

Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program (ACDGP) 2025-26 round

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[Co-sponsoring entity]	Not applicable
[Administering entity]	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program Secretariat, cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au Questions should be sent no later than 30 January 2026
Date guidelines released:	6 January 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

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1 Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program (ACDGP): 2025-26 round processes

The ACDGP is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Outcome [1] in the [Portfolio Budget Statement](#). The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [GrantConnect](#)



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the SmartyGrants application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the application/s against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money and compare it to other applications.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the Program Delegate on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The Program Delegate decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with you if you have been successful. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the ACDGP

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the ACDGP as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program (ACDGP) 2025-26 grants.

You must read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#) (CGRPs).

2 About the grant program

2.1 About the ACDGP 2025-26 grant opportunity

The ACDGP supports international projects that tell Australian stories, amplify First Nations voices, deepen bilateral partnerships and build cultural understanding and connections overseas.

The ACDGP 2025-26 round seeks to advance Australia's interests through activities that foster mutual understanding, deepen partnerships and connections, build trust, and strengthen Australia's influence, reach, reputation and relationships overseas. The objectives of the program are:

- support collaborative and innovative projects that tell Australian stories and amplify First Nations voices overseas;
- influence perceptions of Australia abroad by building cultural understanding and connections;
- build international partnerships between people and/or institutions; and
- foster a peaceful, stable and prosperous region; and
- contribute to the program objectives informed by Australia's Cultural Policy 'Revive' as set out in the pillars: First Nations First; a Place for Every Story; Centrality of the Artist; and Engaging the Audience.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- increased collaboration and partnerships between Australian and international organisations/individuals in the creative industries and cultural sectors;
- increased Australian capacity to effectively engage with overseas partners, especially in the creative industries and cultural sector; and
- enhanced mutual understanding, reputation, and influence for Australia internationally.

2.2 Priorities

Favourable consideration will be given to:

- projects delivered in the Pacific;

- projects that are multi-country in scope or strengthen regional engagement in support of the objectives;
- applications with identified international partners;
- applications from First Nations people and organisations; and
- projects that are delivered outside of Australia.

Projects that do not deliver on these priorities are still encouraged to apply.

3 Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

The Australian Government has allocated a total of \$442,000 over 1 year for the ACDGP.

- The minimum grant amount is \$10,000.
- The maximum grant amount is \$60,000.

Grants will be paid excluding GST.

We strongly encourage applicants to seek funding from other sources to contribute to their projects and to cover costs. Applicants must detail what funding sources will fund what segments of the proposed project.

3.2 ACDGP 2025-26 round period

If successful in the ACDGP 2025-26 round, we expect you will be able to begin making arrangements to deliver your grant activity before 30 June 2026. You must complete your grant/project period by the end date designated in your grant agreement. Following the grant period, an evaluation period of six months will commence.

4 Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria.

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be a permanent resident of Australia
- have an account with an Australian financial institution
- not have any outstanding reports, acquittals, or serious breaches relating to any Australian Government funding. A serious breach is one that has resulted, or warrants, the termination of an agreement

and be one of the following entity types:

- a company incorporated in Australia
- a company incorporated by guarantee
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an incorporated association
- a partnership
- a joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation

- a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
- an individual who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
- an Australian local government body
- an Australian state or territory government body
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- a Commonwealth agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- overseas resident/organisation
- not an Australian, a permanent resident of Australia or an Australian organisation
- a previous grantee who has failed to provide a full and proper acquittal of a completed previous ACDGP or DFAT grant
- auspicing a grant on behalf of an applicant.

4.3 What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful and your project involves people under the age of 18 years, relevant personnel working on the grant activity must maintain all of the following:

- Working with Vulnerable People registration
- Working with Children check

We will also ask you to provide child protection guidelines for your project if it involves people under the age of 18 years.

5 What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible grant activities

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include:

- research, design and development of grant activity/project
- consultations with stakeholders and partners
- promotional and outreach activities
- communications and translations
- performances, exhibitions, virtual/in-person/hybrid, seminars, workshops, publications and touring films.

