



Aboriginal
Affairs



Cultural Grants Program

2021–2022 Program Guidelines

Important dates



Project applications open

9:00am, Monday 17 January 2022



Project applications close

5:00pm, Friday 13 May 2022
(or before this date if funds are expended)



Apply at

aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au



Timing

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

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications within eight weeks of submitting an application.

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

Please contact Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff and/or 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 June 2022.

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Acknowledgement of Country

Aboriginal Affairs NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and the places in which we live. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders, past, present and future. We recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples to Australia.

Program objectives

The Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants program has the following objectives:

- 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
- facilitate sharing of Aboriginal cultural knowledge and skills between generations.

Program overview

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

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

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has allocated \$300,000 for the Cultural Grants Program funding in 2021–2022.

Cultural grants is a rolling program where applicants can submit an application at any time on the [Aboriginal Affairs NSW online grants platform](#).

	Project applications open
	9:00am, Monday 17 January 2022
	Project applications close
	5:00pm, Friday 13 May 2022

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:

- 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 Aboriginal Affairs NSW Regional Office to discuss their project.



Funding **can** be used for:

- purchase of consumables – such as food, materials and PPE (but 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
- costs associated with holding key state-wide or regional Aboriginal sporting or cultural events
- purchasing minor equipment for event activities up to the value of \$5000
- administering the project, with up to 10 per cent of the budget able to be used for this task or as auspice fees where there is an auspicing arrangement.



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
- international travel costs (proposals for domestic travel costs need to demonstrate the benefits of travel to the project, organisation, and community).

Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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?

Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants Program funding, where possible, is distributed to small, community based Aboriginal owned and controlled organisations. These organisations represent or service a specific Aboriginal community or language group, or a group of communities connected geographically, and will be prioritised for funding.

Organisations with a state-wide or national presence, and regional organisations with significant numbers of paid staff will be eligible to apply but may not be prioritised.

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

Eligible organisations must be:

- 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.

Applicants must deliver a service to Aboriginal communities within NSW and have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million per claim.

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
- 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 including Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff and independent members within four weeks of submission.

The Special Minister of State, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts is the final decision maker based on the recommendations of the assessment panel.

Some applicants may be offered partial funding.

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 [Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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. Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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 2021-2022 Cultural Grants Program.

Auspicing organisations may auspice grants for more than one organisation.

Unsuccessful applicants will be offered a feedback session if required.



Gurayndja artworks on display. Image: Lisa Haymes

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, Aboriginal Affairs NSW may request further information from you, on how you propose to manage COVID-19 risks for your project.

Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property

Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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 Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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 Aboriginal Affairs NSW remains the property of the relevant community organisation or Aboriginal person.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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 [Aboriginal Affairs NSW website](#).

Funding arrangements and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to:

- enter into a Funding Agreement with Aboriginal Affairs NSW within two weeks of the offer being made
- start and complete funded activities and events by the dates specified in the Funding Agreement
- notify Aboriginal Affairs NSW of any proposed changes to your funded activity and complete a project variation request
- acknowledge the support of Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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 will be included in:

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

Applicants should be aware that information provided to Aboriginal Affairs NSW 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.

Support and contacts

For any questions regarding the Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants Program, please contact your nearest Aboriginal Affairs NSW regional office on the phone numbers below or email grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au today.

Office	Phone number
Batemans Bay	02 8575 1037
Tamworth	02 8575 1172
Coffs Harbour	02 8575 1068
Broken Hill	02 8575 1057
Bourke	02 8575 1057
Dubbo	02 8575 1073
Newcastle	02 8575 1105
Greater Sydney	02 8575 1105



Community artwork on display at the Brewarrina District Hospital. Image courtesy of Brewarrina Shire Council

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