

# 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 key cultural events and activities.

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

- Applications Open – 10am Monday, 18 November 2024.
- Applications Close – 4pm Friday, 21 March 2025 (or sooner, if the program funds run out before)

### 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](mailto:grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au). Details for our regional offices are available [on our website](#).

### What is a 'rolling grant program'?

- A rolling grant program lets you apply for funding any time while the program is open, as long as there's money left. Applications are reviewed 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 how well it meets the criteria. Your application will not be assessed against other applications.

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

- Yes, you can apply for grants between \$500 and \$20,000.

### Can I apply for funding for an event in December 2024, or January 2026?

- Unfortunately not. The event/project/initiative for which you seek funding must be delivered between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.



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[nsw.gov.au/cultural-grants-2025](https://nsw.gov.au/cultural-grants-2025)

More information >





## 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 camp
- Recording the Aboriginal history of the local community
- A local or regional music and cultural festival
- A series of online and/or face-to-face workshops

## 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 cultural groups to competitions or events
- Building, construction, large equipment, renovations, housing costs, or buying 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?

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) working with Aboriginal communities in NSW, OR;
- An Aboriginal sole trader or business focused on cultural expression or revitalisation (the project that you apply for funding with, must be non-profit), OR;
- An unincorporated Aboriginal community group with a not-for-profit organisation as their auspice. More information is available in the FAQ's.

## What are the 'criteria' for a successful application?

- **Project Quality** – 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.
- **Project Impact** – Explain how the funding will be used, who will benefit, and how the project's goals will be achieved.
- **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.

**Got questions?** Contact us at [grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au)