

# Indigenous Languages Grants Funding Guidelines

2026-27

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND | Queensland Government

# Introduction

Language is central to the identity, culture, and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, connecting them to family, community, and Country.

Language plays a vital role in maintaining cultural identity and strengthening the resilience of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Queensland Government Indigenous Languages Grants (ILG) program supports activities across Queensland to preserve, promote and revitalise traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It contributes to efforts under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are strong, supported and flourishing.

The ILG program provides funding for community-led initiatives to increase opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to document, share, use and maintain language. Activities include language resource development, community language projects, documentation, recording, research through shared stories and other initiatives that support language preservation and revitalisation.

The ILG program is intended to support community-based language initiatives and does not provide funding for curriculum-based language education within schools. Applicants are encouraged to work closely with language owners, Elders, custodians and community members to ensure activities are culturally appropriate and support the protection of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP).

These Guidelines outline the funding available, eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, application process, funding conditions and reporting requirements for ILG 2026–27.

# Objectives

The objective of the Indigenous Languages Grants is to increase the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken, documented, shared and maintained throughout Queensland by supporting community-led language preservation, revitalisation, documentation, resource development and intergenerational knowledge transfer activities.

Language initiatives may include:

- developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language resources, including digital technologies, publications and other culturally appropriate materials
- increasing community participation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language use, sharing and revitalisation activities
- celebrating and supporting the promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, knowledge and cultural heritage through language-focused arts, story-telling, cultural and community initiatives
- providing professional development, training, and capacity-building opportunities that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to document, maintain, preserve and revitalise languages
- raising awareness about the importance of and benefits of speaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages
- researching, recording, documenting and reviving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, including through resources held in local, state and national collections and archives.

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their activity can be inclusive of Elders, young people and people with disability.

## Funding available

- Grants of $20,000 (excluding GST) are available to support eligible Indigenous language initiatives.
- Total program funding of $200,000 (excluding GST) is available for distribution through the ILG program.
- Funding is provided directly to successful applicants through a competitive assessment process.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples must be actively involved in the design, development and delivery of the funded activity.
- Activities must be delivered in Queensland and completed within the timeframe specified in the funding agreement.
- The Queensland Government will seek to support a diverse range of language initiatives across the state, with an appropriate spread of funding committed outside South East Queensland, including in regional and remote communities.

## Types of eligible events and activities

The list below provides examples of eligible activities. This list is not exhaustive. Applicants may submit other activities that meet the objectives of the grant program. For example:

- Develop language resources such as books, picture books, language applications, word lists, sound charts, dictionaries and grammar resources.
- Research, document, record and preserve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, including archival materials and historical collections.
- Record conversations, stories, oral histories and songs in language for future generations.
- Develop digital libraries and community-controlled repositories for the storage and preservation of language materials.
- Establish media libraries of cultural materials that support the production, preservation and promotion of language.
- Produce language-focused videos, podcasts, animations and other digital media resources.
- Produce resources or materials and deliver professional development, training, and capacity-building activities for those who work or want to work in Indigenous languages.
- Create visual recordings of welcomes in language and other cultural practices.
- Develop bilingual signage, communications and place-based resources that promote the visibility and use of language.
- Establish mentor programs that connect Language Owners and/or Elders with younger generations.
- Deliver workshops, yarning circles, study tours and other community activities that support language sharing and revitalisation.

## Language ownership and cultural authority

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are owned and maintained by the relevant language groups, communities, custodians and knowledge holders.

Applicants must demonstrate that appropriate consultation has occurred with relevant Language Owners, Elders, custodians and community representatives when developing and delivering the proposed activity.

Applicants should ensure their activity:

- considers and supports the principle of self-determination
- respects and protects Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)
- follows appropriate cultural protocols and permissions
- identifies the relevant Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander language and language code through the Austlang database, visit: AIATSIS AustLang Online
- demonstrates community support for the proposed activity.

Applicants are encouraged to consider Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Protocol developed by the Queensland Department of Education when developing projects to support the respectful use and protection of language and cultural knowledge.

Applicants are required to provide letters of support from the relevant Language Owners and any key project partners as part of their application.

