

Office of Sport

Aboriginal Sport for Respect

Stopping violence before it starts

Program Guidelines

August 2026





Artwork: 'Jennebe'

By Jasmine Sarin

Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of Sport acknowledges and celebrates the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of NSW where we work, live and play.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their strengths, knowledge, and continuing connection to Country.

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sport.nsw.gov.au

Program Guidelines

Updated: August 2026

Important Dates and Program Details	
Opening date	Friday 14 August 2026
Closing date and time	Tuesday 6 October 2026, 1:00pm
Application outcome date	November 2026 onwards
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	Projects should commence within two months of the notification of outcome. Projects must be completed by 1 December 2027.
Funding Agreement executed (for successful applicants)	Within 2 weeks of notification of outcome via acceptance of Terms and Conditions.
Evaluation timeframe (for successful applications)	By February 2028 (Refer to section 5.7)
Decision-maker	Minister for Sport
NSW Government Agency	Office of Sport
Type of grant opportunity	Targeted, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts, excluding GST)	• \$625,000 total funding available • Grants are available between \$3,000 to \$25,000 for projects.
Enquiries	Sport Grants 13 13 02 grants@sport.nsw.gov.au

The Office of Sport reserves the right to amend any of these dates during the Program, at its absolute discretion.

Contents

Overview of Aboriginal Sport for Respect – Stopping violence before it starts	6
1 Overview	7
1.1 Purpose and key objectives	8
1.2 Grant value	8
1.3 Key terms used in these Guidelines	9
2 Selection criteria	11
2.1 Eligibility criteria	11
2.2 Assessment Criteria	16
3 Application process	18
3.1 What is the application process?	18
3.2 Support available to applicants	19
3.3 Late application	20
4 Assessment process	22
4.1 Assessment of grant applications	22
4.2 Eligibility check	22
4.3 Merit assessment	22
4.4 Notification of application outcome	23
4.5 Feedback on applications	23
4.6 Publication of grants information	23
5 Successful grant applications	25
5.1 Grant agreement	25
5.2 Conditions of funding	25
5.3 Variations to an approved project	25
5.4 Grant payment	26
5.5 Unspent funds	26
5.6 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements	26
5.7 Evaluation	26
5.8 Acknowledging the NSW Government	27
5.9 Publicity	27
5.10 Insurances	27
6 Additional information and resources	30
7 Appendix	33

Message from the Minister for Sport



Sport holds a powerful place in the lives of Aboriginal people across New South Wales. It brings people together, strengthens culture, and creates space for connection across generations. Whether on Country, at the local field, or through community-led programs, sport is a place where leadership, identity and respect are nurtured.

Sport has the potential to play an important role in preventing domestic, family and sexual violence. It provides a platform to challenge harmful attitudes, promote gender equality, and build respectful relationships in ways that are meaningful, culturally grounded and led by community.

In 2024, the NSW Government launched its first whole-of-government strategy to prevent domestic, family and sexual violence. This strategy recognises that lasting change must be driven by communities themselves, and that Aboriginal leadership and self-determination are central to achieving safer futures.

This grant program, Aboriginal Sport for Respect – Stopping violence before it starts, reflects that commitment. It invests in Aboriginal-led, community-driven initiatives that use sport and active recreation to strengthen culture, build capability and address the underlying drivers of violence before it occurs.

Through this program, \$625,000 is available to support projects across New South Wales. Funding will enable communities to design and deliver projects that reflect local priorities, partnerships and ways of knowing. These projects will support positive change in attitudes, behaviours and environments, helping to create safer, more respectful and inclusive communities.

I encourage Aboriginal organisations and their partners to consider how sport can be used as a vehicle for prevention in their communities and to apply for this funding opportunity.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

The Hon Steve Kamper MP

Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Sport
Minister for Jobs and Tourism

1

Overview of Aboriginal Sport for Respect

1 Overview

Primary prevention means stopping violence before it occurs. It focuses on addressing the underlying conditions that drive domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV), including attitudes, norms, structures and power imbalances that enable or excuse violence¹. Primary prevention works across whole communities to create lasting change by strengthening respectful relationships, promoting equality and supporting safer environments.

The NSW Government's strategy, *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence*² (the Strategy), recognises that gender inequality is a key driver of violence against women. However, it also recognises that violence is shaped by a range of intersecting social, cultural and historical factors, and that effective prevention must respond to different community contexts.

