Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Sample application form

Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Sponsorship Grants for Student Science and International Competitions 2026 – Stream 1

This document shows the questions included in the online application form for this grant opportunity. It will help you prepare your responses and the mandatory attachments you need before you apply online.

Instructions

The online form captures the information required by the department to assess and manage your application for services and funding.

The first page of the application page contains the following instructions.

Internet browsers supported by the portal

We recommend that you use the following browsers for optimum functionality:

- On Windows: The latest versions of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge
- On Mac: The latest versions of Safari and Google Chrome

Selecting a program

On the following page you must enter your details and then select the program you are applying for.

Are you eligible to apply?

Before you start your application, you must answer some questions to self-assess whether you are eligible to apply.

Completing your application

The application consists of separate pages, shown in a navigation menu on the left-hand side of the portal page. You can navigate between pages using the menu or the buttons at the bottom of each page.

A warning message may appear if you have not completed all of the mandatory questions or if there is an issue with information you have entered. If a question is not mandatory it will be clearly marked – Optional.

Saving your responses

Once you start your application, you can save your changes at any time by using the Save button.

To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out.

You must use the Save and Continue button to validate the information on each page. A tick indicates a validated page.

You can modify saved responses up until you submit your application.

Participants

Once you start your application, you may invite others to assist, via the application summary page. To do this:

select the Application summary link at the top of the page

select the Participants button

enter the details.

An email will be sent to the participant inviting them to access the application.

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Saving with multiple participants

If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

Submitting your application

You must complete every page of the application before you can submit.

You must also read and agree to the declaration which advises you of your responsibilities.

Check all your answers before you submit your application. After you submit, it will no longer be editable.

Getting help

If you require further assistance completing your application, <u>contact us</u> by email or web chat or on 13 28 46.

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A. Program selection

Before you start your application, we need to first identify what type of entity is applying.

Some programs we offer allow entities without an ABN to apply. The form is designed to accommodate these entities. However, for this grant opportunity, an ABN is mandatory. If you do not have an ABN this grant opportunity will not appear in the program selection at the bottom of the first page and you will not be able to continue.

If you are a trustee applying on behalf of a trust we will need details of both the trust and trustee.

Before you start you should have the following details ready if they are applicable to you or your collaborator.

Australian Business Number (ABN)

Or

Australian Company Number (ACN)

Indigenous Corporation Number

Australian Registered Body Number

Australian Registered Scheme Number

Incorporated Association Registration

Co-operative Registration Number

Charity status

Not for profit status

Where applicable, international organisations will need to provide

country of registration

registration number

For government schools in New South Wales, select Yes when asked if you have an ABN and enter the ABN of NSW Government Schools (18 246 198 266). Enter your school name as the Business Name.

For the purpose of this grant opportunity, the applicant is the recipient school or the sponsoring entity.

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 schools including catholic organisations that are unincorporated entities must apply through a related incorporated entity to enter into a grant agreement.

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A.1.   Program selection

You must select from a drop-down menu the program that you are applying for. **Please ensure you have selected the correct Stream that you wish to apply for.**

Field 1 select - Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 – Stream 1

Field 2 select - Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 – Stream 1

When you have selected the program, the following text will appear.

This application form is intended for **Stream 1** of the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 grant opportunity (Sponsorship Grants) only. In Stream 1, applications must be on behalf of a student or group of students enrolled in a school with an [Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA)](#) **value of 1000 or below**. The ICSEA value for schools without an ICSEA value is taken to be 1000.

The Sponsorship Grants program was announced as part of the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program. 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.

Under this grant opportunity, eligible entities can receive funding to support student participation in in-person or virtual STEM events or activities held in Australia or overseas, and in-person or virtual STEM competitions held in Australia.

This grant opportunity aims to increase STEM participation among students from schools with lower ICSEA values.

For Stream 1 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.

For Stream 1, the minimum grant amount per applicant is $1,500 and 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).

