

16 Days of Activism Grant Program 2026

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs

July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Communities and Justice acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this document.

We advise this resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

16 Days of Activism Grant Program 2026

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16 Days of Activism Grant Program 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Introduction

These FAQs were designed to assist organisations and groups that wish to apply for the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program 2026.

Please read these FAQs in combination with the Grant Program Guidelines before completing an online application form in SmartyGrants.

FAQ topics and questions

The 16 Days of Activism Grant Program FAQs are intended to accompany the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program Guidelines. Questions and answers below are grouped in topics in the same order as they appear in the Guidelines.

- Overview of the grant
 - Eligibility and Assessment Criteria
 - What grant funds can be used for
 - Completing the application
 - Other requirements
 - Assessment process
 - After applications close.
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Overview of the Grant

Q: What is the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program 2026?

A: This dedicated Grant Program for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence - (25 November – 10 December), supports raising awareness of the gendered nature of violence and ways in which domestic, family and sexual violence can be stopped before it starts. It is aligned with the NSW Government's [Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028](#).

Q: What are the objectives of the Program?

A: There are three key objectives of the 16 Days of Activism Grant Program:

1. Increase awareness in the community about the primary prevention of domestic, family violence and sexual violence.
2. Reinforce messages about positive behaviours and social norms rejecting violence against women.
3. Engage local groups, organisations –including men's organisations –and schools in leading efforts for change.

A 'primary prevention' approach addresses the underlying, gendered drivers of violence against women. The aim of primary prevention is to stop violence before it happens.

Q: How can my initiative meet these objectives?

A: By developing an initiative that addresses **at least** one of the four gendered drivers of violence.

1. The condoning of violence against women.
2. Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life.
3. Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity.
4. Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control.

For more details on gendered drivers of violence see [Change the Story framework](#) by *Our Watch*.

Q: What funding amounts can we apply for?

A: The minimum is \$2,500 and maximum grant is \$5,000.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

Q: Who can apply?

A: This grant is open to

- Local Domestic and Family Violence Committees in NSW; or
- Local Domestic Violence Networks in NSW.

To be eligible the Committee or Network is required to:

- Be a formally recognised forum, preferably, operating with a documented terms of reference. The forum members should consist of organisations, both government and non-government in a local area, who provide services to women and children experiencing domestic, family and/or sexual violence.
- The Committee or Network gives the members the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and to enhance inter-agency responses.
- The Committee or Network has membership from both government agencies and non-government organisations.
- The members have demonstrated expertise in preventing and/or addressing domestic and family violence.
- Provide an up-to-date copy of agreed terms of reference (or other relevant operational information) that clearly articulates your commitment to the prevention, early intervention and response to either domestic, family and/or sexual violence.

Q: Can I submit a joint application with another organisation.

A: Yes, this is particularly useful if your Committee or Network is not a legal entity. By join with another organisation that is a legal entity they can act as a sponsoring body and sign a funding agreement and receive the funds for the project.

Q: How does a joint application using a sponsoring body work?

A: A joint application with a sponsoring body acts in the following way.

The sponsoring body:

- accept the grant monies on behalf of the funded committee
- passes on the grant monies to the funded applicant in accordance with the grant conditions
- provide project management assistance to the funded committee

- for the purpose of this project the sponsoring organisation will provide adequate public liability insurance cover for the committee's activities
- ensure the required reports and financial acquittal information is provided to DCJ after the project is completed.

*Tip: **SmartyFile** is a **SmartyGrants** tool to allow collaboration on applications. An ABN is required to create a **SmartyFile** organisation profile. Detailed information <https://applicanthelp.smartygrants.com.au/smartyfile/>.*

Q: What are the eligibility criteria?

A: Applicants must confirm that they meet the following eligibility criteria.

- The proposed project/initiative aligns with the objectives of the program, be located within NSW and conducted between 25 November to 10 December 2026.
- Applicant organisation or Sponsoring body must have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million.
- Applicant organisation or Sponsoring body does not have a Redress Obligation under the National Redress Scheme.
- Applicant organisation or Sponsoring body does not have any outstanding acquittals with DCJ.

Q: What are the assessment criteria?

A: Funding is not guaranteed. Eligible organisations must meet the following assessment criteria to be considered for funding:

- The project/initiative aligns with the objectives of the grant program by addressing at least one of the drivers of violence and is expected to produce clear and positive results.
- The organisation has the necessary skills and expertise to complete the project/initiative during the campaign period. And can provide evidence of success in delivering similar projects within budget.
- That the requested funding will deliver value for money, the budget should be clear and cost effective.
- The project/initiative will help achieve the program goals within the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Q: Are there any funding priorities for the grant program?

