



Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026

Opening date:	19 March 2026
Closing date and time:	5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 8 April 2026 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
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1. Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 processes

The Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' (DISR) Outcome 1: *Support economic growth, productivity and job creation for all Australians by investing in science and technology, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting a strong resources sector.* DISR works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form, addressing all of the eligibility criteria in order for your application to be considered.



We assess grant applications

We review the applications against eligibility criteria.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the eligibility of applications until the available funding is exhausted.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at [section 13](#).

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement program

The Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program (the program) provides funding for a range of initiatives delivered under the Inspiring Australia banner.

The program contributes to the Government's vision for an Australian society engaged in and enriched by science. Through this program and other science engagement activities, the Government's aims are:

- increasing Australian community engagement with the sciences, through activities and events
- increasing positive public sentiment and awareness of the contribution and achievements of Australian scientists and innovators
- improving communication between Australian scientists, the general public, businesses and government
- enhancing focus on building skills and capability in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and digital literacy, in Australian schools and communities
- increasing engagement and participation of a diverse range of Australians, especially those historically underrepresented in STEM.

We administer the program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#)¹.

2.1. About the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 grant opportunity

These guidelines contain information for the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 grant opportunity (Sponsorship Grants). The Sponsorship Grants provide funding to support Australian students under the age of 18 to participate in STEM activities, events, or competitions.

¹ <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024>

Under this grant opportunity, funding is provided to eligible entities to facilitate student participation in a project involving in-person or virtual STEM events, activities, or competitions hosted in Australia or overseas. This grant opportunity aims to increase STEM participation among students from schools with lower [Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage \(ICSEA\)](#) values.

Eligible entities may apply for funding under the following streams:

Stream 1: is for applications on behalf of Australian student(s) enrolled in a school with an ICSEA value of 1000 or below, to participate in-person or virtually in STEM events, activities or competitions held in Australia, as well as in-person or virtual international STEM events held in Australia or overseas. Funding under this stream does not cover participation in international competitions held overseas.

The ICSEA value for students enrolled in schools without an ICSEA value is taken to be 1000. Schools without an ICSEA value include schools with low enrolments or with specific purposes (e.g. juvenile justice, behaviour support schools).

Stream 2: is for applications on behalf of Australian student(s) enrolled in schools with any ICSEA value to participate in in-person or virtual international STEM competitions held overseas. This stream is open to students enrolled in schools with any ICSEA value.

For both streams, funding will be directed to applicants with the lowest ICSEA values first (refer to [section 7](#)). The majority of grant funding has been allocated to **Stream 1** to support more young Australians to participate in STEM opportunities, regardless of their background, location or circumstance.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to:

- support Australian students to develop STEM skills
- increase the number of students applying to participate in domestic and international STEM competitions and events
- increase the number of students participating in STEM education and going on to a career in STEM
- increase engagement and participation in groups underrepresented in STEM.

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

A total of \$1.6 million is available for the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 grant opportunity for the 2025-26 financial year.

Funding will be provided through two streams.

Stream 1: is for applications on behalf of Australian student(s) enrolled in a school with an ICSEA value of 1000 or below. At least \$1 million in funding is available for participation in domestic, in-person or virtual, STEM events, activities or competitions, or in-person or virtual international STEM events held in Australia or overseas. Funding under this stream does not cover participation in international competitions held overseas.

- The minimum grant amount per applicant is \$1,500.
- The maximum grant amount per applicant is \$15,000.

The maximum grant amount per student is:

- \$2,000 for STEM engagement events, activities or competitions held in Australia or delivered virtually

- \$7,500 for international STEM events requiring overseas travel (excluding international competitions).

Stream 2: is for applications on behalf of Australian student(s) enrolled in schools with any ICSEA value. Up to \$600,000 in funding is available for participation in in-person or virtual international STEM competitions held overseas.

- The minimum grant amount per applicant is \$1,500.
- The maximum grant amount per applicant is \$25,000.

The maximum grant amount per student is:

- \$7,500 for international STEM competitions requiring overseas travel.

Multiple applications can be made from a single applicant for different STEM events, activities or competitions. However, when totalled, the funding requested across all applications cannot exceed \$15,000 for **Stream 1** and \$25,000 for **Stream 2**. The maximum funding that may be requested across both streams is \$40,000.

You must use a separate application to apply for each stream.

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another Commonwealth government grant. You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth program, but if your application is successful, you must choose either the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions grant or the other Commonwealth grant.

This grant opportunity uses a distinct grant selection process. Refer to [section 7](#) for further details.

3.2. Project period

You must complete your project within one year of submitting an application and within four weeks following the STEM events, activities or competitions that your student(s) are participating in.

