

Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021



Funding guidelines



Funding guidelines

Applications open

Monday 1 February 2021

Applications close

Friday 12 March 2021

Apply at

aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au


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Acknowledgement of Country

The Aboriginal Languages Trust 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, and recognise the unique cultural and spiritual relationship and celebrate the contributions of First Nations peoples to Australia.

Program timeline

1 February 2021	Applications open	
12 March 2021	Applications close	
15 March 2021	Assessment and approval of applications	
28 May 2021	Agreements executed	
18 June 2021	Funds released	
1 July 2021	Projects commence with end date negotiated on an individual project basis	
August 2021 – June 2022	Project reporting and financial acquittals provided to the Aboriginal Languages Trust	

A total of \$800,000 in funding is available under the Program.

Program overview

Purpose

The Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021 ('the Program') aims to progress the functions of the [Aboriginal Languages Act 2017](#) (NSW) by supporting the reawakening, growth, nurturing, promotion and awareness raising of Aboriginal languages in communities across NSW.

The Aboriginal Languages Trust is committed to investing in Aboriginal local community groups and organisations who have a community focus on delivering Aboriginal language activities, building workforce capability and promoting the appreciation and use of Aboriginal languages.

Overview

The Program provides one-off funding to Aboriginal community organisations and groups to support them to reawaken, grow, nurture, promote and raise awareness of Aboriginal languages in communities across NSW, consistent with the objectives of the *Aboriginal Languages Act 2017* (NSW).

A total of \$800,000 in funding is available under the Program. It is an open round grants program with three funding categories – **reawaken**, **grow** and **nurture** – each with their own aims. Under each category, funding is available for the following amounts (excl. GST) per project:

- **Reawaken** – up to \$20,000
- **Grow** – up to \$50,000
- **Nurture** – up to \$90,000.

Applicants must complete a community language plan as part of the funding application for assessment. The Aboriginal Languages Trust will provide unsuccessful applicants with feedback and information on other possible funding sources upon request.

Projects will be delivered during 2021 and 2022 (up to 30 June 2022). The Aboriginal Languages Trust will work with funded organisations during this time to support project delivery, document projects and build capacity to continue with their language activities.

Background

OCHRE (Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility, Empowerment)

is the NSW Government's community focussed plan for Aboriginal affairs. It commits the NSW Government to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal communities. OCHRE supports initiatives that improve Aboriginal people's social, economic and cultural wellbeing, and recognises that Aboriginal languages and cultures are a unique component of Australia's heritage. Language is a fundamental element of Aboriginal culture which reaffirms Aboriginal identity, spirituality and connection to Country.

Following extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities and other key stakeholders, the Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 (NSW) became law on 24 October 2017. It is the first legislation in Australia to acknowledge the significance of First Languages.

The Act establishes an Aboriginal Languages Trust to provide a focused, coordinated and sustained effort in relation to Aboriginal language activities at local, regional and State levels, guided by a five-year strategic plan. A nine-member board was appointed to the Aboriginal Languages Trust on 9 March 2020 and are leading the establishment of the Trust as a NSW Government agency, including setting up governance, operational systems and staffing structures. The strategic plan, which will guide the work of the Aboriginal Languages Trust, to support languages revitalisation, will be developed following community consultation.

Program outcomes

Consistent with the functions of the Aboriginal Languages Trust, the Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021 aims to support Aboriginal communities within NSW to:

- reawaken, grow and nurture Aboriginal languages by supporting effective language activities
- grow the Aboriginal languages sector through workforce development
- develop resources to support Aboriginal language activities
- promote wider use and appreciation of Aboriginal language activities
- support Aboriginal community custodianship by strengthening community capacity to lead and support Aboriginal language growth and nurturing.

Who can apply for funding?

Organisations must be a not-for-profit incorporated Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (i.e. an organisation initiated by, controlled and operated by Aboriginal people and/or governed by a board or committee of Aboriginal people which is connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services). Organisations must be located in NSW to be eligible for funding. This includes:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Commonwealth)*
- a company incorporated in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth)*
- 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
- a Local Aboriginal Land Council under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*.

