

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for an Indigenous Languages Grant

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND | Queensland Government

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying for an Indigenous Languages Grant

Thank you for your interest in applying for an Indigenous Languages Grant.

Indigenous Languages Grants support community-led activities that facilitate language preservation, revitalisation, documentation, resource development and intergenerational knowledge transfer to increase the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken, documented, shared and maintained throughout Queensland. This FAQ provides practical information to help you prepare and submit your application through SmartyGrants and should be read alongside the Program Guidelines.

Grants of $20,000 (excluding GST) are available to support eligible Indigenous language initiatives.

Quick Links

Funding Guidelines
2026-27 Indigenous Languages Grants Program Guidelines
Apply Online via SmartyGrants
https://datsip.smartygrants.com.au/2027ILG
Key Dates
Applications open: 8:00am (AEST), Monday 2 November 2026
Applications close: 8:00am (AEST), Monday 7 December 2026
Successful applicants announced: February 2027
Projects delivered: March to November 2027
Acquittal report due: 30 November 2027
Grant Enquiries
Email: **ilg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au**
Phone: 07 3097 7725
Regional Service Centres
https://www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au/contact-us/regional-service-centres

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Preparing Your Application

Where should I start?

Start by reading the Program Guidelines. They explain who can apply, what activities can be funded, the assessment criteria and the information required to support your application.

What information should I have ready before I start?

Having your organisation details, ABN, contact information, project description, draft budget and any supporting quotes or estimates ready before you begin will make the application process easier. You can save your application at any time and return to it later.

Can our organisation submit more than one application?

No. Organisations may submit one application only per funding round.

How much funding can we apply for?

Each grant is $20,000 (excluding GST). Partial funding is not offered, so your budget should show how the full $20,000 will be spent.

Do we need to contribute our own funds?

No. A co-contribution is not required. You can use other funding, sponsorship or donations for your project, as long as the same costs are not funded twice. Grant funds cannot be used for costs already funded by another Queensland Government grant.

When does our project need to be delivered?

Projects must be delivered between March and November 2027. Recipients will be required to submit a progress report by 30 September 2027 and a project completion report, including a financial acquittal, by 30 November 2027.

Our organisation is not eligible to apply. Can we apply through an auspice organisation?

Yes. An eligible organisation may auspice an application on behalf of another group. If applying through an auspice arrangement, ensure all required documentation is included with your application and refer to the Program Guidelines for eligibility requirements.

What is an auspice organisation?

An auspice organisation is an eligible organisation that agrees to accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant on behalf of another group or organisation.

How should our project support the objectives of the Indigenous Languages Grants?

Your project should contribute to preserving, revitalising, documenting, promoting or increasing the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in Queensland. Applications should clearly explain how the activity will strengthen language use, knowledge transfer, language resources, language documentation or community engagement with language. Projects that support intergenerational learning, community participation and language preservation are strongly encouraged.

Does our activity need to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Yes. Projects must demonstrate appropriate cultural authority and be developed in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language community. Applicants must show how Language Owners, Elders, custodians and other community representatives have been involved in the planning, development and delivery of the project.

For projects involving language documentation, preservation, revitalisation or promotion, applicants should demonstrate they have sought permission and support from the relevant Language Owners and cultural knowledge holders. Applications should clearly explain who has been consulted, how they will be involved, and how Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights will be respected and protected throughout the project.

Meaningful involvement may include engagement with Language Owners, Elders, Traditional Owners, community organisations, cultural practitioners, language workers, facilitators and other community representatives. Letters of support from Language Owners and key project partners should be provided where relevant to demonstrate community support and cultural authority.

Reasonable costs associated with engaging Elders, Language Owners, cultural practitioners and language specialists may be included in the project budget.

For more information about Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), visit Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) - Arts Law Centre of Australia.

What makes a strong application?

Strong applications clearly explain how the activity supports the objectives of the Indigenous Languages Grants, demonstrate how the activity will preserve, document, revitalise or promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, show evidence of consultation with Language Owners, Elders, custodians and community representatives, explain how Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) will be respected and protected, demonstrate the organisation has the capability to deliver the project and provide a clear activity plan, realistic budget and achievable outcomes. The highest-weighted assessment criterion (40%) considers how well the activity supports Indigenous language preservation, promotion or revitalisation.