Your application submission date will also be taken as the start date of your project. All STEM events, activities or competitions that are part of your project must be participated in.

If the STEM events, activities or competitions occur after the submission of your application, but prior to your grant agreement execution, the end date of your project will be four weeks from the grant agreement execution.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible:

- you must apply on behalf of an Australian student(s) enrolled in a school and under the age of 18 (at the time of the application), to participate in a single specific STEM event, activity or competition
- you or your collaborator must have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- you must be able to enter into a grant agreement in your own right or through an affiliated entity (i.e. your collaborator).

To be eligible, you must be one of the following entities:

- an Australian primary or secondary school that is on the [Australian Schools List](#)
- an entity incorporated in Australia.

Government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia **are not** legal entities in their own right. You must include your relevant state or territory education department's ABN as a collaborator in your application to enter into a grant agreement.

Non-government Australian schools including Catholic organisations that are unincorporated entities must apply through a related incorporated entity to enter into a grant agreement.

4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We will only accept applications where you:

- declare your application is supported by your school(s) or organisation(s)
- declare that you have the capacity to meet any costs of participating in the STEM events, activities or competitions not covered by grant funding
- declare that the events, activities or competitions are not being run by the applicant exclusively for their own students
- declare that you have not received any Australian Government funding, including funding from this program, to participate in these events or competitions, or to undertake these activities
- declare that the student(s) you are applying on the behalf of each have an ICSEA value(s) of 1000 or below, or do not have an ICSEA value, if you are applying for **Stream 1**.

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- an individual, including parents/guardians
- a partnership
- an unincorporated association
- any organisation not included in [section 4.1](#)
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- a non-corporate Commonwealth entity.

4.4. What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, relevant personnel who have contact with children and/or vulnerable people while working on the funded project must maintain the following accreditation/registration/checks, where required under relevant state or territory legislation:

- Working with Children check
- Working with Vulnerable People registration.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible, your project must:

- for **Stream 1**, involve the participation of a student(s) at eligible domestic in-person or virtual STEM engagement events, activities and competitions hosted in Australia, or in-person or virtual international STEM engagement events held in Australia or overseas
- for **Stream 2**, involve the participation of a student(s) at eligible in-person or virtual international STEM competitions held overseas. The primary purpose of the events must be competition-based
- promote student engagement in STEM-related disciplines, or participation in STEM-based competitions.

The STEM engagement events, activities or competitions must be:

- held within 12 months from your application submission date
- reasonably expected to go ahead
- primarily focused on one or more STEM subjects.

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project. Examples include:

- STEM challenges and competitions
- STEM experience programs
- STEM conferences and festivals
- residential STEM programs
- excursions to STEM venues
- incursions or franchised in-house events hosted at your school, where your school is not the organiser and participants include students from other schools.

We may also approve other activities.

The Program Delegate, a Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program, will make a final decision on the events that are eligible and may issue additional guidance on eligible events if required.

5.2. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- reasonable domestic and international travel expenses (including accommodation, meals, airfares and ground transport) using economy class (except in extraordinary circumstances) for the student(s) participating in the events, activities or competitions and, where needed, a chaperone
- the cost of registration or tickets for the events, activities or competitions
- the cost of materials necessary to participate in competitions (such as equipment required for the competition or team uniforms)
- STEM-related activities to support participation in competitions.

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be incurred by you within the project period
- be a direct cost of the project
- meet the eligible expenditure guidelines.

You may incur eligible expenditure from your submission date; however, we are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- expenditure incurred on past events
- for **Stream 1**, expenditure related to international competitions held overseas
- for **Stream 2**, non-competition international events
- selection activities to identify the participating students
- incursions or franchised in-house events (excluding events hosted at your school, where your school is not the organiser and participants include students from other schools)
- exchanges or visits to other schools that are not for the specific purpose of participating in an eligible STEM events
- salaries for the sponsor organisation or chaperone
- administration costs incurred by the sponsor organisation or chaperone
- cost of applying for the grant
- cost of travel insurance
- costs incurred prior to submission of your application
- cost of materials for non-STEM activities or events
- gifts.

Other expenditure may be eligible as determined by the Program Delegate.

6. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility criteria closely and attach evidence as outlined in 6.1.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#).

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we may contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

6.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- trust deed (mandatory, if applicable)
- evidence of STEM events and competitions (where available).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. The total of all attachments cannot exceed 20MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

6.2. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates. We cannot accept late applications.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Applications open	3 weeks
Approval and notification of successful and unsuccessful applicants	4-6 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	Up to 4 weeks
Project completion date	Within one year from grant application date and 4 weeks following the STEM event, activity or competition that your student(s) are participating in.