A: Priority for funding under the grant program will be given to the following groups:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) or racially marginalised backgrounds
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer or asexual (LGBTIQA+) communities
- people living with disability, dementia, chronic disease or mental illness
- rural or regional communities
- older women (55 years +).

Applications may also be prioritised to ensure geographic distribution across NSW to ensure an equitable spread of funds and projects in regional, rural and remote areas, and to ensure that there is not a duplication of funded services delivering primary prevention activities.

What grant funds can be used for

Q: What can we use the grant funds for?

A: Funds can only be used for expenses/activities directly associated to the project. You must clearly outline your proposed expenditure in the application budget.

Q: What are we not allowed to spend grant funding on?

A: Organisation must not use the money provided for the project, nor any interest earned on the money, for any other purpose beyond what is specified in the approved project description.

Items or activities that funding cannot be used for include:

- Any activity of a commercial nature that is for profit.
- Existing debt or budget deficits.
- Capital works, including building work.
- Permanent salaries/wages (noting costs for temporary tutors/instructors for your program or activity can be included).
- Permanent equipment purchases, for example tables and computers.
- Business as usual costs or general operating expenses.
- Programs or activities that encourage gambling such as bingo, or the consumption of alcohol.
- Programs and activities coordinated by NSW Government Departments and Statutory Authorities.

Q: What are examples of eligible primary prevention initiatives?

A: Here are some examples of initiatives that address one or more gendered drivers of violence.

- **Addressing rigid gender stereotypes:** Partnering with local schools to run youth workshops exploring restrictive gender expectations. Students can produce gender equality-focused messages and artefacts that are displayed publicly to reinforce positive norms.
- **Addressing the condoning of violence against women:** Create a symbolic public installation, play or contribute to a pre-existing local festival, with the work produced highlighting the impacts of violence and prompting community reflection on attitudes that minimise or excuse harm.
- **Addressing male peer relations that reinforce aggression or dominance:** A digital campaign for local audiences (not broad-scale) could feature respected local male community members modelling healthy masculinities and encouraging peers to challenge harmful behaviours.
- **Addressing age-based gendered expectations affecting older women:** Other initiatives could include, for example, engaging older women in discussions or creative activities that explore how gender roles many women have been taught throughout their lives influence autonomy and safety. These activities could culminate in shared messages promoting respect, independence and equality for older women, helping reinforce positive social norms in the community.

Q: What initiatives have been successful in the past?

A: To further understand previously funded initiatives please see the website. [Recipients of 16 Days of Activism 2025 grants.](#)

Completing the application

Q: Do I have to use SmartyGrants to apply?

A: Yes, applications for this grant will only be accepted through the SmartyGrants platform.

You are not required to complete your application in one sitting; you can save and return at a later date to complete the application.

Q: Can I review the application form before starting my application?

A: Yes, when you log on to SmartyGrants you can download a PDF of the application form. Or you can preview the form online. Some questions in the form are conditional and the in PDF you may see questions do not apply to your application.

Q: How can I tell if I correctly submitted my application?

A: Once your application has been submitted you will receive an automated response from SmartyGrants. If you have not received this email, your application has not been successfully submitted, or the confirmation email has ended up in your junk mailbox.

To check you can also log into SmartyGrants and click 'My Submissions' to view all submitted and unsubmitted applications. Submitted applications are identified by a green tick.

Q: Is there support available to help me apply or answer questions?

A: The DCJ Grant team can assist organisations with any queries regarding the application process. Email Grant Design and Support at grantdesignandsupport@dcj.nsw.gov.au.

Please quote your Application ID in all correspondence.

If you are not familiar with the SmartyGrants management system, please refer to the [SmartyGrants Help Guide](#) for Applicants or check out the SmartyGrants [Applicant FAQs](#). You can also contact SmartyGrants directly if you are having technical difficulties with the application form or your SmartyGrants account/password, email service@smartygrants.com.au.

Q. What is the difference between an ACCO and other organisations that serve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

A: An Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) delivers services that build the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people, and is:

- incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit
- controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- connected to the community or communities in which they deliver the services
- governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.

DCJ is committed to funding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations for more information see [Definition of an ACCO](#).

