

2025

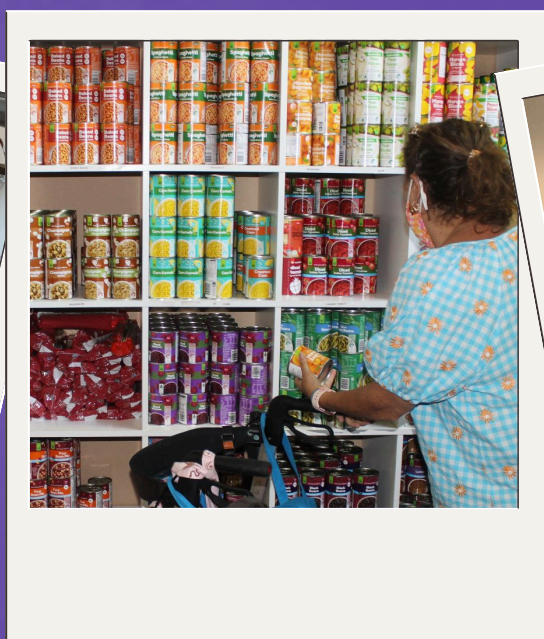


Australian  
Neighbourhood Houses  
and Centres Association



# SUPPORTING STRONGER COMMUNITIES *grant program*

APPLICANT GUIDELINES





## program aim

The Supporting Stronger Communities (SSC) grant program provides Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres (NCHC) the opportunity to access funds to **promote equality and inclusion** in their local communities.

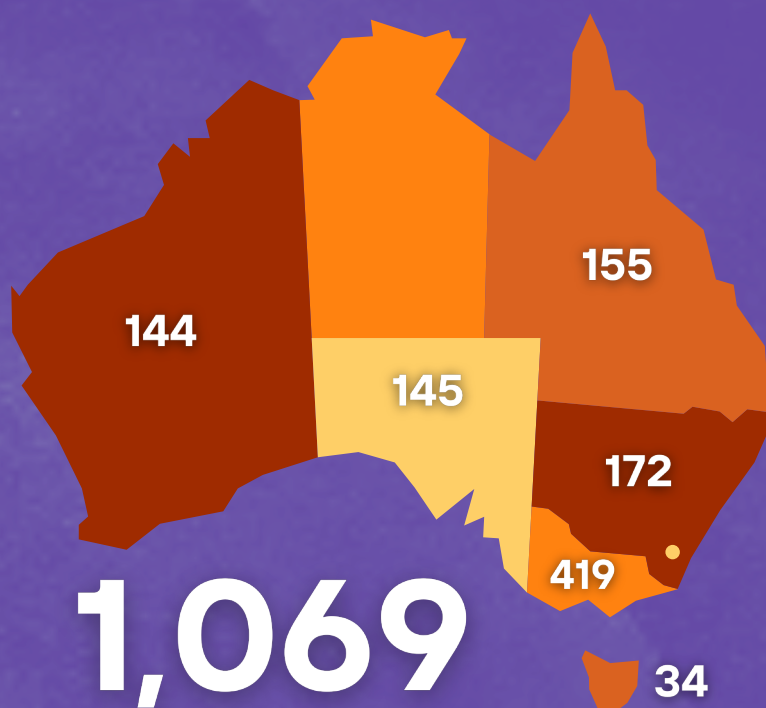
## who is funding

The Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association (ANHCA), with the support of the Sidney Myer Fund, and Helen Macpherson Smith Trust are delivering this national program to the Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres sector.



## funding priorities

This grant program will seek to achieve **national coverage** across the total grant pool. As such, targets are set for the proportion of funding that will be allocated in each state per round.



Neighbourhood and Community Houses  
and Centres in our national network





## *funding available*

Through this grant program, Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres **can apply for up to \$10,000 for projects** that seek to promote equality and inclusion within their local communities.

All projects undertaken through this grant program will need to be completed within 12 months from the date they commenced.

Applicants are only able to **receive funding once every 2 years**.

