



Community Participation Grants Program 2026

Guidelines

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Acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present Custodians of the Land upon which we meet and gather.

Introduction

The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) are responsible for these guidelines and are referred to as 'we', or 'our'.

All references to 'you', 'my', or 'I', may be an individual and/or a representative on behalf of an organisation.

About the Community Participation Grants Program 2026

The Community Participation Grants Program 2026 (the Grants Program) is funded through the [Community Support Fund](#) which supports gambling harm minimisation purposes such as support services and programs, early intervention and preventative initiatives, research, and community development projects.

In 2026, the Grants Program is providing funding of up to \$25,000 (exclusive GST) for eligible organisations to deliver community participation activities to prevent or minimise gambling harm through community capacity building.

Community participation

For the purpose of this Grants Program, community participation is any participation in activities, programs and community organisations within the local community.

Community participation has a strong relationship to improved outcomes for mental and physical health and overall quality of life, which is likely to protect against gambling harm.

Community participation can also assist those who have experienced harm from gambling, support recovery and help protect against continuing harmful behaviours.

Gambling harm

Gambling harm is the negative impacts from someone's gambling, including impacts to mental and physical health, relationships, and finances.

Harm can range from minor to severe. The level of gambling participation or losses for someone to experience different levels of harm is dependent on personal circumstances and can vary between gamblers.

Gambling harm impacts more than just the individual gambler. It is estimated that harm from one person's gambling can negatively affect between five to ten other people.

We also know that people experiencing harm are more likely to experience other issues in their life. People at moderate to high risk of gambling harm were also at higher risk of alcohol-related harm, reported higher rates of smoking and substance use, and were at higher levels of psychological distress.

Community Support Fund

The Community Support Fund is primarily funded through a percentage of the profits of electronic gaming machines (EGMs or pokies) in Tasmanian hotels, clubs, and casinos. The Community Support Fund is described in [Section 151A](#) of the [Gaming Control Act 1993](#) and this Grants Program is delivered in line with the [Regulations](#).

Key dates

Below are the key dates of the Grants Program:

Description	Date
Program opens	10.00am, 20 August 2026
Program closes	2.00pm, 1 October 2026
Notification of Program Outcomes (subject to change)	November 2026
Funding provided	December 2026
Projects are expected to be completed by	31 December 2027
Final project report due	31 January 2028

Applications must be received by 2.00pm on 1 October 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

How much can I apply for?

Grants of up to \$25,000 (exclusive GST) are available through the Grants Program in 2026.

Organisations may only submit one application to the Grants Program.

Organisations may also submit one application to the Gambling Harm Minimisation Grants Program 2026, which is also funded through the Community Support Fund and can be accessed through the [Community Grants Page](#).

The total funding pool available under the Gambling Harm Minimisation Grant Program 2026 and the Community Participation Grants Program 2026 is \$1 million.

When must the project be delivered?

Funded projects must be delivered by **31 December 2027**.

What can the grant be used for?

For your project to be eligible, it must:

- Be undertaken in Tasmania.
- Increase community participation for vulnerable groups and/or communities.

Projects can involve equipment purchases and minor infrastructure works as a component or sole focus of the project delivery.

Increasing community participation of vulnerable groups and communities can be achieved through:

- Increasing one or more of the following for your organisation:
 - Members
 - Participants
 - Volunteers
 - The number and/or diversity of community members you support.
- Increasing the number and/or accessibility of social events in your community.
- Increasing social cohesion and connectedness between different cohorts of the community, including culturally and linguistically diverse Tasmanians.
- Increasing the number and diversity of safe and accessible options for social entertainment, activities and gatherings.
- Developing social skills and other skills that can help to increase the ability and confidence of people to participate in their community.

Vulnerable groups or communities

This is not an exhaustive list, and projects are still eligible if targeting other groups that are vulnerable to gambling harm.

Vulnerable groups

- Aboriginal Tasmanians
- Veterans
- People employed in gambling venues
- Men aged 18 to 35
- Young Tasmanians under 18 and their parents or carers
- People with lived experience of disability, chronic illness, or mental health conditions
- Carers of people with disabilities or significant health needs

- People who frequently consume non-prescribed substances or alcohol
- Victim survivors of family violence
- People who may experience higher levels of impulsivity, including those taking dopamine agonist medications
- Older Tasmanians experiencing isolation or elder abuse.

