

Cultural Grants

Quick Reference Guide

What is the purpose of the Aboriginal Affairs NSW Cultural Grants program?

- To support Aboriginal community organisations and groups across NSW to celebrate Aboriginal culture and hold cultural events and activities.

What are the opening and closing dates to apply for funding?

- Applications Open – 10am Monday, 10 November 2025.
- Applications Close – 4pm Friday, 31 March 2026 (or sooner, if the program funds run out before)

Is there a limit on the amount of funding I can apply for?

- Yes, you can apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

What if I want to apply but don't know how?

- Aboriginal Affairs can support you in developing a grant proposal. Please contact your nearest regional team or email grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au.

What is a 'rolling grant program'?

- A rolling grant program lets you apply for funding any time while the program is open. Applications are assessed regularly throughout the opening period, rather than after the Program has closed. You're encouraged to apply early! Applications will be looked at in the order they are submitted through SmartyGrants.

Is it a competitive or non-competitive grant program?

- Non-competitive. This means your application is assessed on its own strengths, not in competition with other applications.

When do I need to deliver my project?

- Between 23 January 2026 – 31 December 2026

For projects needing to be delivered between:

- 23 January - 2 March 2026, please apply by 23 November 2025
- 2 March - 6 April 2026, please apply by 11 January 2026
- 6 April - 1 June 2026, please apply by 15 February 2026
- 1 June - 31 December 2026, please apply by 31 March 2026





What types of activities can be funded?

Activities that meet the objectives of the Cultural Grants Program. Here are some examples (but your project does not need to be limited by these examples):

- Gatherings on Country
- Culture and wellbeing programs
- Recording the Aboriginal history of the local community
- Community days and events
- Art, music and cultural activities



What can I use the funding for?

- Supplies like catering, equipment and materials
- Hiring equipment for the project or event
- Paying facilitators, trainers and teachers
- Buying equipment for event activities (up to \$5,000)
- Merchandise like hats, t-shirts, trophies (up to 10% of the funding)



What can't I use the funding for?

- Sending sports teams or groups to competitions
- Building, construction, large equipment, renovations, housing costs, or land
- Wages, salaries, or costs for staff or consultants
- NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout or NAIDOC Week events
- Regular operational or business costs
- Vouchers (e.g. gifts or petrol)



Who can apply?

- A not-for-profit organisation and an:
 - Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) OR
 - An Aboriginal not-for-profit organisation; OR
- An Aboriginal sole trader or business focused on cultural expression or revitalisation; OR
- An unincorporated Aboriginal community group with a not-for-profit organisation as their auspice. More information is available in the [Program Guidelines](#).



What are the 'criteria' for a successful application?

- **Alignment with Program Guidelines** – The project aligns with the Cultural Grants program objectives by supporting, strengthening or celebrating Aboriginal culture, sharing knowledge, contributing to cultural connection or marking key events.
- **Community Impact** – The project shows benefit to the Aboriginal community and positive contributions to cultural health and wellbeing.
- **Organisation's Capacity to Deliver** – The organisation has the experience, resources, and community support to carry out the project.
- **Value for Money** – The budget clearly supports the project outcomes and is reasonable and realistic.