For Aboriginal communities, evidence shows that violence cannot be understood through gender inequality alone. Research from Our Watch³ highlights that violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is driven by the intersection of three key and interrelated factors:

- **Driver One:** the ongoing impacts of colonisation, including intergenerational trauma, disruption of culture, and experiences of systemic disadvantage and disempowerment
- **Driver Two:** the ongoing impacts of colonisation within broader Australian society, including racism, discrimination and structural inequalities of power
- **Driver Three:** gendered drivers of violence, including harmful attitudes, behaviours and norms that reinforce inequality and disrespect towards women

These drivers interact and reinforce each other, resulting in disproportionately high rates and more severe impacts of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

This understanding highlights the importance of culturally grounded, community-led approaches to prevention. Strengthening culture, supporting healing, and enabling self-determination are critical to addressing violence in ways that are meaningful and effective for Aboriginal communities.

Under the Strategy, the NSW Government has identified sport as a priority setting for prevention, recognising its unique ability to bring people together, shape behaviours and influence community norms. Sport and active recreation provide trusted, community-based environments where positive values such as respect, inclusion and leadership can be promoted and reinforced.

The *Aboriginal Sport for Respect (ASR)* grant program has been established to support Aboriginal-led, community-driven projects that use sport and active recreation as a platform for primary prevention of DFSV. The program reflects a commitment to self-determination and recognises the leadership, knowledge and strengths within Aboriginal communities.

A total of \$625,000 is available to support projects across New South Wales, with grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$25,000. Funded projects will deliver culturally grounded projects that strengthen

¹ Our Watch. (2018). *Changing the picture: Executive summary*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resources/changing-the-picture>

² NSW Department of Communities and Justice. (2024). *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028*. Retrieved from: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/pathways-to-prevention-nsw-dfs-v-primary-prevention-strategy-2024-to-2028.pdf>

³ Our Watch. (2018). *Changing the picture: Background paper, understanding violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resources/changing-the-picture>

respectful relationships, challenge harmful behaviours and support safer, more inclusive communities.

These guidelines outline the purpose of the program, eligibility requirements, assessment approach and key timeframes. Applicants are encouraged to read this document carefully before applying.

1.1 Purpose and key objectives

1.1.1 Purpose

ASaP enables Aboriginal organisations and communities to design and lead activities that reflect local priorities and ways of knowing, fostering respectful relationships through genuine partnerships with the sport and active recreation sector. In doing so, it responds meaningfully to the drivers of violence while strengthening culture and self-determination.

Investing in local capability, cultural leadership and ongoing reflection will help drive long-term prevention outcomes for whole of community, across NSW.

1.1.2 Key Objectives

- **Support Aboriginal-led Prevention through Sport:** Enable Aboriginal communities, organisations and leaders to design and deliver primary prevention activities that reflect local priorities, strengths, culture and Aboriginal ways of knowing.
- **Promote safe, respectful and inclusive sporting environments:** Support projects that use sport and active recreation to strengthen respectful relationships, challenge harmful attitudes and behaviours, and promote safety, inclusion and belonging
- **Address the drivers of DFSV in culturally meaningful ways:** Support projects that respond to the gendered, colonial and social drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence in ways that are culturally safe, strengths-based, trauma-informed and community-led.
- **Build local capability and partnerships for prevention:** Strengthen the ability of Aboriginal communities, sport and active recreation organisations, ACCOs, DFSV prevention specialists and local partners to work together and embed prevention into everyday sporting activities, leadership, policies, practices and community engagement.
- **Strengthen learning and impact through Aboriginal-led reflection and evaluation in sport:** Embedding culturally appropriate reflection, continuous evaluation and storytelling to understand what works, what is meaningful for communities, identify opportunities to strengthen impact and how Aboriginal-led approaches can inform future prevention activity and investment.

1.2 Grant value

The NSW Government has allocated up to \$625,000 in 2026/27 for this Program.

Grants of between \$3,000 and \$25,000 are available to eligible applicants for eligible projects.

Funding is available to support Aboriginal-led, partnership-based projects that use sport and active recreation as a setting for the primary prevention of DFSV.

1.2.1 Organisations applying for multiple grants

An eligible applicant may submit multiple applications; however, the maximum amount of funding that can be awarded to any one eligible applicant is \$25,000.

Organisations may be listed as a project partner in more than one application. Where an organisation is involved in multiple applications, the Office of Sport may consider its capacity, role and proposed contribution when assessing project deliverability.

1.2.2 Financial co-contribution

There is no mandatory financial co-contribution required for this Program.

1.3 Key terms used in these Guidelines

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)/Aboriginal-led organisation

An organisation in which Aboriginal people hold a majority of positions on its governing body and have authority, under its governing arrangements, to make decisions on behalf of the organisation.

