



Variety Boost Grant

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT

The Variety Boost grant is for secondary aged students in Out of Home Care (OOHC). The purpose of this grant is to support young people in OOHC and provide the boost they need to thrive at school or in the workplace, be healthy, and connect with their community.

It offers one-time financial support of up to \$2000 to purchase practical resources to help them reach their goals in areas such as: education and career support, health and wellbeing, life skills development and community connection.

The goal of this grant is to empower young people to build a positive future, and we encourage you to think about what resources can best support their journey!

Eligibility

- Applications can only be accepted for secondary aged students from 12 -18 years old.
- Applicants are a young person for whom the Minister has parental responsibility under the Children and Young Persons (Care & Protection) Act 1998 NSW or the Children and Young People Act 2008 ACT who are in foster care or residential care with case work support by an accredited agency.
- Application must be able to provide a support letter from the young person's case manager supporting their application.
- Applicants are currently in OOHC, enrolled in school, further education and/or employment.
- Applicants have an identified need for support and a well-defined goal to further their education and/or career and require additional financial support to purchase a service or item to achieve this goal.
- Applicants must live in NSW or ACT.

Application

- Boost applications can be completed by a responsible adult in the young person's life. This person will be responsible for managing the grant if approved.
- **Outline of need:**
 - Describe the young person's needs and how the grant will support their goals.
 - Specify what goal they want to achieve and how the funding will help.
 - List what will be purchased with the grant and its role in achieving the goal.
 - Explain your relationship to the young person.
- **Quote of the service or item being requested:**
 - No older than three months at the time of submission.
 - Must remain valid throughout the assessment process.
- **Support letter** from the young person's case worker providing the below information:
 - Confirm young person's care arrangements, education and/or employment status.
 - Endorse young person's grant request and how it will support them achieve specified goal.
 - Confirm person applying for grant is the appropriate person to apply and utilise the grant money.
 - Confirm that there are no existing funding sources available to cover the cost of the item or service, or that any available funding has already been exhausted.

Variety Boost Grant

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT



Types of grant requests

This grant is designed to support young people in OOHC with practical resources to help them reach their goals. As part of the grant, we encourage applicants to use the funds in ways that will make a real difference in their lives.

This might include things like:

- School Supplies (textbooks, stationery, uniform)
- Technology (laptop, internet access, software subscriptions)
- Course Fees (tuition, certification, workshops)
- Extracurricular Activities (sports clubs, music lessons, leadership camps)
- Health Services (medical, therapy, mental health support)
- Fitness Support (gym membership, sports equipment)
- Self-Esteem & Life Skills (confidence-building workshops, financial literacy)
- Social Programs (volunteering, community engagement activities)
- Transportation Support (public transport cards, driving lessons)

Examples of grant exclusions

The following requests will not be considered:

- Services, items or activities that should reasonably be paid by Department of Communities and Justice
- Services, items or activities for which there are existing Government or other avenues of funding, i.e. NDIS or Services Australia
- Retrospective funding (reimbursement of something you have already paid for prior to grant approval or items ordered before grant approval)
- Ongoing funding repairs/maintenance of equipment
- Installation or capital costs
- Insurance or warranty costs
- Funds to pay debts for Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS)
- Funds for emergency or crisis relief, including the payment of bills, debts or fines
- Recreational or non-essential items e.g. gaming console
- Purchase of expensive items when a more reasonably priced item is available
- Motor vehicles
- Items or services not directly related to the applicant

If you have any questions related to the spending of funds under the grant, please contact the Kids Support team before applying.



Variety Boost Grant

Guidelines Individual NSW/ACT

Successful Applicants

- Will receive their outcome via the person who applied for the grant on their behalf.
- Will be awarded a grant equal to the quote they provided, up to a maximum value of \$2000.
- The approved funding will be available for 3 months from the date of the approval letter. All allocated funds must be spent within that period. Any unspent allocated funds will be revoked.

Unsuccessful Applicants

- Unfortunately, due to limited funding, we are unable to approve all applications, even though we would love to support every request. Unsuccessful applicants will receive their outcome through the person who applied for the grant on their behalf.
- The reasons for an application being unsuccessful are at the discretion of the Committee and Variety NSW/ACT. While we can't approve all grants, we deeply appreciate the effort and dedication behind each application.
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in a future round, and we encourage you to stay engaged and apply again when the opportunity arises.

We'd love to hear your story

At the end of the grant period, we'll ask you to complete a quick survey to help us understand how the grant has made a difference and how we can continue to improve our program. Your insights are invaluable in shaping the future of the Variety Boost grant.

We're also excited to hear any updates on the young person's progress and achievements. Sharing these stories – big or small – helps us celebrate their success and ensures we're providing the best support possible. If you'd like to share any updates, please feel free to email us at kidssupport@varietynewsw.org.au. We can't wait to hear from you!

Spending your grant

Variety makes direct payments to suppliers once you have provided an invoice (reimbursement is available in some circumstances). The Kids Support Team endeavours to make this process as simple as possible, and instructions will be supplied to successful applicants along with their outcome letters.

It is important to note that Variety WILL NOT pay any invoices or reimburse any expenses incurred prior to the approval of the grant.

2025 Timeline

- 10th March 2025: Applications open 9am
- 31st March 2025: Applications close 5pm
- April 2025: Applications are reviewed and assessed by the Committee
- April/May 2025: Applicants receive an email to advise them of the outcome

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support team on (02) 9819 1000 or at kidssupport@varietynewsw.org.au