Why do I need support from Language Owners?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages belong to the relevant language groups, communities, custodians and knowledge holders. Applicants must demonstrate they have consulted with relevant Language Owners, Elders, custodians and community representatives when developing their project. Applications should include letters of support from relevant Language Owners and project partners.

What is Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)?

ICIP refers to the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to protect and control their cultural heritage, knowledge, languages and cultural expressions. Applicants should explain how cultural knowledge and language materials will be used respectfully, how permissions have been obtained and how language resources will be managed and shared appropriately.

Do I need to provide letters of support?

Yes. Applicants should provide letters of support from relevant Language Owners and any key project partners involved in the activity. These letters help demonstrate community support, cultural authority and project readiness.

How do I identify the language my project relates to?

Applicants should identify the relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language and language code using the AIATSIS AustLang database at AIATSIS AustLang Online. Where multiple names or dialects exist, applicants should consult with relevant Language Owners and community representatives to determine the most appropriate language identification for their project. Providing this information helps clearly identify the language communities your project will support.

Can individuals apply for funding?

No. Individuals and sole traders are not eligible to apply. If an unincorporated group wishes to apply, they may do so through an eligible auspice organisation.

Can schools apply?

No. Public and private schools, including school parent associations, are not eligible applicants under this program.

Can funding be used for language programs delivered as part of a school's curriculum?

No. The Indigenous Languages Grants program supports community-based language initiatives and does not fund curriculum-based language education within schools.

Can we apply if we have an outstanding acquittal from a previous grant?

No. Organisations with outstanding acquittals are not eligible to apply until all reporting obligations have been completed.

How to Apply

How do I apply?

Follow the three steps in the *Application process* section in the Program Guidelines:

Step 1: Review the Program Guidelines to confirm your organisation and project are eligible.

Step 2: If your project involves children or young people, check the working with children (blue card) requirements at www.qld.gov.au/bluecard.

Step 3: Submit your application through SmartyGrants by 8:00am (AEST) on Monday 7 December 2026:

a. Open the SmartyGrants application link (see *Quick Links*).
b. Log in, or register if you are new to SmartyGrants. If you have used SmartyGrants before, with any funder, you can use the same login.
c. Complete each page of the form, saving regularly.
d. Upload your supporting documents, such as quotes and letters of support.
e. Go to the Review and Submit page, fix anything flagged as incomplete, then select Submit.

Can I see the questions before I start?

Yes. You can preview the application form, and download a copy once you have registered. Many applicants find it easier to draft their answers in a Word document first and paste them in.

Can I email or post my application?

No. Applications must be lodged through SmartyGrants. If you have difficulty applying online, contact us or your local regional office. Staff can help you complete and upload your application.

When do applications close?

Applications close at 8:00am AEST on Monday 7 December 2026. SmartyGrants closes the form automatically at the closing time, so late applications cannot be submitted.

Assessment and Outcomes

Does meeting the eligibility requirements guarantee funding?

No. All eligible applications are assessed through a competitive process against the published assessment criteria and available funding.

Does it matter where our project is delivered?

All applications are assessed on merit. The program also aims for an appropriate spread of funding across Queensland, including regional and remote communities outside South East Queensland.

Will you contact us during the assessment?

We may contact you if we need to clarify information in your application. Please check your email, including junk folders, in January and February 2027, and let us know if your contact details change.

When will I be notified of the outcome?

Applicants will be notified by email once the assessment and approval process has been completed. Refer to the Program Guidelines for indicative timeframes.

Can I receive feedback on my application?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback following notification of funding outcomes. Feedback requests can be emailed to ilg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au.

Can I appeal a funding decision?

Funding decisions are final. Applicants may request feedback to better understand the outcome of their application.

Can I make a complaint about the grant process?

Yes. If you have concerns about the administration of the program, you may contact the department. Complaints will be managed in accordance with the department's complaints management process.

Further information is available at:
https://www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au/contact-us/compliments-complaints

What happens if my application is successful?

Successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement, deliver the approved activity, acknowledge Queensland Government funding and complete all reporting and acquittal requirements.

If Your Application is Successful

When will the grant be paid?

Once your funding agreement is in place, the grant is paid in full as a single payment. Agreements and payments are expected in March to April 2027.