Q. Should we include GST in our application?

A: No, your funding request should exclude any GST that you will be charged by contractors or suppliers as part of the cost of your project. If your application is successful and your organisation's ABN is registered for GST, you will be paid GST on top of the approved grant amount.

If your organisation ABN is not registered for GST or you do not have an ABN, you will only be paid the approved grant amount.

Q: Who are authorised signatories?

A Grant Funding Agreement can only be signed by authorised officers of an organisation. We require 2 authorised officers to be nominated in the application form. In the case of joint applications there should be one authorised officer from each organisation.

The 2 authorised signatories will have delegated authority to sign on behalf of the organisation this could be the General Manager, CEO, President, Board Director, Committee of Management Chair or Public Officer. For more information please see [Authorised Signatories](#) on the DCJ website.

We require their contact details, email, phone number, name, and position and they need to be available in October/November to sign the funding agreement, if the application is successful.

Please note the email addresses for the authorised signatories must be unique and cannot be associated with more than one individual. We will not accept generic email addresses such as *office@abc123.org.au* or *info@abc123.com.au*.

Q: Can I submit a late application?

A: No, late applications will not be accepted. Applications that are incorrectly filled out or incomplete will be deemed as not eligible.

Q: Do I need to provide banking details?

A: Yes. It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct banking details are submitted in your application form. Funds transferred to an incorrect bank account may not be recoverable. This applies even if you have provided your banking details to DCJ in the past or are currently receiving other payments from DCJ.

Other requirements

Q: What insurance is my organisation required to maintain?

A: Applicant organisation or Sponsoring body must have public liability insurance of at least \$10 million. A valid Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of \$10 million will be required to be uploaded as part of the SmartyGrants application.

You are responsible for ensuring adequate insurance coverage is in place to cover any liability that might arise in connection with the funded project. This includes activities carried out by any other individual or organisation that you may subcontract.

Q: What is the National Redress Scheme?

A: The National Redress Scheme is part of the Commonwealth Government's response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

The NSW Government will not award a grant to an applicant organisation or sponsoring body with a Redress Obligation (or to any of its Related Entities) if that non-government organisation has declined to join the Scheme; or has failed to join the Scheme, within six months of being notified it is required to do so.

For further information please visit [NSW National Redress Scheme Sanctions Policy](#).

Assessment process

Q: What is the assessment process for this program?

A: The assessment process is:

1. All submitted applications will first be reviewed to ensure eligibility and compliance with the guidelines.
2. Independent Assessors will then assess each eligible application and score the applications against the assessment criteria.
3. A Grant Assessment Panel will then review the Independent Assessor's scores and make recommendations to the Delegated Decision Maker.

After applications close

Q: What happens when you receive my application?

A: All applications will go through the eligibility and assessment processes in September 2026.

Q: When do I get notified if I'm successful?

A: All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the assessment process in October 2026.

Q: What happens if I am successful?

You will be notified via email, and shortly afterwards a Grant Funding Agreement will be sent via Adobe Acrobat Sign to the authorised signatories as nominated in the application form. The signed Agreement is required to be returned within seven days of receipt.

Please contact grantdesignandsupport@dcj.nsw.gov.au immediately if any of the authorised signatories' details change.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the Authorised Signatories are available to read the terms and conditions, and to sign the Agreement. Once we receive your signed Grant Funding Agreement it will be countersigned by DCJ and returned by email. DCJ is not responsible for any consequences should your grant offer be withdrawn due to out-of-date contact details.

Q: What happens if situations change, and we wish to change the details of our program after we are awarded funding?

A: Variations to the approved purposes outlined in your original application must be formally requested and approved in writing before any related work takes place, as your application forms part of your legally binding Funding Agreement.

Failure to do so may result in you being required to return the grant monies in full. To discuss a variation, please contact the GDS team by email grantdesignandsupport@dcj.nsw.gov.au.

Q: What reporting will be required?

Successful applicants will be required to submit one final report, that includes feedback from participants and recipients, as well as reported impact and the metrics used to substantiate that impact.

Q: When are the acquittals due?

A: Successful applicants will be required to submit an acquittal by 30 January 2027.

Q: What if my application was not successful?

A: If your application is not successful, it does not mean your application is without merit. Funding is limited and not all applications are successful. There is no appeals process, but feedback can be requested for unsuccessful applications by emailing dfsvprimaryprevention@dcj.nsw.gov.au.

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