Vulnerable communities

- Tasmanian communities with relatively high levels of gambling expenditure
- Communities in low socio-economic areas
- Communities in rural or remote areas
- Communities facing higher levels of distress or social isolation
- Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities
- Communities with low levels of health.

What can't the grant be used for?

Core or ongoing programs or activities will not be funded. However, funding to enhance or expand these programs or activities will be considered.

Existing wages and operational costs are ineligible. However, wages and operational funding for new projects or enhanced, or expanded programs will be considered.

Other projects or costs that will not be funded include:

- Projects that are contingent on other unconfirmed funding sources to be delivered. This includes other DPAC grant applications.
- Projects that are the same as projects or programs that are already available to your target community or group.
- Projects that have already commenced or have been completed.
- Top-up or replacement payments for existing services.
- Retrospective payments or deficit funding.
- Repayment of loans or debts.
- Donations, gifts, fundraising and/or prizes.
- Projects involving privately-owned places or places on private property or that produce a private benefit to a business or person.
- Personal, legal or political activities or expenses.
- Project contingency costs.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants

The Grants Program is open to:

- A local government authority (council)
- Incorporated not-for-profit organisations
- Not-for-profit companies registered under company law
- Aboriginal organisations
- Unincorporated organisations (must be auspiced by an incorporated organisation).

Applicants must have:

- A Tasmanian presence as a community-based organisation and the ability to deliver activities in Tasmania.
- No perceived or actual conflicts of interest that would impact the delivery of the project.
- Public liability insurance (a copy of the organisation's current public liability insurance cover must be included with the application).
- Hold a currently active Australian Business Number (ABN) or, if eligible, provide a Statement by Supplier Form from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Please Note: Applicants may be asked to supply documentation to support the organisation's eligibility as part of the application process, or as part of an audit process to confirm claims were true and correct.

About Auspicing

Unincorporated community organisations or groups may be considered for funding if they are auspiced by an organisation that meets the above eligibility criteria.

Auspicing is often used to help unincorporated community organisations access funding for their activities. An auspice agreement is a legally binding contract.

- The 'auspicee' will be carrying out the project, event or activity 'under the auspices of' the incorporated organisation – the 'auspicator'.
- The 'auspicator' enters into the Grant Agreement and receives the project funding for the auspicee. The auspicator can do this for multiple organisations under this Grants Program, as well as being an applicant in their own right, if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

If an eligible organisation applies and also auspices another organisation(s) for this Grants Program, then the auspicee applies under its legal name, and the application must include formal written confirmation from the auspicing organisation that it will accept the relevant administration, legal and financial responsibilities for the grant.

Who can't apply?

Ineligible applicants

The following entities are **not** eligible to apply for funding under the Grants Program:

- Australian Government agencies
- Tasmanian Government agencies
- Schools or colleges (government or non-government/private)
- Political parties
- Sports or recreation clubs
- Individuals and/or sole traders
- For profit organisations and businesses
- Organisations already receiving funding from the Tasmanian Government for the project or activity.

How do I apply?

Visit DPAC's [Community Grants Page](#) and follow the link through to the online application form via our grants portal [SmartyGrants](#).

When you have correctly submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation email.

If you are having difficulty accessing the application form, or have any questions regarding the application process, please email gambling@dpac.tas.gov.au or call 03 6270 5824.

I'm new to applying to grants – where can I get help?

DPAC strongly encourages using the SmartyGrants [Help Guide for Applicants](#) and [Applicant FAQ's](#) to manage your application.

What do I need to know about Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

Organisations must indicate whether they are registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) in their grant application.

To help with understanding GST, you can visit the [Community Grants website](#).

Applicants should contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) on 13 28 66 or www.ato.gov.au for any advice or clarification on GST.

How will my application be assessed?