6.3. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application process, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7. The grant selection process

7.1. Assessment of grant applications

We assess grant applications against the eligibility criteria (refer to [section 4](#)) in order of lowest ICSEA value to highest ICSEA value until the available funding is exhausted. As a result, not all applications may be assessed. We can only recommend applications for funding that meet all eligibility requirements. The ICSEA value applied to a school is the school's ICSEA value at the time of application.

The ICSEA value for schools without an ICSEA value is taken to be 1000.

For joint applications involving multiple students with varying ICSEA values, the ICSEA value for the application will be the average of the ICSEA value of all students. For **Stream 1**, each student in the joint application must have an ICSEA value of 1000 or below for the application to be eligible.

If, following eligibility assessment, funding cannot be fully subscribed within **Stream 2**, any remaining funds will be allocated to eligible **Stream 1** applications, in order of lowest to highest ICSEA value, until the total funding available for the grant opportunity is exhausted.

If multiple eligible applications have the same ICSEA value and there is insufficient funding to support all applications, applications will be prioritised based on the date and time they were received.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, we may contact you to correct or clarify the errors, but you cannot make any material changes or additions.

We also consider any financial, legal/regulatory, governance, national interest, national security or other issue or risk that we identify regarding you, project partners, related body corporates, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the [Corporations Act 2001](#)) and related personnel.

If we identify risks which would affect our assessment, we may ask you to comment on these, subject to security considerations. If we identify risks that cannot be adequately mitigated, we may exclude your application from further consideration.

We may seek additional information about you, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the Corporations Act) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth agencies, for due diligence purposes. We may do so even if you do not nominate the sources as referees. We may also consider information that is discovered through the normal course of business.

Due diligence checks may occur at eligibility or decision-making stages. We use this information to verify the information you provide in the application and to identify issues and risks. See section 12.3 for information on how we use the information you provide to us.

7.2. Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the application eligibility and the availability of grant funds.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Program Delegate will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

8. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing following the close of applications and eligibility assessment. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

9. Successful grant applications

9.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure incurred before the grant agreement is executed, and no payments can be made until the agreement is in place.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

Government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia are subject to their state education departments' regulations on who may enter into agreements and sign or execute such an agreement. If you are unable to comply due to delegation issues or project timing, then we may withdraw the offer.

If you enter an agreement under the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions grant, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement. The Commonwealth will recover any unspent grant funds identified in the end of project report, or in the case of a mutual termination of the grant agreement.

We will use an exchange of letters grant agreement. We will send you a letter of offer via the online portal advising that your application has been successful. The Authorised Signatory accepts the offer via the online portal. We consider the agreement to be executed from the date that both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. You will have 30 days from the date of our letter to sign and return to us otherwise the offer may lapse.

9.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

9.2.1. Child safety requirements

You must comply with all relevant legislation relating to the employment or engagement of anyone working on the project that may interact with children, including all necessary working with children checks.

You must implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#)² endorsed by the Commonwealth.

You will need to complete a risk assessment to identify the level of responsibility for children and the level of risk of harm or abuse, and put appropriate strategies in place to manage those risks. You must update this risk assessment annually.

You will also need to establish a training and compliance regime to ensure personnel are aware of, and comply with, the risk assessment requirements, relevant legislation including mandatory reporting requirements and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

You will be required to comply with state/territory legislation in relation to working with children and demonstrate this with the submission of an annual statement of compliance.

9.3. How we pay the grant

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances.

Grant payments to government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia are made to their state education departments. It is the responsibility of the school and its department thereafter to arrange subsequent transfers including repayment of unspent funds.

9.4. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities³.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide tax advice.

10. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the [GrantConnect](#) website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on [GrantConnect](#). We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#), Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project

² <https://childsafef.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles>

³ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at ato.gov.au

- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

11. How we monitor your grant activity

11.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

11.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due.

We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds with supporting evidence.
- evidence of grant expenditure, may include registration or attendance to participate in the events, such as registration fee receipts, email or letter correspondence for the events, details of any agenda or publicity materials for the events or certificate of completion.
- final expenditure at the completion of the project, including any unspent funds.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

11.3. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- extending the timeframe for completing the project up to 6 months beyond the original project end date
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for:

- an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project grant agreement end date. You can submit a variation request via our [online portal](#).

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objectives, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

11.4. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

11.5. Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

11.6. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure or publication, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This project received grant funding through Inspiring Australia – An Australian Government Initiative.’

