

# Celebrating Reconciliation Grants Funding Guidelines

**2027**

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# Introduction

The 2027 Celebrating Reconciliation Grants support and showcase Queensland's reconciliation activities, promote understanding and social cohesion between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

National Reconciliation Week is a national campaign held annually from **27 May to 3 June**, celebrating and building on respectful relationships between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples.

These dates commemorate two significant milestones in our reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 Referendum to change how Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples were referred to in the Constitution (27 May), and the 1992 High Court Mabo decision (3 June).

The week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can walk together in the national reconciliation effort.

This document outlines the eligibility criteria, application process, funding conditions and reporting requirements for the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants.

# Objectives

The objectives of the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants are to:

- Promote understanding and trust between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland
- Strengthen respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Queenslanders
- Promote inclusion and social cohesion
- Raise community awareness of National Reconciliation Week
- Enable opportunities for community members to learn, share and connect, through the showcasing of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories, art and cultural activities.

# Funding available

Grants of $2,500 (excluding GST) are available to support eligible events and activities associated with National Reconciliation Week 2027.

Total program funding of $100,000 (excluding GST) is available in the 2026–27 financial year, with an appropriate spread of funds expected to be committed outside of South-East Queensland including in regional and remote areas.

Funding will be awarded through a competitive assessment process and paid directly to successful applicants.

It is a requirement of the program that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are meaningfully involved in the design and delivery of the event or activity.

Applications are encouraged for events and activities delivered during National Reconciliation Week 2027 (27 May to 3 June 2027).

All funded events and activities must be completed by 30 June 2027. While activities are expected to align with National Reconciliation Week, limited flexibility may be considered where delivery within the funding period is required.

# Eligible events and activities

The list below provides examples of eligible events. It is not exhaustive, and you are welcome to submit a proposal for a different type of event or activity that meets the objectives of the grant funding.

- Cultural displays that promote an understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander traditions, customs, histories, and cultural heritage
- Celebrations showcasing local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artworks, dance groups, musicians, singers, and entertainers
- Community events and activities that promote social cohesion, strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community, and encourage inclusion, mutual respect, understanding and community participation
- Resources or materials (such as booklets, posters, videos, websites or podcasts) that

acknowledge and raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultures.

- Recreational activities in public spaces and parks that promote reconciliation between local Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous community members
- Community-based and community-driven initiatives such as yarning circles or speaking events that foster conversations about reconciliation, racism, discrimination, and related issues, and provide a harmonious, creative and collaborative way of communicating in a relaxed and safe environment
- Food displays and stalls demonstrating the preparation and cooking of traditional foods and bush tucker.

**Note:** Events that are contentious, traumatic or triggering for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are not recommended. Applicants should consider the safety and wellbeing of participants when planning and delivering activities. Resources to support National Reconciliation Week activities are available from Reconciliation Australia at www.reconciliation.org.au.

## Who can apply?

Applicants wishing to apply for a Celebrating Reconciliation Grant 2027 must:

- be based in Queensland and the event must be delivered in Queensland,
- have a valid Australian Business Number (ABN),
- if your event or activity involves children or young people you will need to comply with the requirements of the working with children check. See below Working with Children check requirements section.

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

Applicants 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
- an organisation not delivering services in Queensland
- applicants without a valid ABN
- public or private schools (including school parent associations), kindergartens, childcare centres and pre-schools
- previous applicants with an outstanding acquittal

## Eligible expenses

Grant funding may be used to support direct costs associated with delivering the project or event, including:

- equipment and venue hire
- materials contributing to theming
- consumable materials and supplies
- talent and entertainment
- catering and produce.

## Ineligible expenses

Grant funding **cannot** be used to support the following expenses:

- salary and wages
- administration and overhead costs
- activities that form part of the organisations core business or are considered routine operations of the applicant
- funding of research, trials, or feasibility studies

[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).

- insurances
- prizes or gifts
- alcoholic beverages
- retrospective (past) activities
- capital equipment or works
- activities or goods not directly related to the event (including auspice fees).

## Application process

**Step 1: Review the Funding Guidelines** to confirm your organisation and proposed activity meet the eligibility requirements.

**Step 2: Check working with children requirements** if your event or activity involves children or young people. Further information is available at https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/bluecardprocess.html

**Step 3: Submit an application** through SmartyGrants **by 12:00pm (AEST) on Friday, 18 December 2026.** Applicants requiring assistance can contact their local regional office.

## Key dates

- **Grants close** at 12:00pm (AEST) on Friday, 18 December 2026
- Successful applicants are expected to be **announced in March 2027**
- Funded events and activities are expected to be delivered **during National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2027)**
- All funded events and activities must be **completed by 30 June 2027**
- Final reporting and acquittal requirements are due within 30 days of completion of the funded event or activity

## Assessment process

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility requirements, assessment criteria and eligible expenditure requirements outlined in these Funding Guidelines using the information and supporting evidence provided in the application.

## 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 event
- submit an Event and Financial (Acquittal) Report by the specified due date
- immediately inform the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism via email crg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au of any proposed changes to the funded event, 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 Celebrating Reconciliation Grants program.

## 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 2027 Celebrating Reconciliation 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 event or activity supports the objectives of National Reconciliation Week by promoting reconciliation, cultural understanding, respectful relationships, social inclusion and social cohesion, with meaningful involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians. | **40%** |
| Demonstrates a well-planned and achievable event or activity, including proposed promotion methods and the meaningful involvement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in planning and delivery, supported by a complete and realistic budget that provides value for money and clearly outlines the use of grant funding. | **30%** |
| Demonstrates the capability and capacity to deliver the activity, including a realistic activity plan, expected outputs and outcomes and a clear evaluation approach. | **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 funding is used for purposes other than those approved, the Queensland Government may recover all or part of the grant funding. This includes funding that has been:

- used for ineligible activities or expenses
- used in breach of the funding agreement or funding conditions.

**Non-Compliance**

Failure to comply with the reporting, acquittal or other obligations outlined in these Funding Guidelines, the funding agreement or funding conditions may result in the Queensland

Government recovering all or part of the grant funding.

**Repayment Process**

Recipients required to repay funding will be notified in writing and provided with details of the amount to be repaid and the repayment process. Repayments must be made within 30 days of the notice 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.

While eligibility for the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants is limited to specified organisations and activities, any limitation on access to the program is considered reasonable and justified under section 13(2) of the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

The program supports equitable participation in National Reconciliation Week and promotes cultural understanding, inclusion and social cohesion across Queensland communities.

## Need help in your language?

Call 1800 512 451 and ask for an interpreter.

For further assistance, contact the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism at crg@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 crg@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.dwatsipm.qld.gov.au/contact-us/compliments-complaints.

## Privacy

We collect, use and disclose personal information in accordance with the *Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023*.

Personal information collected through your application may be used to:

- assess and administer your application
- manage the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants program
- communicate with applicants and grant recipients
- support program reporting, announcements and stakeholder engagement activities.

Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister for Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and relevant Members of Parliament for official purposes related to the Celebrating Reconciliation Grants program.

By submitting an application, you consent to the Queensland Government collecting and using your personal information for grants administration purposes. If you do not provide the requested information, we may be unable to assess your 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 Celebrating Reconciliation Grants program, including eligibility requirements, funding conditions and the application process, contact your local regional office or email the Community Investment & Grants team at crg@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au