Assessment Criteria

What we are looking for	What that means	Weighting
Demonstrated need within your target group or community	Demonstrate evidence of a need for the project within your target group(s) or community. In response to this criterion, please include: • Who your project will assist/support. • How the groups and/or communities you will engage experience barriers and challenges to community participation. • Whether this group or community currently engages with your organisation.	20%
Expected outcomes delivered to your target group or community	Describe the proposed outcomes for your target group or community. In response to this criterion, please include: • How the project will increase community participation. • How you will sustain project outcomes following the completion of your project. • How you will measure and evaluate the success of your project.	30%
Evidence of your organisation's ability to deliver your project	• A brief project workplan. ○ Including how you will communicate and engage with the groups or communities. • Examples of your organisation's experience in delivering similar projects. ○ Capacity is assessed on relevance to the project. • The experience and expertise your organisation has in working with the chosen group or community. • The experience and expertise your organisation has in delivering similar projects. The assessment may also consider the outcomes and effectiveness of previous DPAC grant funded projects delivered by your organisation.	30%
Value for money	• Provide a detailed and realistic project budget that is clearly linked to your project plan. • Provider quotes for anything you need to purchase from another business.	20%

Meeting all eligibility criteria does not automatically mean that grant funding will be provided.

If the Grant Program is oversubscribed, the assessment panel may apply moderation to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

In making final recommendations, the panel may consider the overall mix of projects to ensure a balanced range of outcomes and approaches, representation across diverse communities, and appropriate regional spread.

What should I do while my application is being assessed?

Please make sure you (or the representative listed in the application) are available during this time, as DPAC may contact you for more information.

If the requested information is not provided within three business days, DPAC may be unable to progress your application further.

What happens if our application is successful?

If successful, you will receive a notification of the decision, so please ensure your contact details in SmartyGrants are current.

Please note that your organisation name, the title of your project and the amount of funding received will be available on the DPAC website.

If your organisation is successful, you will need to enter into a grant agreement with DPAC. The type and complexity of this agreement will depend on the activity you are being funded for.

The grant agreement will include terms and conditions of the funding being offered and your organisation's obligations including reporting requirements.

Your report/s must include:

- A detailed explanation of how the funds were used against the approved purpose.
- A financial acquittal (breakdown of expenses).
- Evidence from your project or activity, including outcomes and learnings. This information may be used to share examples of good practice and promote the impact of the Program.

For more information for successful grant recipients you can visit DPAC's Community Grants website, [Tools and Resources](#).

What if my organisation already has a grant with DPAC?

You can have more than one grant with DPAC. However, if you have one or more overdue report or acquittal, then your organisation must complete these before your invoice for this program can be approved for payment.

Please note that you will not be eligible for the Grants Program if the purpose you are applying for already receives Tasmanian Government funding.

How will the information I provide be used?

Your report can be used, reproduced, modified and adapted by DPAC.

Please make sure anything you provide complies with the [Copyright Act 1968 \(Cwlth\)](#) and the [Personal Information Protection Act 2004](#).

What if our application is not successful?

Organisations will receive an email advising of the decision, and who to contact if you would like to seek feedback on your application.

What if I want to appeal the decision?

You can ask for a review of the decision associated with your application if you have reason to believe that:

- The persons making the decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the application.
- The preparation of the application was affected adversely by incorrect advice provided by DPAC.
- The persons making the recommendations discriminated against the applicant on irrelevant grounds, such as cultural, religious or linguistic background, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

To seek a review, organisations must write to the Manager, Community Grants and Programs by email to grants@dpac.tas.gov.au. A request must be received within 28 days from the date that DPAC provides notification of the decision of the application.

How will my information be kept safe?

Any information you provide to DPAC or receive from DPAC is managed under the conditions of the following Acts:

- [Archives Act 1983 \(Tas\)](#)
- [Personal Information Protection Act 2004](#)
- [Right to Information Act 2009](#)

Any employee of the Tasmanian State Service must also follow the rules of the State Service Principles, and the [State Service Act 2000](#).

Who do I contact about this grants program?

For further information or support, please contact gambling@dpac.tas.gov.au or 03 6270 5824 (during business hours) for:

- Further information or advice on the Grants Program.
- Assistance in making an application.
- Further feedback on the decision of the application.



Department of Premier and Cabinet

Phone: 03 6270 5824

Email: gambling@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.dpac.tas.gov.au