5.2 Eligible locations

Your grant can include activities at different locations, however favourable consideration will be given to projects delivered in the Pacific, including:

- Cook Islands

- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- French Polynesia
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Niue
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

5.3 Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities or agreed project activities.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- economy flights
- modest accommodation costs (up to 4-star accommodation properties as a guide)
- meals and travel allowances
- ground transport
- artists/performers fees
- freight costs
- venue hire
- modest catering costs (e.g., providing catering to participants attending an all-day workshop)
- advertising and promotion
- graphic design
- photography
- printed material

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your grant activity may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

You must incur the expenditure on your grant activities or project/services between the start date and end or completion date for your grant activity/grant agreement for it to be eligible.

Unspent ACDGP grant funds must be returned to DFAT.

5.4 What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- purchase of land
- wages (defined as general salaries paid from an employer to an employee)
- major capital expenditure
- purchase of equipment (for example, musical instruments, IT equipment, photographic or printing equipment)
- covering retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- major construction/capital works
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility
- activities undertaken by primary schools, including study tours, where travel by a significant number of students is the principal element of the program
- scholarships to individual students

6 The assessment criteria

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in the application.

All criteria have equal weighting.

The level of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested. The application form includes a text limit of 250 words for each criterion.

All criteria have equal weighting (20% each), and each criterion will be marked out of 10, with 1 being the lowest, and 10 the highest score possible. We will only award funding to applicants that score highly against all assessment criteria.

In addition to assessing your application against the criteria below, we also consider:

- value with relevant money as outlined in the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles
- geographic distribution across the priority region (see section 5.2)
- priorities (see section 2.2)
- appropriate mix of artforms.

Criterion 1

How will the project contribute to ACDGP's objectives? (250-word limit) 20%

For example, you could demonstrate this by identifying how your grant activity:

- supports collaborative and innovative projects that tell Australian stories and amplify First Nations voices overseas;

- will influence perceptions of Australia abroad by building cultural understanding and connections;
- will build international partnerships between people and/or organisations;
- will foster a peaceful, stable and prosperous region; and
- contributes to the program objectives informed by Australia's Cultural Policy 'Revive' as set out in the pillars: First Nations First; a Place for Every Story; Centrality of the Artist; and Engaging the Audience.

Criterion 2

How well does the project address the priorities and intended outcomes of this grant opportunity? (250-word limit) 20%

For example, you could demonstrate this by identifying:

- which intended outcome listed in section 2.1 'About the ACDGP 2025-26 grant opportunity' your grant activity will enhance
- how your grant will support Australia's interests in your chosen artistic and geographic area.

Criterion 3

Demonstrate your capability and efficiency in delivering the grant activity. (250-word limit) 20%

For example, you could demonstrate this through:

- your previous track record of achievement
- the diversity of skills, experience and backgrounds your team brings to the project, effective governance, and risk management frameworks
- capacity to demonstrate success through measurable qualitative and quantitative data
- proposed project partners in Australia and/or overseas.

Criterion 4

How will the activity deliver enduring and sustainable outcomes beyond the grant funding? (250-word limit) 20%

For example, you could demonstrate this through:

- scenario planning beyond the life of the grant agreement
- ability to deliver enduring value beyond the grant cycle, such as ability to forge durable institutional linkages over an extended period of time.

Criterion 5

How will you maximise the reach and impact of the grant funding? (250-word limit) 20%

For example, you could demonstrate this through:

- interactive workshops and community events that provide hands-on experiences and build cultural understanding
- how well you will use branding opportunities and leverage partners to maximise reach

- communications, marketing and media planning and platform reach.

7 How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines, the sample application form and the sample grant agreement.

These documents may be found at [GrantConnect](#). GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information. Any alterations and addenda will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

To apply you must:

- complete the [online ACDGP 2025-26 round application form](#) on SmartyGrants
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments
- submit your application/s on SmartyGrants by 16.00 (AEDT) 6 February 2026.

You are wholly responsible for ensuring that your application is complete, accurate and submitted by the closing date and time.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code 1995](#) and we will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

When you submit your application, you will receive an automated confirmation email with a copy of your submitted application attached. This will be sent to the email you used to register. If you need further guidance around the application process, contact DFAT by emailing cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au.

