
Aboriginal Affairs NSW

2023 NAIDOC Grants

Program Guidelines

Applications open Thursday 16 February 2023

Applications close 2 pm, Friday 24 March 2023

Apply at <https://aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au/>



Aboriginal
Affairs

Program objectives

The objective of the NAIDOC Grants Program is to support the holding of events and activities in NSW during NAIDOC Week (**2–9 July 2023**) that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements, and align with the theme of NAIDOC Week in 2023.

In addition, events and activities should promote a greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture within the broader local or regional community.

Program overview

The theme for NAIDOC Week in 2023 is **For Our Elders** (see www.naidoc.org.au/awards/current-theme for further information).

Applicants can apply for grants of \$500 to \$3,000 (excluding GST) for the hosting of activities and events during NAIDOC Week that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements, and align with the theme of NAIDOC Week. Aboriginal Affairs NSW has allocated \$250,000 for NAIDOC Grant funding in 2023.

Events and activities must be held between **2 July 2023 and 30 November 2023**.

Program timeline

Date	Task
Thursday 16 February 2023	2023 NAIDOC Grants round opens
Friday 24 March 2023, 2 pm	2023 NAIDOC Grants round closes
May onwards	Applicants notified of outcome
2 July – 30 November 2023	NAIDOC activities and events held
23 July – 21 December 2023	Acquittals due

Who can apply for funding?

Eligible applicants are:

- incorporated not-for-profit organisations registered with NSW Fair Trading under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* (NSW)
- Aboriginal Corporations registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth)
- not-for-profit companies incorporated in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)
- NSW local councils operating under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- incorporated cooperatives (incorporated under state/territory legislation, and commonly have 'Cooperative' in their legal name)
- incorporated trustees on behalf of a trust, including Catholic School trusts
- unincorporated Aboriginal groups that have entered into an agreement with an eligible organisation to auspice the funding.

Applicants not eligible for funding are:

- individuals
- Federal and State Government agencies and bodies, including public schools and hospitals
- NSW Public Schools (however, they can partner with an eligible organisation)
- for-profit organisations, including Aboriginal businesses
- unincorporated Aboriginal organisations or groups without an eligible auspicing organisation
- organisations that have significant outstanding project requirements, including acquittals and reporting for funding received from Aboriginal Affairs NSW
- organisations with redress sanctions as described in the National Redress Scheme.

NSW Public Schools

NSW Public Schools cannot apply for NAIDOC Grants and should approach an eligible organisation to partner with – such as an incorporated Parents and Citizens (P&C) association, incorporated local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) or Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) – which can be the applicant.

Unincorporated groups

If an unincorporated Aboriginal group wishes to apply for a NAIDOC Grant, it will need to partner with an eligible organisation to receive and administer the funding. The eligible organisation must apply on behalf of the unincorporated group.

What can be funded?

Funding can be used for activities and events that are held in NSW and meet the objectives of the 2023 NAIDOC Grants Program.

The following are examples of the types of NAIDOC Week activities and events that have previously received funding:

- community festivals and fun days
- public exhibitions
- community gatherings
- cultural workshops
- NAIDOC-themed sporting activities or competitions
- school community-based activities
- women's, men's and Elders-only activities.

More examples of [previously funded projects](#) are available on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website (aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au).

Funding can be used:

- to purchase materials and consumables such as art supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) and catering (excluding alcohol) – for the purpose of the project or event
- to pay for workshop facilitators, artists and Elders
- for rental or hire fees for the purposes of the activity.

Purchasing merchandise

NAIDOC Grants funding can only be used to purchase merchandise – such clothing, bags, flags and hats – in limited circumstances. Funding can only be used to purchase merchandise where it is:

- NAIDOC themed, and
- part of a uniform or outfit to be worn by performers, volunteers or organisers of a NAIDOC event or activity, or
- created as part of an art activity – for example, an artist working with a group of children to develop a local NAIDOC-themed artwork that is printed on bags for the children and/or community.

However, the total cost of the merchandise **cannot be more than 50%** of the total funding requested from Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

Examples of where funding **cannot** be used to purchase merchandise include:

- items to hand out to people attending an event or participating in activities, such as flags or branded shirts
- items branded with an organisation's name or logo.

Merchandise must be purchased from recognised Aboriginal businesses. You can search Supply Nation for Aboriginal businesses at supplynation.org.au

Funding cannot be used for:

- activities and events that have already been held
- activities that are the responsibility of government agencies
- activities that are exclusively for the benefit of the applicant organisation and its staff, such as cultural capability activities
- activities and events held outside NSW
- capital purchases – any type of building, construction or capital works, including renovations to a building, housing-related costs or the purchase of land
- purchasing equipment such as office equipment, tents and IT equipment
- gifts, including gift cards and merchandise to distribute as gifts
- private events such as those open only to members of a specific organisation
- sitting fees, travel allowances or costs associated with the membership of boards/councils
- operating and administrative costs such as rent
- costs that are not directly associated with the activity or event.

See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website (aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/grants/) for further information on what can and can't be funded.

Other eligibility requirements

- Projects must be delivered within NSW.
- Applicants must have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million per claim.

How much can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for grants of **\$500 to \$3,000**.

To be eligible for funding over \$1,000, applicants should strongly demonstrate how they meet the assessment criteria, including the significance of the activity or event for the wider local community. (Refer to assessment criteria and process below.)

How do I apply?