For an Aboriginal-owned business, this means a minimum of 51 per cent Aboriginal ownership and operation. Applicants may be required to provide evidence confirming Aboriginal governance, ownership and decision-making arrangements.

Aboriginal-led project

A project in which Aboriginal people have documented authority to make or approve key decisions about the project's priorities, design, activities, cultural content, community engagement, delivery, significant changes, and approach to reflection and evaluation.

Consultation, participation, endorsement, or a letter of support alone is not sufficient to demonstrate that a project is Aboriginal led.

Where the eligible applicant is not an ACCO/Aboriginal-led organisation, an Aboriginal organisation or community group within the partnership must hold this authority. Partnership documentation must identify who holds the authority, which decisions require their approval, and how the arrangement will operate throughout the project.

2

Selection criteria

2 Selection criteria

2.1 Eligibility criteria

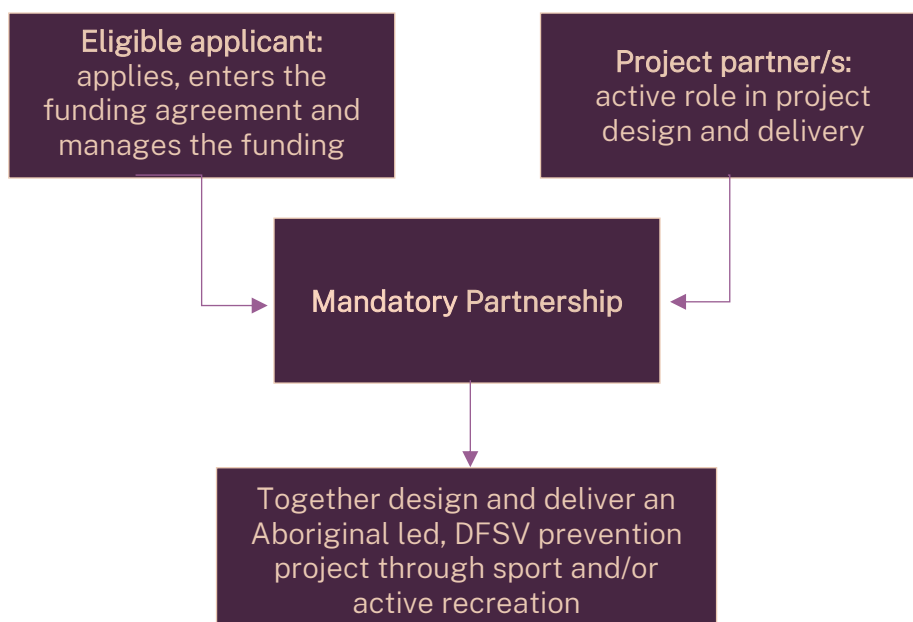
To be eligible for funding, your application must:

- be submitted by an eligible applicant as per 2.1.2.
- be submitted through SmartyGrants.
- be for a project located in NSW.
- be for an eligible project as per 2.1.6
- request a grant amount between \$3,000 and \$25,000.
- provide evidence of a partnership as per 2.1.4.
- be for a project completed by 1 December 2027.
- include a declaration by the applicant organisation that if successful they will provide Public Liability Insurance with a minimum \$5 million cover

2.1.1 Partnership Model

This program uses a mandatory partnership model. Each application must be submitted by one eligible applicant on behalf of a partnership that includes at least one project partner.

Together, the eligible applicant and project partner/s must design and deliver an Aboriginal-led project through sport or active recreation.



Where the eligible applicant is not an ACCO/Aboriginal-led organisation, the partnership must include an Aboriginal organisation or community group as a project partner, and the project must meet the definition of an Aboriginal-led project in section 1.3.

All project partners must have a clear and active role. Mandatory partnership evidence must be provided as outlined in section 2.1.4.

2.1.2 Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants must have the legal, financial and operational capacity to manage and deliver the proposed project. The applicant organisation will submit the application, enter into the funding agreement with the Office of Sport, receive the grant funding, and is responsible for delivering and acquitting the project.

There are two ways an organisation can be eligible to apply. Both must use the partnership model outlined in section 2.1.1.

	Aboriginal-led applicants	Sport, active recreation or local government applicants
Who can apply	An Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)/Aboriginal-led organisation listed under 2.1.2.1.	A sport, recreation or local government organisation listed under 2.1.2.2.
Required Partnership	Must include at least one project partner. The partner does not also need to be Aboriginal-led.	Must include at least one Aboriginal organisation or community group as a project partner.
Project Requirement	The project must meet the definition of an Aboriginal-led project in section 1.3 and be delivered through sport or active recreation.	