How do we acknowledge the funding?

Display the Queensland Government crest on all promotional material for your project, such as flyers, posters, programs and social media posts. We will give successful recipients the crest and instructions for using it.

What if our project changes?

Email ilg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au straight away if you plan to change the activities, date, location or any other important details of your project.

Will the department be involved in our project?

The department may contact you about promoting your project, and you may be asked to invite the Minister to any associated activities or events. Make sure you have consent from people before sharing photos or video of them.

What reporting do we need to do?

Successful applicants will be required to submit a progress report by 30 September 2027 and a project completion report, including a financial acquittal, by 30 November 2027. Reports will be submitted via SmartyGrants. You will report on what was delivered, the outcomes, and how the grant was spent against your approved budget. Counting any activity participants or attendees, and collecting photos and feedback makes the report much easier. Keep all receipts, invoices and bank records, as they may be requested for reporting.

What if we don’t spend all the funds?

Unspent funds must be returned. See *Recovery of funds* in the Program Guidelines.

Using SmartyGrants

Can I save my application and return later?

Yes. SmartyGrants allows you to save your application and return to it at any time before applications close. SmartyGrants logs you out after a period of inactivity, so save your work regularly.

Can more than one person work on our application?

Yes. Multiple people can contribute information; however, one person should be responsible for reviewing and submitting the final application. Only one person should edit the application at a time, as changes made at the same time may be overwritten.

How do I know my application has been submitted?

Once your application has been successfully submitted, SmartyGrants will send a confirmation email containing your application number. If you do not receive a confirmation email, log in to SmartyGrants and check that your application status shows Submitted.

Can I change my application after I submit it?

No. Once submitted, your application can't be edited. If you notice an error before the closing date, email ilg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au and quote your application number.

I haven't received an email from SmartyGrants. What should I do?

Check your junk mail, spam or email quarantine folders first. If you still cannot locate the email, contact SmartyGrants Technical Support.

Phone: (03) 9320 6888
Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

I've forgotten my password or can't access my account.

Select Forgot Password on the SmartyGrants login page and follow the prompts. If you continue to experience difficulties, contact SmartyGrants Technical Support.

My application won't submit. What should I do?

Check that all mandatory questions have been completed, all required documents have been uploaded and there are no validation errors remaining in the form. The Review and Submit page will identify any sections requiring attention before submission.

What device do I need?

SmartyGrants works best on a computer or laptop with an up-to-date web browser such as Chrome, Edge, Safari or Firefox. Some pages may not display well on a phone in the form. The Review and Submit page will identify any sections requiring attention before submission.

Budget and GST

What can the grant be spent on?

See *Eligible expenses* and *Ineligible expenses* in the Program Guidelines. Grant funding may be used for costs directly related to delivering the approved language project, including:

- language resource development
- workshops and community activities
- language specialists and facilitators

- reimbursement of costs for Elders
- audio, video and digital production
- travel and accommodation directly related to the project
- software, digital platforms and translation services.

Grant funding cannot be used for salaries, administration costs, routine operations, insurance, prizes, gifts, alcohol, capital works or auspice fees.

Should I include GST in my budget?

No. All amounts entered in the application budget should be GST exclusive (excluding GST).

We are registered for GST. Will GST be added to the grant?

No. Grants are $20,000 (excluding GST) and GST is not paid on top of the grant.

What if my quote includes GST?

If GST is listed separately, use the GST-exclusive amount when preparing your budget. If the quote shows a total including GST but not the GST amount, divide the total by 1.1. For example, $220 ÷ 1.1 = $200. If you are unsure, seek advice from your accountant, bookkeeper or financial officer before submitting your application.

Do I need to provide quotes?

Where possible, provide quotes, estimates or other supporting information for significant expenditure items. This helps demonstrate that costs are reasonable and aligned with the proposed activity.

Need Help?

If you have questions about the grant program or need assistance completing your application, we encourage you to contact us before the closing date. We are happy to help.

Indigenous Languages Grant Enquiries
Email: ilg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au

Phone: 07 3097 7725

Regional Service Centres
https://www.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au/contact-us/regional-service-centres

SmartyGrants Technical Support
Phone: (03) 9320 6888
Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Interpreter Service
Phone: 1800 512 451 (ask for an interpreter)

National Relay Service
If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:
www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs