

## Sunshine Coach Program – Expression of Interest

At Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT, our mission is to empower children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability to live without limits. Our vision is a world where every child can thrive, belong, and reach their full potential, regardless of disability or circumstance.

Sunshine Coaches help remove the barriers that can make everyday experiences out of reach. They enable children living with disability, chronic illness, financial hardship, or geographical isolation to connect with their communities, attend school excursions, take part in extracurricular activities and experience programs that they would otherwise be unable to attend.

More than just transport, a Sunshine Coach represents freedom, opportunity, and shared experiences, helping children reach places and milestones, that might otherwise be out of reach.

Expressions of Interest for this grant round are open till **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

### Expression of Interest (EOI)

While our Sunshine Coach - Community Grants are awarded by invitation; any school or organisation may submit an EOI if they meet the eligibility criteria and agree to the pre-submission terms.

If your EOI is successful, Variety will invite you to submit to a full Sunshine Coach application.

The EOI is a short online form that asks for key information about:

- Name and contact details of an authorised representative
- A brief description about your school or organisation
- The children who would benefit most from the Sunshine Coach and the current barriers they face
- Choice of coach including where appropriate any specifications/modifications
- The financial contribution your school or organisation may be able to provide (if any)

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be based and operating in NSW or ACT
- Applications will be accepted from Educational and Not-For-Profit organisations
- Applications will be accepted from those that directly service, or support children aged 0 to 18 years living with a disability, chronic illness, financial hardship or geographic isolation
- Previous recipients of a Sunshine Coach can submit a new application 5 years from their previous grant approval date



## Coaches

The process for purchasing a coach will be made through an authorised and licensed dealer.

Due to production delays, Mitsubishi and Toyota vehicles will not be offered as an option in this expression of interest. We will be offering LDV Coaches.

You may select from the following options for a brand-new coach:

1. 11-Seater: LDV Deliver 9 Bus Mid Wheelbase Mid Roof
2. 12- or 14-Seater: LDV Deliver 9 Bus Long Wheelbase Mid Roof
3. 12- or 14-Seater: LDV Deliver 9 Bus Long Wheelbase High Roof

## Modifications

Once a coach has been selected, you may add one or more of the following modifications:

1. Wheelchair (number required)
2. Lift Position (if applicable)

Please note that vehicle modifications vary in cost depending on individual needs and specifications.

## Options

Once a coach has been selected, you may select to add one or more of the following options:

1. Tow bar
2. Window tint
3. School Lights (if required)

## Cost and Contribution

The total purchase price of a Sunshine Coach includes the cost of the vehicle, modifications (if required), optional extras and the first-year drive-away costs (i.e., rego, etc.).

Where possible, schools and organisations are asked to contribute toward the cost of their Sunshine Coach. Contribution amount may vary due to your school's or organisation size, regional location, and the capacity of the community to fundraise.

We encourage the applicant to implement local fundraising opportunities and/or seek other avenues of sponsorship to help achieve this contribution. E.g., RSL Club Grants, your local council, Rotary or Lions Clubs.





## Pre-Submission

The applicant must agree to the following terms:

If successful:

- The applicant will be given 12 months to provide its contribution towards the purchase of the coach (if applicable)
- The applicant must be able to provide qualified drivers and secure garaging or parking
- The Sunshine coach must be serviced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and keep it taxed and comprehensively insured.
- The Sunshine Coach will remain registered in the name of the organisation/school/Department of Education
- The Sunshine Coach branding will be maintained on the vehicle at all times
- The Sunshine Coach will only be used for the purpose intended, namely for the transport of children (18 years and under) with adult supervision. These vehicles are built to the manufacturer's specifications as passenger carrying vehicles. Government Transport Regulations prohibit the use of these vehicles from carrying passengers for hire or reward.
- Once the ownership of the Sunshine Coach is transferred into the applicant's name, they become responsible for all aspects of owning and operating the vehicle including all legal responsibilities.
- The Sunshine Coach cannot be sold without prior written permission from Variety NSW/ACT. Variety NSW/ACT reserves the right to sell the vehicle and distribute the funds in the same ratio as the original donation/contribution.
- To help us understand the impact of the Sunshine Coach, recipients will be asked to complete a short report approximately 12 months after receiving the coach. Templates will be provided.

Following the EOI process, full grant guidelines will be provided to applicants invited to make a full application.

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Kids Support Team at [kidssupport@variety NSW.org.au](mailto:kidssupport@variety NSW.org.au)