## *timeline*

There will be 2 rounds of the grant program in 2025/26 financial year. These rounds will be delivered within the following timeframes –

### **ROUND 17**

#### **Applications open:**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

#### **Applications close:**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

#### **Applicants notified of outcomes:**

September 2025

### **ROUND 18**

#### **Applications open:**

February 2025

#### **Applications close:**

March 2025

#### **Applicants notified of outcomes:**

April 2025



## who can apply

1

**This small grant program is available to all Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres across Australia that are in towns or cities with a population of more than 15,000 people.**

Small grants for applicants in rural and regional Australia are available through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities program. This program prioritises applications from communities with fewer than 15,000 people  
[frrr.org.au/funding/find-funding-now](http://frrr.org.au/funding/find-funding-now)

2

**Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres need to be a member of their state peak body which is a member of the national peak body ANHCA. If you are unsure, contact the state peak body.**

**Community Centres South Australia**  
(08) 8371 4622  
[communitycentressa.asn.au](http://communitycentressa.asn.au)

**Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania**  
(03) 6244 1615  
[nht.org.au](http://nht.org.au)

**Linkwest Western Australia**  
(08) 9485 8929  
[linkwest.asn.au](http://linkwest.asn.au)

**Neighbourhood Houses Victoria**  
(03) 9602 1228  
[nhvic.org.au](http://nhvic.org.au)

**Local Community Services Association (NSW)**  
(02) 9660 2044  
[lcsansw.org.au](http://lcsansw.org.au)

**Neighbourhood Centres Queensland**  
[info@ncq.org.au](mailto:info@ncq.org.au)  
[ncq.org.au](http://ncq.org.au)

3

**Only one submission will be considered per Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre in each round.**

In the case of organisations that manage multiple Centres, one application will be accepted from each separate House or Centre. Please note, to ensure that the funding is spread throughout the sector around Australia, applicants will only be able to receive funding once every 2 years.

## who can't apply

- Community organisations that are not working in partnership with a Neighbourhood or Community Houses or Centre.
- Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres who have received a grant from the SSC grant program in the last 2 years.
- Neighbourhood and Community Houses and Centres who have not completed their acquittal for previous SSC grants.



## eligibility of projects

Projects that are developed in response to emerging community needs promoting equality and inclusion can apply for funding through this grant program.

Existing programs can also apply for funding to adapt or expand their program providing it is clearly explained how the adaptations are required to meet emerging changing needs in the community.

**You can apply for funding to cover costs associated with delivering projects which can include (and is not limited to):**

- Wages for the staff required to deliver the project
- Equipment hire or purchase costs
- Hall hire costs for off site facilities
- Community training costs

**If you are unsure whether something will be eligible for funding please call: Jarrah Kelly on 0428 964 817 or email [jarrah@anhca.org](mailto:jarrah@anhca.org)**

**Please note** – If your application is for a project or program that will involve working with children and young people, you will need to make a declaration that you are compliant with National Child Safety Standards. Information about the different checks required in each state can be found at: [acic.gov.au/our-services/national-police-checking-service/find-out-more-information/working-children-checks](https://www.acic.gov.au/our-services/national-police-checking-service/find-out-more-information/working-children-checks)

## what can't be funded

- Projects that take place in towns or cities with less than 15,000 people.
- Existing programs or programs that start before the funding is allocated
- Ongoing core operational costs (e.g. rent, regular wages, utilities)
- Programs that don't clearly outline how they will promote equality and inclusion.

**Please note** – While funding will not be given to existing programs, if you have demonstrated success with your program and wish to further develop or extend your program to meet the changing needs of the community, this could be considered eligible.

**If you are unsure if you meet the eligibility criteria, please call Jarrah Kelly on 0428 964 817 or email [jarrah@anhca.org](mailto:jarrah@anhca.org)**



# guidelines for partnership arrangements

Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre can apply for this grant in partnership with other local Community groups.

## ELIGIBILITY

If a Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre would like to apply with another community organisation, there are several basic criteria that will need to be met within the Partnership Arrangements.