The Aboriginal Languages Trust (NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet) will only enter into funding agreements with legally constituted entities to provide grants under the Program. Groups that are not incorporated must enter into an auspice or partnership arrangement with an incorporated organisation to receive and administer funding for the Project. It is up to the unincorporated group to make arrangements for auspicings with an eligible organisation of their choosing.

Applicants may submit multiple applications for different projects, however due to limited available funding, only one project per applicant will be successful.

What will not be funded?

Projects **not** eligible for funding are:

- State and federal government agencies
- Local Councils
- schools, universities, TAFE colleges, Adult and Community Education (ACE) colleges
- individuals
- incorporated organisations that are not Aboriginal community controlled
- unincorporated groups without an auspicing body
- for-profit organisations including Aboriginal businesses.

Projects **will not** be eligible for funding if they are:

- the core responsibility of another government agency, e.g. NSW Public School teacher and other staff salaries, or signage in local council owned parks
- receiving funding from another source for the same project and there is no clear distinction between what that funding and the funding from the Program will be used for.

Funding **cannot** be used for:

- capital purchases, such as any type of building, construction or capital works including renovations to a building, housing related costs or the purchase of land
- purchasing and leasing of large equipment, including any type of vehicle
- buying a business or tools of trade
- sitting fees, travel allowance or costs associated with membership of Boards/councils
- international travel costs. Proposals for domestic travel costs need to demonstrate the benefits of travel to the project, organisation and community
- costs that are not directly associated with the delivery of the Project.

What can I apply for?

Consistent with the objectives of the Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021, funding will be available for activities within the following categories. These categories reflect Aboriginal Languages Trust experience that the level of funding should match the capacity of organisations. Applicants will be required to select one category to apply under.

Category	Amount	Aims
Reawaken	Up to \$20,000	<p>Encourage the development of new or emerging language activities by providing Aboriginal groups and organisations with the initial investment to support and launch new activities that aim to lead to ongoing language activities.</p> <p>Provide support to develop the capacity of Aboriginal groups and organisations who are doing language work on a smaller scale (i.e. small groups and/or short-term projects) so that they can grow their activities.</p>
Grow	Up to \$50,000	<p>Grow projects or activities that have been in progress, are having positive outcomes and are seeking to expand.</p> <p>Support projects to expand from schools to the broader community.</p> <p>Develop the capacity of groups or organisations who have been involved in language activities and are ready to grow.</p>
Nurture	Up to \$90,000	<p>Build the strategic capacity of more established groups or organisations to continue language activities already in place.</p> <p>Ensure existing activities continue in the longer term and expand into new communities or partnerships.</p>

The Trust has the discretion to grant funds above the limit for each category, where identified and justified in an application and in consultation with the recipient. Any additional funds will be no more than 10% of the maximum funding under the category.

Assessment criteria and process

Assessment criteria

The assessment will consider how each applicant has demonstrated in their application that the Project meets the criteria below. Applications will be assessed within the context of the category they are applying under and only against other applications in that category.

- meets the objectives (one or more) of the Program outcomes
- meets the aims of one of the three funding categories of reawaken, grow or nurture
- are Aboriginal community-owned, driven and supported, including evidence of local cultural authority for the activities
- those involved have demonstrated capacity to undertake and complete the Project. This will include consideration of any previous funding provided to the applicant by Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- fits within a broader plan by the applicant for revival of the language/s
- will deliver outcomes against the community's aspirations, taking into consideration existing resources available in the language (if any) and how the language activities can support the use of the language in the home and/or community environments.

The Aboriginal Languages Trust will also consider the language group and location of applications so that there is a spread of funded projects across both language groups and geographically.

Assessment process

Assessment will be conducted by an Assessment Panel, with advice sought externally as needed.

