Purpose

Supporting social inclusion and participation for people living with disability.

Funding amount

- Grants up to $20,000
- Granting pool up to $275,000

Timeframes

- Opens 26th October 2026
- Closes 20th November 2026

Outcomes

- By 8th March 2027

*Eligibility

- Item 1 DGR organisations which are registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and endorsed with charity tax concessions.

Community Inclusion

FY2026/27 Grant Round Guidelines

State Trustees Australia Foundation (the Foundation) was established in 1994 as a public charitable trust.
Community Inclusion will distribute funds for projects that are encouraging social inclusion and social participation for people living with disability.

Funded by donations and bequests from generous community members, the Foundation has distributed more than $30 million to charities, making a positive difference in the community.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

What are the objectives of the Community Inclusion grant round?

To provide opportunities for **social inclusion** and **social participation** for **people living with disability** in Victoria.

Projects may include:

- Community awareness, education, and engagement programs to promote social inclusion and address direct and indirect discrimination
- Promoting participation in cultural life
- Programs to support social participation, to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing and quality of life

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Provide an integrated solution to social inclusion and social participation
- Show social innovation, which can be interpreted as 'novel solutions to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than existing solutions' (Phills, Deiglmeier & Miller 2008).
- Are from smaller community-led organisations
- Are Victorian based

We encourage regional, rural, and remote organisations to apply and special consideration will be given to these applications.

Who is eligible to apply?

An eligible entity is endorsed as item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), with charity tax concessions.

Organisations can only apply for one project per round.

What are the funding exclusions?

- If you are seeking to apply for a previously successfully acquitted project from either Community Inclusion or our previous Grassroots Program, you must contact the State Trustees Charitable Giving Team for discussion prior to submitting. These projects may be excluded.
- Organisations that have not acquitted previous projects for any of State Trustees' granting programs
- Applications identical to a previously submitted, unsuccessful application
- General fundraising appeals
- Organisations whose funded activity may seek to proselytise a particular faith or religion to its beneficiaries
- Universities and other institutions seeking funding for academic research projects or research positions with minimal or no research translation activity or no community-based partners

- Applications from Universities or Medical Research Institutes must come from the relevant Philanthropy / Fundraising office
- Retrospective funding
- It is not State Trustees' preferred practice to fund existing positions or supplement existing staff budgets – please speak to us prior to applying if you propose to do this
- 'For-profit' bodies and commercial activities
- State and Commonwealth Government bodies
- Political parties or their candidates
- Work conducted outside Victoria
- Individuals
- Personal living expenses
- Loans

What are the timeframes?

Round Opens	**Monday 26th October 2026, 9am**
Round Closes	**Friday 20th November 2026, 5pm**
Outcome notifications	By Monday 8th March 2027
Conditions of Awards	To be returned by the recipient within 5 business days of successful outcome notification

How much funding is available for a project?

The round provides single one-year grants of up to $20,000.

What is the assessment process?

- Applicant organisations will be first reviewed to confirm if they are eligible entities.
- Applications will be assessed against the program application criteria, with applications which are most aligned with our preferences and objectives receiving a higher rating.
- Assessment is made using a blended assessment model, where ranking and qualitative analysis is used to inform decisions. Ratings are made on a 6-point scale:
    - 0 = application completely fails to address criterion
    - 1 = application largely fails to meet the criterion
    - 2 = application just fails to meet the criterion
    - 3 = application meets criterion
    - 4 = application meets criterion well
    - 5 = application meets criterion at a high level
- Notifications of outcomes will be sent via email.
- Due to resourcing, feedback regarding decision-making is unable to be provided for every application.

How are payments made?
Payments will be made by electronic funds transfer only to the nominated bank account provided in the application within 5 business days of a returned Conditions of Award.

What reporting will be expected if your application is successful?

6-month phone update *Informal*	A member of our grant team will call to discuss the start of the project
Grantees 'meet and greet' and/or other stakeholder engagement	During 2027 – To be confirmed
Acquittal report	Due 1 month after project completion (as defined in application)

Remember that you can call or email at any time if you have any questions about the progress of your project.

How do I apply?
We use SmartyGrants – an online application form. Remember to save each page when entering information. We recommend reading these tips on how to use SmartyGrants: **Help Guide for Applicants**.

Application Checklist
Have you:

- ☐ Read the objectives and exclusions?
- ☐ Noted the important dates?
- ☐ Prepared eligibility details, including ABN, Australian bank account?
- ☐ Prepared copies of proof of eligibility including Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient, Charity Tax Concession endorsements, and ACNC registration?
- ☐ Prepared links to your annual report or financial statements?

Already familiar with SmartyGrants? Then log in to our application form:
https://statetrustees.smartygrants.com.au/CommunityInclusionFY27

Who do I contact for more information?
Contact us on **(03) 9667 2845** or send us an email if you would like more information or to discuss your project: **charitable@statetrustees.com.au**
Note: Please do not add us to your direct marketing / appeals lists. This may result in all your correspondence being treated as 'spam' in our email processes.

Examples of projects we've funded
Take a look at what we funded in last year's **Community Inclusion Program**.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive