



We Join - Community Grant

Guidelines Community NSW/ACT

We Join – Community Grant Guidelines

The We Join Community grant provides one-off, time limited financial support to purchase equipment for projects that promote inclusion and accessibility, empowering children aged 0-18 years with disabilities or those experiencing disadvantage to feel a sense of belonging, fully participate, and reach their full potential.

The purpose of the grant is to create opportunities and remove barriers, enabling the creation of a harmonious and accepting environment that reflects the modern landscape of inclusion. Examples of inclusion could be:

- Improved physical access to learning, community and play spaces,
- Enhanced learning environments through specialist technology, learning resources and sensory regulation tools,
- Increased participation in recreational or extracurricular activities,
- Fostering a sense of community where all children belong, feel safe, accepted and valued,
- Supporting children in rural and regional areas participate in sport and community activities

Inclusion aims to create environments where everyone feels valued, respected and able to fully participate. Accessibility refers to the design and implementation of products, environments and experiences to be usable by all children regardless of their ability.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be an organisation that provides services directly to:
 - Children aged 0 – 18 years &
 - Children living with a disability or chronic illness &/or
 - Children experiencing disadvantage or living under financial hardship
- Be based and operating in NSW or the ACT
- Be a not-for-profit or community organisations classified by the ACNC as small or medium sized and/or that have an annual revenue below \$8M
- Social or sporting groups and associations
- Require financial support to deliver a project that will directly promote inclusion and/or accessibility for children living with a disability or experiencing disadvantage.

Example of grant requests

- Communication software and portable amplification equipment
- Sensory items, quiet/calm space
- Inclusive recreation equipment and resources
- Accessible outdoor/sporting equipment such as beach wheelchairs
- Inclusive play equipment, adaptive toys and items that are designed with neurodivergence/disability in mind
- Ability switches and switch-adapted toys
- Customised or adjustable furniture
- Mobility equipment and resources
- Literacy aids



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- Community garden/food education set-up costs
- Musical instruments and/or sports equipment that have a clear purpose to invite, include and support children living with a disability or experiencing disadvantage

Ineligible grant requests

- Anything illegal or that may cause or do harm
- Travel/Transportation
- Programs, staffing costs, or personal development training
- Mainstream resources/equipment that should be available and funded through normal channels
- Capital expenditure including new construction, maintenance or refurbishments to schools, offices, or homes e.g. furniture, carpets, air conditioning units
- Retrospective funding - Only items/services purchased after the approval date will be eligible to be funded as part of the grant
- Funding in support of individuals and/or equipment eligible for funding in a participant's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) plan
- Purchasing of iPads, tablets and standard laptops/computers
- Items and equipment for which other Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies are responsible for funding and ensuring access and inclusion of people with disability
- Government fees, charges or taxes

Assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed on their relative merit in creating a sense of belonging and promoting inclusion and accessibility for children with disabilities or those experiencing disadvantage.

The application must clearly outline the following:

- The objectives and anticipated impact of your project on children and young people in your community.
- The scale and significance of the project.
- How the grant funds will be used.
- What actions will be taken, and how will the applicant ensure the project will be completed within the required timeframe? I.e., no later than 12 months from receiving funding.

Applicants may be contacted for further information throughout the assessment process. Any information supplied will form a part of their application.

The decisions by Variety NSW/ACT are final. Variety reserves the right not to fund applications if it does not believe they have sufficient merit.

Measurement and accountability

All successful applicants will be required to submit a grant acquittal report to demonstrate the funds provided were used appropriately, the project was carried out as planned and your objectives were met.



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Applications

- Accepted all year round
- Can be submitted on behalf of the organisation by an authorised representative
- Can apply for one or more items as part of their application
- Are expected to be truthful and factual
- All sections must be completed, and required documents attached

It is recommended the applicant contact our Kids Support team before completing an application to ensure their requests align with guidelines.

Required information

You will be required to address the following points

- Name and contact details of authorised representatives and organisation
- Clear project information:
 - Description of exactly what the grant funds will be used for
 - When and where the project will happen
 - Why the project and grant funds are needed
 - Who will benefit including project objectives and intended outcomes
 - Who will be involved in delivering the project
 - How funds will be spent and
 - How the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated and shared.
- Itemised quote from preferred supplier.
 - For items over \$5000 a second quote is required.
 - Must be no older than 3 months at the time of submission
 - Remain valid throughout assessment process (up to 6 weeks)
- Financial Information
 - Schools RAM funding OR
 - Organisations most recent audited financial statement



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Application Steps/Process

Complete Grant Application

- Grant application completed via online portal
- Required documents uploaded and attached to application
- Application submitted to Variety NSW/ACT

Kids Support and Grant Committee review application

- Application received and assessed by Variety Kids Support Team
- Kids Support Grant Committee meet monthly to assess and approve applications on individual merit
- Outcome letters are emailed to applications

Purchase equipment and submit aquittal report

- Successful applicants submit invoices to Variety via Variety portal
- Variety pays supplier directly for approved equipment
- Supplier arranges delivery directly with applicant
- Grant acquittal report requested and submitted to Variety

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support Team at kidssupport@varietyNSW.org.au