



Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants Program

2022-2023 Program and Operational Guidelines

Project Applications open: 1pm, Wednesday 12 October 2022

Applications close: 5pm Friday 14 April 2023

Apply at

<https://aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au/>

Program Overview

The Aboriginal Affairs NSW (AANSW) Cultural Grants Program aims to support Aboriginal community organisations and groups across NSW to celebrate Aboriginal culture and hold key cultural events and activities.

Applicants can apply for grants from \$500 to \$20,000.

AANSW has allocated \$1 million for the Cultural Grants Program funding in 2022-2023.

Cultural grants is a rolling program where applicants can submit an application at any time during the opening period via the Aboriginal Affairs NSW online grants platform.

Applications will be assessed on an as received basis.

Program Opening Period

Project applications open – 1pm, Wednesday 12 October 2022

Project applications close – 5pm, Friday 14 April 2023 (or before this time if funds are expended)

Timing

Applications will be accepted at any time during the open period and the assessment panel will meet monthly to assess applications.

Applicants will generally be notified of the outcome of their applications within eight weeks of applying.

Due to the assessment process, your project start date should be a minimum of eight weeks after the date you submit your application.

Please contact Aboriginal Affairs NSW Regional staff if your planned project start date is less than eight weeks from when you will submit your application.

Your project must be completed by 30 September 2023. Where an application does not confirm that a project will be completed by this date, Aboriginal Affairs NSW reserves the right to set the application aside from further consideration.

Program Objectives

The AANSW Cultural Grants program objectives are to:

- support Aboriginal communities to strengthen, protect, and maintain traditional and contemporary expressions of Aboriginal culture
- support key contemporary Aboriginal cultural events and activities
- contribute to Aboriginal community wellbeing and healing, through the use of Aboriginal culture and community connection
- facilitate sharing of Aboriginal cultural knowledge and skills between generations.

Please see Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for more information regarding Program Objectives

What can be funded?

Funding can be used for projects that meet the objectives of the Cultural Grants Program. The following are examples of the types of activities that may be funded, where they are aligned with the program objectives:

- Women's or Men's Gathering on Country
- a culture and wellbeing camp for Aboriginal youth
- creation of a digital installation showing Aboriginal history of the local community
- a statewide music and cultural festival
- a series of online workshops
- a community celebration event
- cultural activities at a regional sporting event.

Applicants are encouraged to contact their nearest AANSW Regional Office to discuss their project. Regional Office staff are available to provide advice regarding program objectives and eligibility requirements, however, they cannot assist with the development of an application.

Funding **can** be used for:

- purchase of consumables – such as catering, equipment items and materials for activities (excluding alcohol) – for the purposes of the project or event
- hiring equipment to be used for the period of the project or event
- engaging contractors such as facilitators, trainers and teachers
- eligible costs associated with holding key state-wide and/or regional Aboriginal sporting and cultural events

- purchasing minor equipment for event activities up to the value of \$5000 (please refer to the FAQ for guidance on minor equipment)
- administering the project, with up to 10 percent of the requested AANSW funding amount being able to be used for this task **or** as auspice fees where there is an auspicing arrangement
- Eligible sole trader applicants may include up to 10 percent of the requested AANSW funding amount to cover remuneration costs. Refer to the FAQ for more information.

Funding **cannot** be used for:

- costs for individual sporting teams or cultural groups to attend competitions or events
- capital costs – any type of building, construction, major equipment or capital works including renovations to a building, housing related costs or the purchase of land
- purchase of vehicles
- wages and salaries and on-costs for ongoing staff
- sitting fees, travel allowance or costs associated with membership of boards/councils
- activities that may create an ongoing dependency on cultural grant funding, such as funding that is required over multiple years
- costs that are not directly associated with the delivery of the project
- activities related to NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout which has a separate funding program
- activities related to NAIDOC week events which has a separate funding program
- international travel costs (proposals for domestic travel costs need to demonstrate the benefits of travel to the project, organisation, and community)
- operational and business as usual costs.

AANSW and the Aboriginal Languages Trust administer a range of other grant programs throughout the year. Applicants may be referred to another program if it is considered a more suitable source of funding.

Who can apply for funding?

AANSW Cultural Grants Program funding, where possible, is distributed to small, community based Aboriginal owned and controlled organisations.

Cultural Grants funding will be allocated into two separate streams:

Stream 1 - \$700,000

For small, community based Aboriginal owned and controlled organisations, unincorporated groups and businesses. These organisations represent or service a specific Aboriginal community or language group, or a group of communities connected geographically.

Stream 2 - \$300,000

Larger regional and state-wide organisations. These are organisations with a state-wide or national presence, and regional organisations with significant numbers of paid staff.

AANSW reserves the right to roll funding into one stream if 60% of the allocated Funding pool in either stream has not been awarded by 31 January 2023.

To be eligible for funding, your organisation must be a legal entity located in NSW, or working with Aboriginal communities in NSW, and able to enter into a funding agreement with Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

Unincorporated groups

If an unincorporated Aboriginal group wishes to apply for a cultural grant, they will need to partner with an eligible ACCO to receive and administer the funding.

Eligible organisations must be:

- **Aboriginal owned and controlled; and**
- **Not-for-profit (with the exception of sole traders outlined below).**

Eligible organisations are:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)
- a company incorporated in Australia under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)
- a Local Aboriginal Land Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)
- an Incorporated Association (incorporated under state legislation, and commonly have 'Association' or 'Incorporated' or 'Inc' in their legal name)
- an Incorporated Cooperative (incorporated under state legislation, and commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an unincorporated Aboriginal community group with an eligible auspice.
- **an Aboriginal sole trader whose primary business activity relates to cultural expression or revitalisation (noting projects must not be profit making in nature)**

Applicants must deliver a service to Aboriginal communities within NSW and have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million per claim or be willing to purchase it as part of the project budget.

