



2025–26 Volunteer Grants

Feedback for applicants

Thank you for your interest in the 2025–26 Volunteer Grants grant opportunity. The time and effort you put into your application is appreciated.

The Department of Social Services (the department) is providing the following general feedback for grant applicants to support future grant applications.

Please note that a 2025–26 Volunteer Grants round for the Farrer electorate is being delivered separately to this grant opportunity following the May 2026 by-election. Feedback for the Farrer electorate grant opportunity is anticipated to be published in January 2027.

Summary of the Grant Opportunity

Application period: opened 18 May 2026 and closed 29 May 2026.

Summary of the round: The electorate based, closed, non-competitive selection process was designed to ensure grant funding addresses local priorities and achieves an equitable geographic distribution of funding. Federal Members of Parliament (MPs), in collaboration with their Community Committees, nominated organisations to be invited by the department to apply for funding. The Department considered all applications in line with the 2025–26 Volunteer Grants - Grant Opportunity Guidelines (the guidelines) for this round.

Selection Process

The Community Grants Hub (the Hub) reviewed all applications to confirm they met the eligibility and compliance requirements for the grant opportunity. This information was provided to the department's Grant Opportunity Delegate, who made the final decision on whether each grant application met those requirements.

Following completion of these checks, the department undertook the preliminary assessment of all eligible and compliant applications through a Closed Non-Competitive grant process.

Consideration of assessed applications was based on:

- Meeting the compliance requirements specified in the guidelines
- Meeting the eligibility requirements specified in the guidelines
- Whether the project demonstrated value for money
- Identified risks and the proposed mitigation strategies.

Selection Results

There was strong interest in this grant opportunity, and applications were of a high standard. The preferred applicants demonstrated their ability to meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines. Applicants were notified of the outcome of their application in writing at the end of the selection period.

The following feedback is provided to assist grant applicants in understanding what comprised a strong application and what quality responses looked like against the requirements of the grant opportunity.

General Feedback

Read the supporting information before applying:

- It is important to read all the available information provided about the Volunteer Grants grant opportunity when applying for funding, especially the guidelines available on the [GrantConnect](#)¹ website. The guidelines were specific to the 2025–26 Volunteer Grants round and contained information about the purpose of the Volunteer Grants program, eligibility and compliance requirements, timeframes and how to apply.
- The application form also included guidance to help applicants respond to questions.

Review the application form prior to submission:

- Applicants were encouraged to check their application form for completeness and accuracy prior to submission, including:
 - all mandatory fields were filled, in particular organisational bank account and contact details
 - all questions were answered correctly and saved in the application form
 - all mandatory attachments were fully completed and saved in the correct section/s of the application form, including evidence of appropriate organisational bank account details.
- Incomplete or missing information may have negatively impacted consideration of the application.
- Applications not fully or correctly completed as per the guidelines may have been deemed as non-compliant, ineligible or not considered for funding.
- The Hub was available via support@communitygrants.gov.au and the Hub's [Contact Us](#)² page to assist with enquiries throughout the 2025–26 Volunteer Grants round.

Eligible entity types:

- Organisations needed to clearly establish their legal entity status to ensure alignment with the eligible entity types outlined in the guidelines.
- The applicant's legal entity name and/or trading name needed to be registered for use under the Australian Business Number (ABN) provided in the application form.
- Unincorporated associations were required to nominate an individual to accept personal legal liability on behalf of the organisation.
- Applicants that were assessed as unincorporated associations but applied under another legal entity type were given the option to nominate an individual to accept personal legal

¹ <https://www.grants.gov.au/Fo/Show?FoUuid=0c963950-d2c0-48af-8f42-ac708865702c>

² <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us>

liability on behalf of the organisation. If no contact was available to become personally liable on behalf of the organisation, the application was unable to progress and deemed ineligible.

- The Hub may have requested additional supporting documentation to confirm an organisation's entity type and status, for example, a Certificate of Incorporation or Trust Deed.
- As per section 4.2 of the guidelines, sole traders are not eligible to apply for a Volunteer Grant. Where an applicant indicated they were a sole trader, they were requested to provide further information to clarify their legal entity status. If the department confirmed that the applicant was a sole trader, the application was deemed ineligible.

Bank accounts:

- As per section 4.1 of the guidelines, applicants were required to have a bank account with an Australian financial institution in the name of the organisation applying. For unincorporated associations, the bank account could be in the name of the individual assuming legal liability on behalf of the organisation.
- Applicants were also required to provide evidence of account details that matched the applicant organisation's legal entity name.
- Where bank account details provided did not meet the requirements outlined in the guidelines, the application was deemed ineligible.
- Except for approved arrangements for unincorporated associations or accounts described as being held "on behalf of" the applicant organisation, bank accounts held by another organisation or individual did not meet the requirements of the grant opportunity.
- Applicants are encouraged to ensure that bank account details and supporting evidence align with the legal entity applying before submitting future applications.

Acquittals:

- As per section 6 of the guidelines, the department examined whether an applicant had any outstanding acquittal requirements from a previous grant round when assessing applications.
- Applicants with outstanding acquittals from previous Volunteer Grants were unsuccessful for funding under this grant opportunity.
- Organisations should ensure all grant acquittal and reporting obligations are completed and submitted by the required due dates to support participation in future grant opportunities.

Duplicate applications:

- As per section 7 of the guidelines, where an organisation submitted more than one application within the same electorate, only the last application received was assessed. Earlier submissions were excluded from assessment to align with the guidelines and support a fair, transparent and consistent assessment process.

National Redress Scheme:

- As per section 4.2 of the guidelines, an organisation or their project partner is ineligible to apply under this grant opportunity if they are included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/)³ on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'.

³ <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

Tips for Future Applications

- Start early and read the relevant guidelines carefully.
- Check eligibility and gather required evidence before drafting your application.
- Provide complete, relevant attachments and references.
- Explain how your proposed activities deliver outcomes and demonstrate value with relevant money.
- Identify risks and outline strategies for managing them.

Individual Feedback

Individual feedback will **not** be provided for this grant opportunity.