## Who can apply?

Applicants wishing to apply for a 2026–27 Indigenous Languages Grant must:

- be based in Queensland and the project must be delivered in Queensland
- have a valid Australian Business Number (ABN)
- comply with Working with Children Check requirements where the funded activity involves children or young people.

**Eligible applicants include**:

- a company incorporated in Australia
- a company limited by guarantee[1]
- an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- an incorporated association
- a registered charity or not-for-profit organisation
- a local government body
- a Queensland Government approved kindergarten program provider.

Organisations **not eligible** to apply:

- a Queensland government department, agency and statutory authority
- an Australian government department, agency and statutory authority
- a Member of Parliament
- an individual or sole trader
- an unincorporated association without an eligible auspice organisation
- an organisation not delivering services in Queensland
- applicants without a valid ABN
- public or private schools, including school parent associations
- previous applicants with an outstanding acquittal.

## Auspice arrangements

Entities that are not incorporated may apply through an eligible incorporated organisation acting as an auspice body.

The auspice organisation must:

- hold a valid ABN
- meet the eligibility requirements of the Indigenous Languages Grants Guidelines
- enter into the funding agreement if the application is successful
- accept legal and financial responsibility for the grant funding and funded activity
- support the delivery, monitoring and acquittal of the project.

Details of the auspice arrangement, including the auspice organisation's contact information, must be provided in the application.

## Eligible grant funding expenses

Grant funding may be used for costs directly related to the delivery of the approved activity, including:

- venue and equipment hire
- project materials, supplies, printing and publishing costs
- audio, video and digital production costs
- language resource development
- facilitator, consultant, language specialist and reimbursement of costs for Elders
- workshops, community activities and event delivery costs
- travel, accommodation and transport directly related to the activity
- digital platforms, applications, software, translation.

## Ineligible grant funding expenses

Grant funding cannot be used for:

- salaries and wages
- administration and overhead costs
- routine operational expenses
- activities that form part of an organisation's core business
- retrospective activities or expenses
- capital works, buildings, land purchases or major equipment purchases
- insurance, prizes, gifts or alcohol

[1] A “company limited by guarantee” is a specialised form of public company designed for non-profit organisations. In Australia companies limited by guarantee are subject to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and administered to by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

- activities, goods or services not directly related to the approved activity, including auspice fees.

## Application process

**Step 1: Review Guidelines**
Applicants must carefully review these Guidelines to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.
**Step 2: Working with Children Check requirement**
Applicants may require staff or volunteers to hold a valid Working with Children Check (Blue Card) where activities involve children or young people.
For information about Blue Card requirements, visit: https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/bluecardprocess.html.
**Step 3: Submit an application**
**Applications close at 8:00am (AEST)** on Monday, 7 December 2026.

You can lodge your application through the SmartyGrants website. Staff from our regional office can assist applicants to upload an application form on SmartyGrants.

You must lodge your application, including all supporting documentation at the time of application, through SmartyGrants to be eligible.

## Key dates

- **Applications open** at 8:00am (AEST), Monday 2 November 2026
- **Applications close** by 8:00am (AEST), Monday 7 December 2026
- Successful applicants announced February 2027
- Projects expected to commence from March 2027
- Projects completed by November 2027
- 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

## Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by an independent assessment panel against the eligibility requirements, Assessment Criteria and eligible expenses outlined in these Guidelines. Assessment will be based on the information and supporting documentation provided as part of the application.
*Refer to Assessment Criteria table.*

## Successful applicants

You will be notified of your success in receiving this Grant through an announcement by the Minister.

All grant recipients will be required to:

- enter into, and comply with, a funding agreement and its terms and conditions
- acknowledge the Queensland Government funding with a Queensland Government crest on all promotional material associated with the funded project
- submit a Financial (Acquittal) Report by the specified due date
- immediately inform the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism via email ILG@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au of any proposed changes to the funded project, e.g. change in activities, dates, and locations.

## Funding conditions

Successful applicants must:

- use the funds only for approved purposes with the agreed timeframe under the funding agreement
- retain all application evidence, including receipts, invoices and bank transactions relating to the grant funding
- submit all required reporting by the due date specified in the funding agreement
- meet relevant image or media obligations for sharing photography and videos for publication and promotion by the department.