7.1 Attachments to the application

We require you to submit the following documents with your application:

- two short signed independent references
- letter of support from partners (if relevant)
- curriculum vitae for the applicant(s) and grant activity participants
- an indicative budget (as Excel spreadsheet or Word document with tables)
- a communications plan
- a project management plan (with key dates, milestones and expected outcomes)
- a risk management plan

- For applications submitted by a University the application should:
 - a. highlight the alignment of the proposed project to the ACDGP and the University’s strategic goals in the relevant country;
 - b. demonstrate that the project is best funded by the ACDGP and not by the Australia Research Council or an alternative Commonwealth funding body; and
 - c. include a letter of support from your Research Office or equivalent

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2 Joint (consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join as a group to deliver a grant activity.

In these circumstances, you must appoint a ‘lead organisation’. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the partners.

Each letter of support should include:

- details of the partner organisation
- an overview of how the partner organisation will work with the lead organisation and any other partner organisations in the group to successfully complete the grant activity
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the partner organisation will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities of the partner organisation and the resources they will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

You must have a formal arrangement in place with all parties prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Individuals who intend the grant to be administered by a university or other tertiary institution should apply on behalf of their institution i.e. your university is the applicant.

7.3 Timing of grant opportunity processes

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to begin making arrangements to deliver your grant activity before 30 June 2026.

Table 1: Indicative* timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Open applications	6 January 2026
Close applications	6 February 2026
Assessment of applications	February – April 2026

Activity	Timeframe
Approval of outcomes of selection process	April 2026
Notification to applicants	Mid-May 2026
Enter into grant agreements	Mid-May to early-June 2026
Earliest start date of grant activity	Upon execution of grant agreement
Latest date to begin planning grant activity	30 June 2026
Public announcement	July 2026
End date of grant activity or agreement	As detailed in your letter of agreement and executed grant agreement

*Timing of the grant opportunity is subject to change.

7.4 Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, contact the ACDGP Secretariat, cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au. Everyone is welcome to ask questions, however, no questions will be responded to individually. All answers to questions received will be provided via Addendum and will be published on [GrantConnect](#) to provide transparency and adhere to appropriate probity practices.

Questions should be sent no later than 30 January 2026.

Applicants who wish to speak with the ACDGP Secretariat in their first language may do so by contacting the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (local call anywhere in Australia). In the first instance, please contact cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au to arrange a suitable time.

8 The grant selection process

8.1 Assessment of grant applications

We review your application against the eligibility criteria (see Section 4). If eligible, we will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications. We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the geographic location of the application matches identified priorities
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals.

8.2 Who will assess applications?

An assessment panel will assess each application on its merit and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which grant applications are suitable for a grant. The assessment panel will consist of DFAT representatives.

The ACDGP Secretariat within DFAT will provide information and advice to the assessment panel to assist its determination of policy and its assessment of grant applications.

The assessment panel may seek additional information about you or your application. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, including from relevant Australian missions overseas, even if you do not nominate the sources as referees. The assessment panel may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

The assessment panel may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert/advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, is expected to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The assessment panel recommends to the Program Delegate which applications to approve for a grant.

8.3 Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate, Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy and Influence Branch within DFAT decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the assessment panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

The delegate will not approve funding if they reasonably consider the program funding available will not accommodate the funding offer, and/or the application does not represent value with relevant money.

DFAT reserves the right to offer less funding than that sought by the applicant.

9 Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, you can submit a new application for the same grant (or a similar grant) in any future grant opportunities under the program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1 Feedback on your application

Due to the expected high number of applications, feedback will only be provided to short-listed applicants upon request within one month of being advised of the outcome. DFAT will provide written feedback to those applicants within a reasonable timeframe, indicatively three months. Feedback can be requested by emailing cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au.

10 Successful grant applications

10.1 The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. We use the standard grant agreement from the Department of Finance in this program.

The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. DFAT has specific Supplementary Terms for use in Commonwealth Grant Agreements that are applied to grantees in their grant agreements, including Child Protection, Anti-corruption, and Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your grant activities before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk. You must not start any ACDGP activities until a grant agreement is executed.

Your grant agreement may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the agreement.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

Letter of Agreement

We will send you a letter of agreement advising that your application has been successful and providing you with an offer. You accept the offer by signing and returning the letter of agreement to us. We consider the agreement to be executed (take effect) from the date the Commonwealth and the grantee sign the letter. The Commonwealth will sign the Letter of Agreement last.

Standard Grant Agreement

We will use standard grant agreement templates as prescribed by the Department of Finance.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth ('execute' means both you and the Commonwealth have signed the agreement). During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant only on the information you provide in your application.

You may request changes to the grant agreement. However, we will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the grant as approved by the delegate.

10.2 How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- any financial contributions you will make
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any financial contribution provided by a third party.

All grants are awarded in Australian dollars. You should allow for the exchange fees in your project budget. You are responsible for any financial differences that may occur from the time of the application submission to when the project takes place, due to fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Single Upfront Payment

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. No further funding will be available.

You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the grant activity against the indicative budget provided in your application.

10.3 Grant payments and GST

Payments will be made as set out in the grant agreement. Payments will be GST exclusive.

If you receive a grant, you should consider speaking to a tax advisor about the effect of receiving a grant before you enter into a grant agreement. You can also visit the [Australian Taxation Office](#) for more information.

11 Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the [GrantConnect](#) website no later than twenty-one calendar days after the date of effect as required by Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#).

12 How we monitor your grant activity

12.1 Keeping us informed

You must inform DFAT if anything is likely to affect your grant activity or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your grant, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us at least one month in advance of events relating to your grant and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2 Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide sample templates for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- public diplomacy/communications plan for the grant activity
- progress against agreed grant activity milestones and outcomes
- contributions of participants (financial or in-kind) directly related to the grant activity
- expenditure of the grant.

The level of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your grant. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the grant activity.

Final report

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final report.

Final reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted within 60 days of completion in the format provided in the grant agreement.

12.3 Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money.

We may ask you to provide an independently audited financial acquittal report. A financial acquittal report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement.

The financial acquittal report template is attached to the sample grant agreement.

12.4 Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect your progress. In these circumstances, you may request a variation to your grant agreement. You can request a variation by contacting the ACDGP Secretariat at cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on provisions in the grant agreement and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

12.5 Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6 Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7 Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8 Acknowledgement

The Australian Government crest should be used on all materials related to grants under the program. Whenever the crest is used, the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

Link to logo: <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/logos-and-style-guides#dfat-logo>

If you make a public statement about a grant activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the source of the grant, as follows:

"[Organisation name/artist name] is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program"

13 Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. When this happens, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published on [GrantConnect](#). By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#), noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers' [see <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to cultural.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

If you do not agree with the way the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the [relevant Commonwealth entity].

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if [relevant Commonwealth entity's] staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [Chapter 5: Conflicts of Interests | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#).

13.3 Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.4 Confidential Information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- the Secretariat and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively, including for an integrity purpose
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, or
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

13.5 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By mail: The Director, Freedom of Information Section
Regulatory and Legal Policy Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R.G. Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

By email: foi@dfat.gov.au

14 Consultation

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Finance Division and the Department of Finance were consulted in the development of these guidelines.

15 Glossary

Term	Definition
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
addendum	an additional document that provides supplementary information for clarification, and/or in response to questions received during the grant opening period, that was not part of the original published information
administering entity	when an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes
assessment criteria	are the specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application rankings.
auspicing	the process of providing support, sponsorship or guidance to an unincorporated or unregistered organisation, group or individual to work under an incorporated or registered organisation who will have the contractual relationship with the Funding Body, the legal responsibility for the financial and other commitments in the funding agreement and receives money on their behalf.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
contracted service provider	a contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
date of effect	can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria should be developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

Term	Definition
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a ‘grant’ is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money¹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money² is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government’s policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
grant agreement	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government’s whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grant opportunity	refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	a ‘program’ carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.

¹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

² Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)	The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency. It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The Commission operates under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 .
National Redress Scheme	<p>The National Redress Scheme is a way to support people who experienced child sexual abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by an institution • while an institution was supposed to be looking after them <p>The National Redress Scheme commenced on 1 July 2018, in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.</p>
PBS Program	described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement , PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.
Program Delegate	the person who decides to award a grant
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria

Term	Definition
value with money	<p>value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations.</p> <p>When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Acronyms

Acronyms used in these guidelines, online and within application forms.

ABN	Australian Business Number
ACDGP	Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grant Program
ACN	Australian Company Number
AEDT	Australian Eastern Daylight Time
AEST	Australian Eastern Standard Time
CGRPs	Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
FCI	Foundations, Councils and Institutes
FOI	Freedom of Information
GST	Goods and Services Tax
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statement
PGPA Act	Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013