligible Expenditure covers reasonable costs that are directly related to the operation of passenger and baggage screening equipment and may include:

- Staffing costs including wages, uniform costs, accommodation costs where staff are required to travel
- Maintenance costs including general equipment maintenance not covered by warranty, and travel expenses for maintenance works.
- Other running costs including utilities, insurance and fees, administration, cleaning costs and other overheads directly related to the operation of security screening equipment; but excluding depreciation.
- Screening consumables, including explosive trace detection technology.
- Signage related to security screening regulations.

Where security screening activities are contracted to a third party provider by the airport or an airline who has screening authority for a terminal within an eligible airport, activities directly attributable to the operation of the security screening equipment for domestic services captured under a Grant Agreement will be considered eligible expenditure for grant funding.

## Why is equipment depreciation not included as Eligible Expenditure?

The Program is intended to provide short-term relief to off-set cash costs incurred by airports to operate passenger and baggage security screening equipment, taking costs out of the sector while it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whilst depreciation is considered an operating cost, it does not impose a cash cost directly on airports and is therefore not included as Eligible Expenditure. The Program is not intended to support long-term capital maintenance.

## How were grant allocations determined?

The total funding available is \$90 million. The Program Delegate makes decisions for distribution of funds considering the total funding available and the requirements of all eligible airports. The Grant Guidelines provide further information about grant allocations.

The Department calculated initial allocations using a combination of historical passenger numbers, screening arrangements and other information. The intent of this initial allocation is to manage overall demand for funding in the Program, and to meet the requirement for Grant Agreements to specify maximum funding amounts, within the limited time available to commence the Program.

Where a Grantee claims the maximum allocated grant amount prior to the end of the Program period on 30 September 2021, the Program Delegate may consider a variation to increase the maximum grant amount subject to there being funding available within the maximum program allocation of \$90 million.

The Department wishes to work constructively with airports to ensure allocations are best matched to funding requirements across the sector.

## **My airport is receiving funding under the Regional Airports Screening Infrastructure (RASI) program, will I be eligible for DASCs funding?**

Generally yes. The RASI and DASCs programs cover security screening operational costs. RASI funding has been awarded to eligible regional airports implementing enhanced security screening requirements. DASCs is available to all eligible domestic airports receiving RPT services, which conduct mandated passenger and baggage security screening.

Under the Grant Guidelines, DASCs funding recipients cannot receive other grants related to the eligible expenditure from other Commonwealth, State or Territory grant programs during the DASCs program period (i.e. 29 March 2021 to 30 September 2021).

Therefore, where an airport is in receipt of approved RASI funding and is eligible for DASCs, the Department will seek to pause payments to approved recipients under the RASI program for the DASCs program period.

## **What does 'pausing' RASI mean? Why can't I claim both?**

RASI funding is tied to the implementation of enhanced security screening requirements at regional airports, which can vary from airport to airport. Pausing RASI payments allows all eligible domestic airports, including RASI airports, to access DASCs funding for the period of 29 March 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Once the DASCs program concludes or a recipient's DASCs allocation is exhausted, whichever is first, RASI recipients will be able to re-commence claiming RASI operational funding so long as they meet the requirements prescribed in their RASI Grant Agreement.

## **I would like more information to understand how my airport can manage their RASI and DASCs grants**

Please email the Department at [dascsc@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:dascsc@infrastructure.gov.au).

## **How do I apply for DASCs funding?**

The Department will invite domestic airports conducting mandated security screening and receiving RPT flights to submit an application for DASCs funding. The Grant Guidelines available at [GrantConnect](#) provide further information regarding the application and grant implementation process.

## **When can I start claiming DASCs funding?**

DASCs funding is available from 29 March 2021. Subject to: an eligibility check; awarding of grant funding; and negotiation of a Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth - Grantees can claim monthly eligible security screening costs in arrears for passenger and baggage security screening activities through to 30 September 2021, with the first monthly claims expected as at 30 April 2021.

Claims for grant payments must not be submitted more frequently than once per calendar month and must be received by **31 October 2021**.

The supporting information required for your claim will be outlined in your Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth.

## Can my airport continue to charge airlines for passenger and baggage screening if I receive DASCS funding for these costs?

**No.** A key requirement of the Program is that costs associated with mandated passenger and baggage security screening operations will not be directly passed onto airlines and subsequently passengers.

## What evidence do you require that I have ceased passing on relevant costs?

As part of the Grant Agreement, Grantees undertake not to pass on grant funded costs to airport users. To ensure grant funded costs are not passed on to airlines, the Department will be engaging with airlines operating RPT services at eligible airports, as part of its administration of the Program.

## How do I commit to not pass on grant funded costs when bound by existing contracts or other arrangements?

This is a commercial decision for each airport. The Department will consider each airport's preferred method for ensuring grant-funded costs are not passed on to airport users, whether it involves modifying existing arrangements or an alternate method.

## What is the Grant Agreement?

Subject to your eligibility, a Grant Agreement is entered into with the Commonwealth for the duration of the Grant. This agreement governs your relationship with the Department for the grant, including the obligations of both parties.

## How long will it take to receive funding?

The Department will invite you to submit an application for DASCS funding. Your application must be submitted by **1 September 2021**. The Department will endeavour to finalise grant applications within 10 business days and will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing.

If you are eligible, you must enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth to take up the grant opportunity. The Commonwealth is not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a Grant Agreement is executed. If you rely on grant funding before you have an executed Grant Agreement, you do so at your own risk.

## How will the monthly claims process work?

The Grant will be paid monthly in arrears on receipt of an invoice or claim form (as applicable) and any other evidence as set out in your Grant Agreement.

Claims for grant payments can be submitted no later than **31 October 2021** (for screening activity up to 30 September 2021), subject to the provision of supporting information outlined in the Grant Guidelines and your Grant Agreement.

## Do I need to pay back any grant funding?

As this funding is a grant, you do not have to repay the funding received under this Program, as long as grant funding is used for eligible expenses and acquitted in line with the Grant Agreement.

## Will a grant affect my tax?

**Yes.** Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We are unable to provide taxation advice.

## How do I apply?

The Department will send you an application form with an invitation letter. The Grant Guidelines outline the application process.

## Who can I contact for assistance?

Please email [dasc@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:dasc@infrastructure.gov.au)

You can also refer to the Grant Guidelines available on [GrantConnect](#).