All applications will first undergo an eligibility check against the criteria in the guidelines. Only eligible organisations and projects will go to the assessment stage.

Assessment will then be made by a panel against the Program criteria within each category as listed above. The application form, including the community language plan, will be considered in the assessment.

Staff of the Aboriginal Languages Trust and Aboriginal Affairs NSW who have assisted in the development of the applicant's application, including the community language plan, will not participate in the assessment process.

Application process – how do I apply?

Step 1	Organisations prepare and submit an application, including a community language plan	Eligible organisations submit an application for funding. This is inclusive of a community language plan and budget. Aboriginal Languages Trust staff and Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff can assist organisations, as required.
Step 2	Project applications are assessed	Following confirmation of eligibility, an assessment panel will assess the application against the criteria in the Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021 Guidelines. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified.
Step 3	Funding agreements negotiated between the Aboriginal Languages Trust and successful applicants	Aboriginal Languages Trust staff will negotiate with successful applicants (or their auspice organisation where applicable) to sign a Funding Agreement and agree reporting requirements.

Budget

A budget must be submitted as part of your application.

Project funding can include:

- costs associated with implementing the project, including project coordination and salaries
- up to 10% of the budget can be used for the administration of the project, including as an auspice fee
- up to 10% of the budget can be used to purchase minor equipment such as laptops, tablets and recording devices (applicants must demonstrate the need for these purchases in their application).

Where funds will be used to purchase goods and services, grant recipients are encouraged to use Aboriginal owned businesses.

Funding arrangements

Once the application is approved for funding by the Aboriginal Languages Trust, successful applicants or their eligible auspicing organisation will be required to sign a Funding Agreement with the Aboriginal Languages Trust (NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet).

Unincorporated Aboriginal groups and organisations who have an auspicing arrangement with an eligible organisation will need to enter into an Auspice Services Agreement. This is in addition to the Funding Agreement between the Aboriginal Languages Trust and the auspicing body. The Aboriginal Languages Trust can provide an Auspice Services Agreement template to assist.

A signed Auspice Agreement MUST be submitted to the Aboriginal Languages Trust before the funds are distributed. Information on auspicing is available from the Not-for-profit Law website at nfplaw.org.au/auspicing

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to provide, on completion of the project, a certified Acquittal and Financial Statement.

Other reporting requirements will be agreed upon between the successful applicants and the Aboriginal Languages Trust on an individual project basis during the project planning phase.

Reporting will be appropriate to the amount of funds granted as well as the capability of the successful applicant. This may include documenting projects through film or case study or providing the Aboriginal Languages Trust with copies of any materials created as part of the project.

The Aboriginal Languages Trust recognises that Aboriginal people have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. The Trust will work with grant recipients to ensure that all Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) remains with the traditional owners or custodians.

The Trust will comply with any restrictions on using ICIP and ensure recognition of ownership. The Aboriginal Languages Trust will seek the permission of grant recipients if it wishes to publish or use any ICIP or Intellectual Property.

Other important information

COVID-19 impacts

Due to the changing impacts of COVID-19 across NSW, projects must be in line with NSW Government public health orders and advice, for example with regard to social distancing and public gatherings. Up to date information is available at nsw.gov.au/covid-19

Should COVID-19 rules in NSW change during the grants period, the Aboriginal Languages Trust may request further information from you on how you propose to manage COVID-19 risks for your planned project.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- enter into a Funding Agreement with the Aboriginal Languages Trust within two weeks of the offer being made
- start and complete funded activities and events by the dates specified in the Funding Agreement
- notify the Aboriginal Languages Trust of any proposed changes to your funded project.

Successful applications will be included in:

- public media releases
- an announcement on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW and/or the Aboriginal Languages Trust website
- Aboriginal Affairs NSW/Aboriginal Languages Trust social media.

Support and contacts

For any questions regarding the Aboriginal Languages Community Investments Program 2021, please contact:

Staff of the Aboriginal Languages Trust:

1800 019 998

Email:

conversation@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Website:

aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer

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