Applicants **not** eligible for funding are:

- individuals
- non-Aboriginal groups or organisations
- federal and state government agencies and bodies, including NSW public schools and hospitals
- for-profit organisations, including Aboriginal businesses (exception for certain Aboriginal sole trader businesses – refer to FAQ)
- unincorporated organisations or groups without an eligible auspicing organisation
- organisations that have not met project requirements, including acquittal and reporting for any grant funding received from Aboriginal Affairs NSW in the previous two years
- organisations with redress sanctions as described in the National Redress Scheme.

Assessment and Approval

This is a non-competitive program, where applications are assessed against the criteria, not competitively against other applications.

All applications will be screened for eligibility. Eligible applications will then be assessed against the criteria by a panel of AANSW staff on a monthly basis.

All assessment recommendations will be provided in writing to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is the final decision maker taking into account the recommendations of the assessment panel.

Some applicants may be offered partial funding where budget includes ineligible items.

Applicants who are determined unsuccessful may reapply for funding during the program opening period.

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

Criteria	What are we looking for?	Weighting
Project quality	Evidence that the project meets the program aims and objectives	20%
Project detail	Explanation of what the funding will do and how it will be spent	20%
Project impact	Evidence of who the project will benefit and how this will be achieved	20%
Capacity	Experience managing previous projects or relevant training and experience of key staff involved in the project	20%
Value for money	It is clear how budget items contribute to the project outcomes. The budget is reasonable and realistic	20%

How to apply

Applications can be completed online at the AANSW online grants platform. Applicants are encouraged to contact their nearest Aboriginal Affairs NSW Regional Office to discuss their project.

An Applicant's Guide and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist applicants are available from the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website.

Applicants can choose to submit a video response to application questions on project objectives and outcomes AANSW regional staff are available to support applicants with recording and preparing a file for upload if required.

An organisation can only receive one grant from the 2022-2023 Cultural Grants Program.

Auspecting organisations may auspice grants for more than one organisation.

Unsuccessful applicants will be offered a feedback session if requested, and may reapply for funding during the program opening period.

Supporting Documents

The below documents are required before you submit your application:

- Evidence of Community Support
- Certificate of Currency (or a budget that includes the purchase of public liability insurance)

Recommended documents:

- Quotes
- other evidence to support your application (e.g., evidence of successfully delivering other projects, project plans)

Other important information

COVID-19 impacts Due to the changing impacts of COVID-19 across NSW, projects must be in line with Public Health Orders and NSW Government advice, such as social distancing and public gatherings.

Up-to-date information is available *here*.

If COVID-19 rules in NSW change during the grants period, AANSW may request further information from you, on how you propose to manage COVID-19 risks for your project.

Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property

AANSW has developed an Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property (ACIP) Protocol that aims to build awareness and respect for Aboriginal culture. The Protocol sets a standard for how AANSW engages with Aboriginal people and communities regarding their cultural and intellectual property and what it expects from the organisations it funds.

Any Aboriginal Cultural or Intellectual Property submitted in a grant application to AANSW remains the property of the relevant community organisation or Aboriginal person.

AANSW will not distribute or communicate any ACIP contained in SmartyGrants and agrees to respect the cultural protocols of Aboriginal people to whom it may apply.

More information on ACIP, including the Protocol is available on the AANSW website

Funding arrangements and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to:

- enter into a Funding Agreement with AANSW within two weeks of the offer being made
- start and complete funded activities and events by the dates specified in the Funding Agreement

- notify AANSW of any proposed changes to your funded activity and complete a project variation request
- acknowledge the support of AANSW in accordance with the Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines
- report on outcomes from the activity and acquit the grant within 21 days of project completion. Evidence to support this can be uploaded in SmartyGrants and must include evidence of expenditure (copies of invoices and receipts) as well as photos, media coverage and links to video clips where relevant. **If the acquittal is not completed within the required timeframe, you will not be eligible to apply for Aboriginal Affairs NSW grants for the next two years.**

Successful applications including recipient name, funding amount and project location are required to be published on the NSW Governments Grant and Funding Finder at nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding. Successful applicants may also be included in:

- public media releases
- an announcement on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website
- AANSW social media.

Applicants should be aware that information provided to AANSW may be made publicly available under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW).

Information may also be made publicly available as a result of an order for papers made by the NSW Legislative Council under Standing Order 52. Before information is released in response to an application under the Act, there will be an assessment of the public interest considerations in favour of and against disclosure of that information and there may be consultation requirements that apply.

Complaints and Reviews

If an applicant wishes to seek a review of a decision, the applicant organisation should contact the Community Investments team at grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Where required, a complaint or review will be passed on to the Manager, Community Investments.

Support and contacts

For any questions regarding the Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants Program, please contact the Community Investments team at grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au or your nearest Aboriginal Affairs NSW

Regional Office on the phone numbers below:

Office	Phone number
Batemans Bay	02 8575 1037
Tamworth	02 8575 1172
Coffs Harbour	02 8575 1068
Broken Hill	02 9228 5224
Bourke	02 9228 5224
Dubbo	02 8575 1073
Newcastle	02 8575 1105
Greater Sydney	02 8575 1105