Applications are to be completed online at the Aboriginal Affairs NSW online grants platform: aboriginalaffairs.smartygrants.com.au

Please note, applications will not be accepted via other channels. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to allow sufficient time to submit applications using the online system, including allowing for unexpected delays.

For assistance, please refer to the Applicant's Guide (<https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/help-guide-for-applicants>) and the [FAQs](#) on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website.

Applicants can choose to submit a video response to application questions about project objectives and outcomes. Aboriginal Affairs NSW regional staff are available to support applicants with recording and preparing a file for upload if required (with the exception of staff involved in the assessment process).

Regional office contact details are listed at the end of these program guidelines.

One application per applicant is eligible each calendar year.

Applications must be submitted by **2 pm, Friday 24 March 2023**. Late applications will not be considered or accepted unless Aboriginal Affairs NSW, in its sole discretion, determines that it is in the interests of the fairness of the program to accept the late application. See the [FAQs](#) for more details.

Please note, applicants must provide a declaration that the information in the application is true and correct. Penalties may apply for false or misleading information.

Assessment criteria and process

Demand for 2023 NAIDOC Grants is likely to be high. This is an open and competitive grants program. Applications will be assessed against set criteria and ranked competitively against each other.

Once the funding round closes, applications will be screened for eligibility. Ineligible applicants will be notified in writing.

Eligible applications will then be assessed by a panel of 8 senior Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff (from regional and Sydney-based teams), based on the assessment criteria, within 4 weeks of the round closing.

All assessment recommendations will be provided in writing to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister is the final decision maker considering the recommendations of the assessment panel.

In accordance with section 6.3.2 of the Grants Administration Guide, the Minister will not approve nor decline a grant without first receiving written advice from officials on the merits of the proposed grant.

Applicants may be offered only part of the funding sought in their application if there is a high demand or where the application includes some ineligible activities or budget items.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW staff may request further information and/or clarification from applicants throughout the assessment process.

Assessment criteria

Criteria	What we are looking for	Weighting
Alignment with the NAIDOC theme	The activity or event celebrates Aboriginal history, culture and achievements and meets the broader objectives of NAIDOC in line with the national theme of NAIDOC. The theme for NAIDOC Week in 2023 is <i>For Our Elders</i> .	20%
Promotes broader local or regional community understanding	The activity or event promotes a greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history and culture within the broader local or regional community.	20%
Aboriginal community support	Aboriginal people are involved in the development and delivery of the activity or event.	20%
Capacity to deliver	The applicant has demonstrated capacity to undertake and complete the activity or event. This will include consideration of any previous funding provided to the applicant by Aboriginal Affairs NSW.	20%
Value for money	The activity or event demonstrates value for money.	20%

Unsuccessful applicants may be offered a feedback session if requested.

Note: Activities or events do not necessarily have to involve large numbers of participants, but may be the only NAIDOC Week event in a community or involve several partner groups/organisations in addition to the applicant organisation. For more information see the [FAQs](#) on the Aboriginal Affairs website (aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/grants/).

Other important information

Funding arrangements and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to:

- enter into a funding agreement with Aboriginal Affairs NSW within 2 weeks of the offer being made
- start and complete funded activities and events by the dates specified in the funding agreement
- notify Aboriginal Affairs NSW of any proposed changes to your funded activity or event
- acknowledge the support of Aboriginal Affairs NSW in accordance with the [Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines](#)
- report on outcomes from the activity and acquit the grant within 21 days of project completion
- complete a project acquittal report detailing project activities and impact, as well as financial acquittal statement of income and expenditure detailing funds received and what funds were spent on. If the acquittal is not completed within the required timeframe, you will not be eligible to apply for Aboriginal Affairs NSW grants programs until all outstanding reporting and acquittals are completed.

Variations to funded projects

Aboriginal Affairs NSW will only consider variations to funded project budget, timeline and/or scope if:

- the changes were reasonably unforeseeable and beyond applicant control
- the changes align with the original objectives of the grant program and project
- the changes meet program guidelines requirements.

Disclosure of information

Details of successful applications including recipient name, funding amount and project location are required to be published on the NSW Government's Grant and Funding Finder at nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding. Details of successful applicants may also be included in:

- public media releases
- an announcement on the Aboriginal Affairs NSW website, and
- Aboriginal Affairs NSW social media.

Applicants should be aware that information provided to Aboriginal Affairs NSW may be made publicly available under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW). Information may also be made publicly available as a result of an order for papers made by the NSW Legislative Council under Standing Order 52.

Before information is released in response to an application under the GIPA Act, there will be an assessment of the public interest considerations in favour of and against disclosure of that information and there may be consultation requirements that apply.

Complaints and feedback

If an applicant wishes to seek feedback of a decision or make a complaint, the applicant organisation should contact the Community Investments team at grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Where required, a complaint or feedback will be passed on to the Manager Community Investments.

Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property

Any Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property submitted in an application remains the property of the relevant community organisation or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and will be dealt with in accordance with the [Aboriginal Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocol](#), which is available on Aboriginal Affairs NSW website.

Support and contacts

For any questions about the Aboriginal Affairs NSW 2023 NAIDOC Grants, please contact your nearest Aboriginal Affairs NSW regional office on the phone numbers below:

Batemans Bay	02 8575 1037
Tamworth	02 8575 1172
Coffs Harbour	02 9566 8318
Broken Hill	02 9228 5224
Bourke	02 9228 5224
Dubbo	02 8575 1073
Newcastle	02 9273 3968
Sydney	02 8575 1105

Website: aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

Email: grants@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au

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