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. The maximum funding that may be requested across both streams is $40,000.

You should read the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) and [sample grant agreements](#) before filling out this application. We recommend you keep the guidelines open as you are completing your application so you can refer to them when providing your responses.

You may submit your application at any time up until 5.00pm AEST on 8 April 2026. Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.

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To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out. If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time, you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

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B.   Eligibility

We will ask you the following questions to establish your eligibility for the Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions 2026 grant opportunity.

Are you applying on behalf of a student or group of students enrolled in a school each with an [Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ISCEA)](#) value of **1000 or below**?

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

*For more information on ICSEA values and to find the ICSEA value for a school, please see https://www.myschool.edu.au. If you are applying on the behalf of a student or group of students enrolled at a school with an ICSEA value of **1001 or above**, you are not eligible for Stream 1. You should select **Stream 2** of this grant opportunity to start a new application if your application meets the requirements for Stream 2.*

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Select which type of entity you are:

- an Australian primary or secondary school that is on the [Australian Schools List](#)
- an entity incorporated in Australia
- none of the above.

You must select one of the eligible options from a drop down menu to proceed to next question.

Are you applying on the behalf of a student or group of students under the age of 18 (at the time of the application) enrolled in a school and seeking to participate in a single STEM event, activity or competition that meets the requirements under the guidelines for Stream 1?

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Do you have the capacity to meet any costs of participation at the STEM event, activity or competition not covered by grant funding?

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Will your event take place within one year of this application being submitted?

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Are you running the STEM event, activity or competition exclusively for your own students?

You must answer no to proceed to the next question.

Have you already received funding to attend this event, competition or undertake this activity either under this program or through other sources of Australian government funding?

You must answer no to proceed to the next question.

Are you able to enter into a grant agreement in your own right or through an affiliated entity (i.e. your collaborator)?

Refer to section 4.1 of the grant opportunity guidelines for further information.

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Do you have the relevant authority to submit the application on the behalf of the student/s and confirm the participating student/s are supported by their school or organisation?

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

Do you or your collaborator have a valid ABN?

You must answer yes to proceed to the next section.

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C. Applicant address

C.1. Applicant street address

> This must be the address or business address of the school or sponsoring entity.

You must provide your street address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

C.2. Applicant postal address

You must provide your postal address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

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D. Key contacts

You must provide the details of a primary contact for your application.

The primary contact is the person authorised to act on behalf of the applicant and we send all email correspondence to this person. If you are not the primary contact, we will send an email to this person to invite them to register as a participant in the application. It is important that they register, or our emails will not be received. We recommend you let them know this.

If these details change, inform us as soon as possible so emails can be redirected.

If this application is successful, the primary contact will also need to nominate an authorised signatory to accept an agreement with the Commonwealth. The primary contact will not be able to accept an agreement unless they invite themselves to be the authorised signatory as well.

- Title (optional)
- Given name
- Family name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Relationship to applicant

Authorised signatory

Government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania or Western Australia are not legal entities in their own right. The authorised signatory for government schools in WA must be the Department of Education's authorised departmental representative. The authorised signatory for government schools in NSW, SA and TAS must be the school principal.

- Title (optional)
- Given name
- Family name
- Phone number
- Email address

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E. About your organisation

We collect the following data from all applicants. We use this data to better understand your organisation and to help us develop better policies and programs.

E.1. ANZSIC code

Provide the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) details for your organisation from a drop-down menu:

your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC division.

your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC class.

E.2. Indigenous organisations

Is your organisation Indigenous owned?

An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.

Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?

An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.

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F.   Project information

On this page you must provide the detailed information about your proposed project.

If your application is successful, we will publish some grant details on [GrantConnect](https://www.grants.gov.au) and other government publications. Published details include:

name of the grant recipient

a project title

a brief project description and its intended outcome

amount of grant funding awarded.

F.1.   Project title and description

Provide a project title.