- The Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre will take the lead role. This will involve being the main contact for the project/program. They will also take on the financial and legal responsibility for the duration of the project/program.
- There will need to be evidence provided in the application form outlining the partnership arrangements. This will include clearly defining the roles of both partners and their contribution.
- There will need to be a letter of support provided by the community organisation outlining their commitment to the project/program.

***If you are unsure whether your partnership arrangement will be eligible, contact Jarrah at 0428 964 817 or [jarrah@anhca.org](mailto:jarrah@anhca.org).***





## assessment process

Once the applications are received, they will be checked for eligibility and all eligible applications will be referred to an Evaluation panel for assessment. This panel will consist of representatives of the state peak bodies and the Sidney Myer Fund.

Once the grant round closes, there will be approximately 1 week for internal assessments and then 4 weeks for the panel to meet, evaluate the applications and finalise the allocations. This timeline will be dependent on the number of applications received.

Applicants will be notified of outcome of their grant applications once the panel have concluded with their assessments.

If successful, applicants will receive a funding agreement to be signed and returned to receive payment. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email as soon as possible following the assessment process.



## reporting requirements

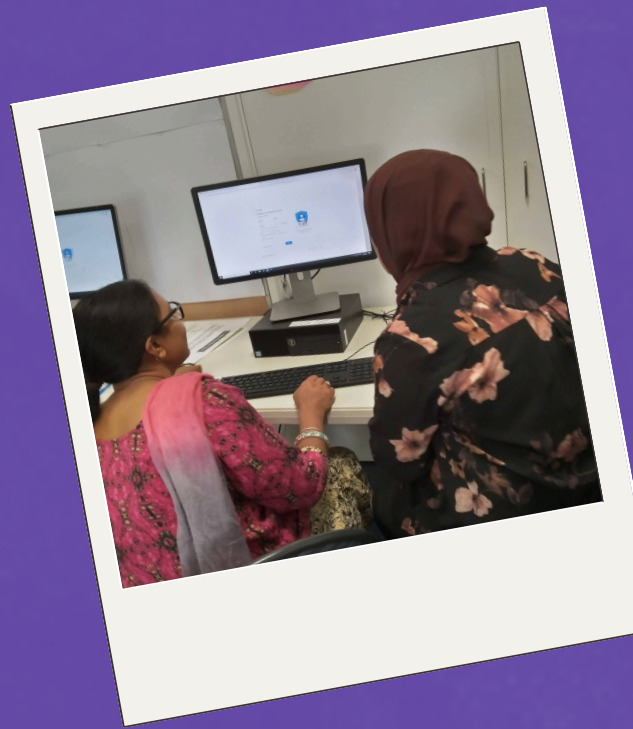
A progress summary report will need to be completed online via our website [PROGRESS REPORT](#)

A final acquittal report will be required at the conclusion of the project outlining outcomes achieved and a statement of expenditure outlining how the grant money was allocated. This will need to be completed online via our website [ACQUITTAL](#)

## program criteria

Applications will be scored and ranked by the assessment panel based on the overall assessment against the following program criteria:

- Understanding the emerging needs of the local community
- Capacity to deliver the program
- Benefit to local community



## application preparing

**Before applying for funding, it is helpful to plan your proposed project/program by ensuring that –**

- You are eligible for funding as a Neighbourhood or Community House or Centre in Australia based in a town or city of more than 15,000 people or a community organisation partnered to one;
- Your project/program and its components are eligible;
- You have identified and can show the need for the project/program;
- You can clearly outline the outcomes of your project/program;
- You have gathered all necessary documentation

## how to apply!

**There are 2 funding rounds per year.**

To apply, submit an online application via our website:  
**[anhca.org/sscgrantprogram](http://anhca.org/sscgrantprogram) | [APPLY NOW!](#)**

## support available

If you have any questions regarding a project idea or an application, Jarrah will be available throughout the year.

**Call on 0428 964 817 or email [jarrah@anhca.org](mailto:jarrah@anhca.org)**

Get inspiration on what projects/programs that have been funded in the past rounds on our website:  
**[anhca.org/previousrecipients](http://anhca.org/previousrecipients) | [READ MORE!](#)**