State Trustees Australia Foundation

Purpose

Fostering children's emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, and life achievement opportunities to help them grow and thrive.

Funding amount

- One-year grants of up to $55,000
- Granting pool up to $410,000

Timeframes

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

Outcomes

- March / April 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.

Disadvantaged Children

FY2026/27 Grant Round Guidelines

State Trustees has developed the Disadvantaged Children grant program to address systemic issues contributing to disadvantage for children. The focus of the program is to foster children's emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, and life achievement opportunities to help them grow and thrive.

We seek to support approaches that are based on collective impact – engaging individuals, families, communities, and making effective use of existing services.

Submitted applications must have the potential to be scaled up to form the basis of a 3-year, $250k per year grant from FY2028-30.

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What are the objectives of the Disadvantaged Children Grant?

To foster children's emotional wellbeing, educational attainment, and life achievement opportunities to help them grow and thrive.

We are seeking approaches that:

- Address systemic issues contributing to disadvantage for children
- Deploy integrative and collective impact approaches and make effective use of existing programs
- Promote cross-sector collaboration
- Are innovative and take a systems view
- Are informed by lived experience
- Have a focus on prevention
- Provide an evidence base to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs
- Advance / improve policy and practice
- 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?

- 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 discuss this with us if you propose to do this

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- ‘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	March / April 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 $55,000.

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.

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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 update *Informal*	A member of our grant team will contact you 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)

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/DisadvantagedChildren_FY2027

Who do I contact for more information?

Contact us at **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.

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