Your response is limited to 75 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Provide a brief project description for publication.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes. Outline what it is you are going to do and how it will benefit students and STEM in Australia.

F.2.   Detailed project description and key activities

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a detailed description of your project and key activities.

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Describe in detail what your project involves. What activities are involved and how are you going to implement them?

F.3.   Project outcomes

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Provide the following details regarding the student or group or students that you are applying for funding on the behalf of.

- School name
- URL link to school profile page on the MySchool website (www.myschool.edu.au)
- School Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) value

  *For more information on ICSEA values and to find the ICSEA value for a school, please see www.myschool.edu.au. For schools without an ICSEA value, please enter a value of 1000. If the ICSEA value is **1001 or above**, you are not eligible for Stream 1.*

- School code (optional)

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If you have a school code, as provided by your state/territory registration authority, please enter it here.

F.4.   Project duration

Your project start date cannot be earlier than the application open date and should not be earlier than the date your application is submitted.

Your project start date must be the same as the date you submit this application.

Your project must be a minimum of one month and cannot exceed 12 months.

The start and end dates you enter here will determine the financial years in the project budget.

The project length will be calculated by the start and end dates you enter.

Estimated project start date

Estimated project end date

Estimated project duration (in months)

F.5.   Project event details

The event must take place within twelve months of the application being submitted.

Event title

Your response is limited to 100 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Description

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Estimated start date

Estimated end date

Will the event take place in Australia or overseas?

Who is running the event?

Provide the name of the organisation and link to the event website if available.

F.6.   Project statistics

Please complete the following questions for statistical purposes.

Which of the following best describes the type of event the student/s will participate in:

- STEM challenges and competitions
- STEM experience programs
- STEM conferences and festivals
- Residential STEM programs
- Excursions to STEM venues
- Other – Please specify

Which field/s of STEM best describes the event's focus? (please tick any that apply)

- Agricultural and environmental science

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- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- First Nations science
- Geology and earth science
- Material sciences and nanotechnology
- Mathematics
- Medicine and health sciences
- Physics
- Robotics
- Social sciences and humanities
- Technological and computer science
- Other – please specify

Which of the following best describes how the student/s will participate in the event:

- in-person
- virtually
- virtually but with some elements in-person

- For virtual events, which state or territory of Australia will the student(s) be participating from?:
  - ACT
  - NSW
  - NT
  - QLD
  - SA
  - TAS
  - VIC
  - WA
  - Other – please specify

You can choose multiple locations if you have multiple students from different states/territories.

Where will the event take place?

If the event occurs virtually, please indicate the location from which the event will be run by event organisers.

- ACT
- NSW
- NT
- QLD

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- SA
- TAS
- VIC
- WA
- New Zealand
- Asia – Please specify the country
- Europe – Please specify the country
- North America – Please specify the country
- South America – Please specify the country
- Africa – Please specify the country
- Other – Please specify

For events held in Australia, select the geographical classification of where the event will take place.

If the event occurs virtually, please indicate the location from which the event will be run by event organisers.

How do I find the geographical classification of a location?

For assistance in determining the geographical classification of the event location, please use the ABS Maps 2021 Remoteness Area boundary on the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](#).

- Metropolitan (Major city)
- Regional (Inner and Outer Regional)
- Remote (Remote and Very Remote)
- Not applicable (event took place overseas)

Has your organisation participated in this event before?
- Yes
- No

F.7. Project location

You must provide the address where your project will be undertaken and the estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at that site. If you have multiple sites you must add the address of each site.

A project location must be a street address. Do not provide a postal address, institution or building name.

Project site address

Estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at site

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F.8. Disclosure of financial penalties

Have any of your board members, management or persons of authority been subject to any pecuniary penalty?

A pecuniary penalty is a monetary penalty that can be civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state, or territory court or entity.

If yes, provide details of the penalty.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

F.9. Foreign affiliations

Does your project receive any funding or non-financial support from a foreign source?

If yes, provide details of the foreign financial support.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project receive financial support or benefits from a foreign source?

If yes, provide details of the arrangement.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project have any current or former association with a foreign talent program?

If yes, provide details of the foreign talent program.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project have any ties to a foreign government, military or state-owned enterprise?

If yes, provide details of the affiliations or associations.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

F.10. National security plan

Do you have a plan to manage any potential security risks associated with the project and your organisation more broadly?

The plan should include protecting your organisation from potential national security risks including cyber security threats and the secure handling of data. We may ask for a copy of your plan at a later stage.

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G.   Collaborators

Attention Government and Unincorporated Schools

You must select "Add a collaborator" if one of the following applies to your school (otherwise your application may be found ineligible if you cannot enter into a grant agreement in your own right):

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

Government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia are not legal entities in their own right. If this applies, you must include your Department of Education's details in the "collaborator" section below to enter into a grant agreement and meet eligibility requirements.

State	ABN	Entity name
New South Wales	18 246 198 266	NSW Government Schools
South Australia	91 814 239 978	Minister for Education
Tasmania	26 237 631 294	Department for Education, Children and Young People
Western Australia	69 769 481 770	Department of Education

You must provide:

Australian Business Number (ABN)

Other registration number where applicable

Business address

Postal address

Contact details

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H.   Project budget

H.1.   Eligible expenditure

Provide a summary of your eligible project expenditure over the life of the project.

- *Registered for GST - enter amounts exclusive of GST.*

- *Not registered for GST – enter amounts inclusive of GST.*

In order to achieve the minimum grant amount, your expenditure must be at least $1,500. We only provide grant funding based on eligible expenditure. Refer to the guidelines for guidance on eligible expenditure.

The financial years displayed are determined by your project start and end dates. You should confirm the project duration before providing your eligible expenditure.

The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project costs (grant percentage).

- *The minimum grant amount is $1,500*

- *The maximum grant amount is $15,000 per applicant.*

The maximum grant amount per student is $2,000 for STEM engagement events, activities or competitions held in Australia or delivered virtually and $7,500 for international STEM events requiring overseas travel (excluding international competitions).

The budget table only allows for a breakdown of eligible project expenditure up to $15,000.

Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Total
		$
Travel		$
	2025/26	$
	2026/27	$
Event registration costs or ticket costs		$
	2025/26	$
	2026/27	$
Material costs (for competitions only)		$
	2025/26	$
	2026/27	$
Total project expenditure		$

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H.2.   Grant amount sought

Enter the grant amount sought. We will add GST to this where applicable.

The minimum grant amount under this grant opportunity is $1,500.

The maximum grant amount under this grant opportunity is $15,000 per applicant.

H.3.   Number of Students

Enter the total number of students you are intending to apply for.

Number of Students	#

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I. Bank account details

I.1. Bank account details

If your application is successful, we will need to set up a payment process to pay your grant. We need your bank account details to do this. If your application is not successful we will not process these details.

We can only pay grant funding to the organisation, who if successful will be party to a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You must provide bank account details for this organisation.

For government schools in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania or Western Australia, you must provide the bank details for your Department of Education. These details can be provided by contacting your Department of Education.

I.2. Account details

All payments are in AU$ and must be made into an account with an Australian financial institution. Government schools in NSW, SA, TAS and WA should provide the bank details of their relevant Department of Education, where applicable.

Account name

BSB

Account number

I.3. Payment contact

We will send the payment remittance advice to this person. All other notifications are sent to the primary contact.

Title (optional)

Given name

Family name

Email address

Phone number

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J.   Application finalisation

You must answer the following questions and add any supporting documentation required.

J.1.   Conflict of interest

Do you have any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to declare?

Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for further information on your conflict of interest responsibilities.

If yes, describe the perceived or existing conflicts of interest.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

If yes, describe how you anticipate managing this conflict.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

J.2.   Additional information

Attach additional supporting documentation here. You should only attach documents that we have requested.