The Inspiring Australia logo should be used on all materials related to grants under the program.

12. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

12.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)⁴ with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

12.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity and/or program. There may be an actual, apparent or perceived conflict of interest if any individual or entity⁵ involved in assessing, funding, administering or undertaking the project:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party which can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with, or interest in, a party which could prevent the activity from being carried out fairly and independently or otherwise compromise the integrity of the activity or its participants
- has a relationship with, or interest in, a party from which they could receive personal gain because the party receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)⁶ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

⁴ <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

⁵ Including: any of our staff able to influence the project, any member of a committee or advisor, you, your project partners, and any personnel involved in the project.

⁶ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

12.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per 12.4, or
- personal information as per below

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the [Australian Privacy Principles \(APPs\)](#) and the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- identify and manage any financial, legal/regulatory, governance, national interest or national security risks.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)⁷ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

12.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you, your employees, agents or subcontractors, to give a written undertaking relating to non-disclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

⁷ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to our Commonwealth employees, contractors and service providers, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament
- to other Commonwealth agencies for risk management purposes.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

12.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

12.6. National security

Eligible activities under this grant may have national security implications. It is your responsibility to consider any such implications of the proposed project and identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, intellectual property protection, espionage and foreign interference and unwanted transfer of technology, data or other knowledge.

You must inform the department if you identify any material risks relating to national security. To assist with managing security risks, you are strongly encouraged to review the department's [Guide to undertaking international collaboration](#)⁸.

⁸ <https://www.industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/increasing-international-collaboration/a-guide-to-undertaking-international-collaboration>

12.7. Disclosure of Commonwealth, state or territory financial penalties

You must disclose whether any of your board members, management or persons of authority have been subject to any pecuniary penalty, whether civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state or territory court or a Commonwealth, state or territory entity. If this is the case, you must provide advice to the department regarding the matter for consideration.

13. Glossary

Term	Definition
Applicant	For the purpose of this grant opportunity, the applicant is the recipient school or the sponsoring entity.
Application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
Collaborator	Eligible entities who enter into the grant agreement on behalf of the applicant when the applicant is not a legal entity in their own right.
<u>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)</u>	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
Competition	An organised event in which students actively compete against others by demonstrating their knowledge, skills or problem solving abilities to determine who performs best in a defined task or set of tasks. It must involve direct comparison, ranking, judging, or scoring to identify winners or high-performing participants.
Completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
Decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
Demand driven	A method of allocating funding where all eligible requests are granted in the order of lowest ICSEA value to highest ICSEA value until the available funds are exhausted. This approach ensures a fair distribution of funds among eligible applicants.
Department/DISR	Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
Eligibility criteria	The mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant.
Eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1.
Eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible in accordance with these guidelines.
Eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2.

OFFICIAL

Term	Definition
Enrolled	Students who received their education primarily at a school included on the Australian Schools List .
Executed	Means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement terms of this grant opportunity.
Excursions	Educational activities for students conducted outside of school grounds.
General Manager	Position title for Senior Executive Service level staff within DISR.
Grant	For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money⁹ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money¹⁰ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
Grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake.
Grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
Grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
Grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
Grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single entity Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.

⁹ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

¹⁰ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
Grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Historically underrepresented in STEM	<p>These groups may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples ▪ culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people ▪ women, girls, and gender diverse people ▪ people living in regional and remote areas ▪ people living with disability ▪ people from low socio-economic backgrounds ▪ neurodivergent people ▪ LGBTQIA+ people ▪ people who face age-based discrimination.
Guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
Incursion	Educational activities where an external provider comes into the school to deliver a learning experience for students, typically within the school grounds.
Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA)	<p>Created by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, a scale that identifies the socio-educational advantage of a school. For more information on ICSEA values and to find the ICSEA value for a school, please see https://www.myschool.edu.au.</p> <p>The ICSEA value for schools without an ICSEA value is taken to be 1000.</p>
Manager	Position title for Executive level staff within DISR.
Material changes	Any significant alteration in circumstances, operations, or structure that affects an entity's ability to comply with the eligibility criteria for applications as defined in the grant opportunity guidelines.
Material risks	Significant risks that could compromise national security or the safe handling of critical technologies, such as unauthorised transfer, foreign interference, or IP theft.
Minister	Minister for the Australian Government's science portfolio.

Term	Definition
Personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
Program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
Project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
Residential STEM programs	Multi-day live-in STEM education experiences such as camps or multi-day conferences.
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.
Virtual participation	Participation or engagement in events, activities or discussions remotely via digital platforms using audio, video or other virtual communication tools, without being physically present.