## Tax implications

The taxation implications of any payments made to an applicant under this program may differ depending on the applicant's circumstances. The Queensland Government is unable to provide taxation advice and accordingly we recommend seeking your own professional advice to determine any taxation implications that may apply.

The Australian Taxation Office has information that may also assist you at www.ato.gov.au.

## Reporting and acquittal

Successful applicants must retain all application evidence, including receipts, invoices and bank transactions, and submit these on request from the Queensland Government for audit purposes.

This is required to accurately report on all funded expenses and the expenditure incurred under the Indigenous Languages Grants.

## Promotional opportunities

- The Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism may contact successful applicants regarding promotional and communication activities related to the Indigenous Languages Grants.
- Successful applicants must ensure appropriate consent is obtained for the use of photographs, videos and other media materials for promotional and reporting purposes.
- Successful applicants may also be invited to participate in promotional activities and may be requested to invite the Minister for Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to significant project milestones, launches, events or official openings.

## Assessment criteria

| Criteria | Weighting % |
|---|---|
| Demonstrates how the proposed activity supports the objectives of the Indigenous Languages Grants and contributes to the preservation, promotion or revitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. | 40 |
| Demonstrates appropriate consultation with Language Owners, Elders, custodians and community representatives, including how Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) will be respected and protected. | 30 |
| Demonstrates the capability and capacity to deliver the activity, including a realistic activity plan, expected outputs and outcomes and a budget that provides value for money. | 30 |

## Recovery of funds

The Queensland Government reserves the right to recover any or all grant funds in the following circumstances:

**Unspent Funds**
Any grant funding that is not expended by the recipient for the approved purpose/s must be returned to the Queensland Government within 30 days of the unspent funds being identified through the acquittal process.

**Misuse of Funds**
If grant funds are found to have been used for purposes other than those approved, the Queensland Government will recover the full amount of the grant. This includes any funds that were:

- spent on ineligible activities or expenses
- used in breach of the funding conditions.

**Non-Compliance**
Failure to comply with the reporting, acquittal, or other obligations outlined in these guidelines will result in the Queensland Government seeking repayment of the grant in part or in full.

**Repayment Process**
Recipients required to return or repay funds will be notified in writing, including details of the amount to be repaid and the repayment process. All repayments must be made within 30 days of notice issue date.

## Human Rights consideration

The intention of the *Human Rights Act 2019* (the Act) is to ensure every person in Queensland is treated equally and without discrimination.

Although eligibility for the Indigenous Languages Grants is not extended to all Queenslanders and may limit access to funding for some individuals and organisations, this limitation is considered reasonable and justifiable under section 13(2) of the *Human Rights Act 2019*. The Indigenous Languages Grants program aims to support the preservation, promotion and revitalisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and strengthen opportunities for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain and share their cultural knowledge, identity and heritage.

## Need help in your language?

Call 1800 512 451 and ask for an interpreter.
If you require further assistance, please contact the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and Multiculturalism at: ILG@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au.

## Feedback and complaints

Applicants who are unsuccessful may request feedback on their application after they have been advised of the funding outcome.

Requests for feedback should be directed to ILG@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au. The department is committed to managing complaints in a responsive, confidential and fair manner. Further information about the complaints process is available at https://www.dsdsatsip.qld.gov.au/contact-us/compliments-complaints.

## Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the *Information Privacy and Other legislation Amendment Act 2023*. This includes letting you know:

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

Your personal information may also be disclosed to the Minister for Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and relevant Members of Parliament for official purposes related to the Indigenous Languages Grants program, including stakeholder engagement, announcements and recognition of successful applicants.

In submitting a grant application, you agree to the Queensland Government collecting your personal information, including your name, contact details and role in your organisation, to assess your application and for the purpose of grants administration. If you do not provide this information, we cannot assess your grant application.

## Disclaimer

The Queensland Government reserves the right to amend these guidelines or cancel the program at any time without notice. Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

## Contact us

For more information about the grants, including the guidelines, terms and conditions and how to apply, please contact your regional office or the Community Investment and Grants team on email ILG@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au.