The total of all attachments cannot exceed 50 MB.

Individual files must one of the following types: docx, rtf, pdf, xlsx, csv, jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

Filenames should only include letters or numbers and should be fewer than 40 characters.

Trust Deed (where applicable)

Where you have indicated your entity type is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust, you must attach documents showing the relationship of the incorporated trustee to the trust.

Evidence of STEM events and competitions (where available)

Attach evidence of STEM events and competitions. This may include the event or competition date, invitations, webpages, invoices, or registration confirmations.

J.3.   Program feedback

Your responses help us improve the design and delivery of programs. They will not affect the assessment or outcome of this application.

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

Did you read the grant opportunity guidelines?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

If yes, how useful were the guidelines in completing your application?

We welcome any additional feedback on the guidelines.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

How satisfied were you with the process of applying for this grant?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

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We welcome any additional feedback on the application process

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

K.   Declaration

In order to submit your application you will be required to agree to the following declaration.

K.1.   Privacy and confidentiality provisions

I acknowledge that this is an Australian Government program and that the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department) will use the information I provide in accordance with the following:

Australian Government Data and Digital Strategy

Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles

grant opportunity guidelines

applicable Australian laws.

Accordingly, I understand that the department may collect, use and share my personal information provided in this application within this department and other government agencies:

a.   for purposes directly related to administering the program, including governance, research and the distribution of funds to successful applicants

b.   to facilitate research, assessment, monitoring and analysis of other programs and activities

c.   for the purposes of due diligence, preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with suspected fraud in grant applications and related processes

unless otherwise prohibited by law.

I understand that where I am successful in obtaining a grant, the financial information that I provide for the purposes of payment will be accessible to departmental staff to enable payments to be made through the department's accounts payable software system.

I understand that information that is deemed 'confidential' in accordance with the grant opportunity guidelines may also be shared for a relevant Commonwealth purpose.

The department will publish information on individual grants in the public domain, including on the department's website, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

K.2.   Applicant declaration

I declare that I have read and understood the grant opportunity guidelines, including the grant agreement, privacy, confidentiality and disclosure provisions.

I declare that the proposed project outlined in this application and any associated expenditure has been endorsed by the applicant's board/ management committee or person with authority to commit the applicant to this project.

I declare that the applicant will comply with, and require that its subcontractors and independent contractors comply with, all applicable laws.

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I declare that the applicant and any project partners are not listed on the National Redress Scheme list of institutions, where sexual abuse has occurred, that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme.

I declare that the applicant is not named by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency as an organisation that has not complied with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*.

I confirm that the applicant, project partners and associated activities are in compliance with current Australian Government sanctions.

I declare that the information contained in this application together with any statement provided is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

I acknowledge that I may be requested to provide further clarification or documentation to verify the information supplied in this form and that the department may, during the application process, consult with other government agencies, including state and territory government agencies, about the applicant's claims and may also engage external technical or financial advisors to advise on information provided in the application.

I agree to participate in the periodic evaluation of the services undertaken by the department.

I approve the information in this application being communicated to the department in electronic form.

I understand that the applicant is responsible for ensuring that it has met relevant state or territory legislation obligations related to working with children, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this grant opportunity, has undertaken and passed, a working with children check, if required under relevant state or territory legislation. The applicant is also responsible for assessing the suitability of people I engage in this project to ensure children are kept safe.

I acknowledge that if the department is satisfied that any statement made in an application is incorrect, incomplete, false or misleading the department may, at its absolute discretion, take appropriate action. I note such action may include excluding an application from further consideration; withdrawing an offer of funding; using the information contained in the application for a fraud investigation that would be consistent with the Australian Government's Investigations Standards and Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework and/or for a grant under management, terminating a grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the grantee including recovering funds already paid.

I declare that I am authorised to submit this form on behalf of the applicant and acknowledge that this is the equivalent of signing this application.

By checking this box I agree to all of the above declarations and confirm all of the above statements to be true.

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