2.1.2.1 Aboriginal-led applicants

The following organisations are eligible to apply:

- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth).
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC) under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW).
- Aboriginal-owned businesses, with a minimum 51 per cent Aboriginal ownership and operation (for example, Supply Nation certified or NSWICC Registered).
- Incorporated Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), including (but not limited to):
 - Aboriginal Medical Services
 - Regional Alliances
 - Aboriginal-led health, family, youth, wellbeing and place-based services
 - Aboriginal-led sport or active recreation organisations

Aboriginal-led applicants must meet the definition of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)/Aboriginal-led organisation in section 1.3.

2.1.2.2 Sport, active recreation and local government applicants

The following sport, recreation and local government organisations are eligible to apply:

- Incorporated, community-based or not-for-profit organisations delivering sport and active recreation, who are one of the following:
 - Incorporated association registered with NSW Fair Trading
 - Australian public company limited by guarantee

- Trust registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)
- Non-distributing co-operative registered with NSW Fair Trading
- NSW Office of Sport recognised State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) and State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (SSODs)
- Local government authorities in NSW
- Regional Joint Organisations of Councils, the Lord Howe Island Board and Unincorporated Far West groups

All applicants must meet the partnership requirements outlined in section 2.1.4.

2.1.3 Project Partners

Each project partner must have a clearly defined role and make an active, ongoing contribution to project design and delivery. This may include Aboriginal leadership and decision making, project design, delivery, cultural governance, community engagement, sport or active recreation delivery, DFSV primary prevention expertise, or another contribution that supports the project's objectives.

Project partners do not need to meet the eligible applicant requirements and will not enter into the funding agreement with the Office of Sport.

Eligible partners may include, but are not limited to:

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations, Local Aboriginal Land councils, Aboriginal-owned businesses, Aboriginal Medical Services and other Aboriginal-led community organisations
- Sport or active recreation clubs, associations, peak bodies, professional sporting organisations, gyms, outdoor recreation providers, informal recreation groups and other local sport or recreation providers
- DFSV Primary Prevention organisations or specialist providers
- Local councils, schools, youth services, health services, family services, community organisations and other place-based organisations
- Universities, researchers and training providers
- Other local organisations, groups or stakeholders with a relevant role in project design or delivery.

Each project partner must be identified in the application and included in the partnership evidence outlined in section 2.1.4.

2.1.4 Partnership requirements and evidence

Partnership evidence is mandatory for all applications to ensure it meets the definition of 'Aboriginal led' under Section 1.3. Collectively, the partnership evidence must:

- Identify the eligible applicant and each project partner.
- Confirm each project partner's agreement to participate in the project.

Acceptable evidence may include one or more of the following documents:

- A partnership agreement or memorandum of understanding
- A jointly endorsed document or roles and responsibilities document
- Letters or emails from project partners

- Meeting records or approved minutes
- Other documentation that addresses the requirements above.

2.1.5 Ineligible applicants

Ineligible applicants are any organisation types not listed in the 'Eligible Applicants' section, and include (but are not limited to):

- Individuals.
- Unincorporated groups that are not applying through an eligible applicant.
- Parents and Citizens (P&C) Associations.
- State and Federal Government departments and agencies.
- Schools and TAFEs.
- NSW Institute of Sport, Australian Sports Commission (incorporating the Australian Institute of Sport) and NSW Regional Academies of Sport.
- For-profit commercial organisations, unless they are listed as an eligible applicant under this section, such as an eligible Aboriginal-owned business or eligible NSW-based professional sporting organisation.
- Organisation named: (i) by the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse on its list of institutions that have not joined or signified their intent not to join the Scheme; or (ii) in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that has not yet joined the National Redress Scheme. They are also ineligible to participate as project partners.

2.1.6 Eligible projects

Eligible projects must:

- Be delivered in NSW.
- Use sport or active recreation as the primary engagement setting.
- Meet the definition of Aboriginal-led project in section 1.3.
- Address one or more relevant primary prevention drivers of DFSV outlined in section 1.
- Be completed by 1 December 2027.

Projects may engage Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants within the sporting environment where the project responds to Aboriginal community priorities and is intended to contribute to positive outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

2.1.7 Eligible project costs

Eligible project costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Venue hire for project delivery
- Minor equipment, materials and resources required specifically for project activities
- Promotion, communications, marketing and community engagement materials directly related to the project
- Specialist facilitator, trainer, cultural advisor or other specialist contractor fees
- Accessibility costs, including transport support, interpreters, childcare or other participation supports where needed

- Reasonable payment for Aboriginal cultural knowledge, community leadership, Elders, speakers or lived/living expertise where directly related to the project
- Reasonable catering for project activities, workshops, yarning circles, community gatherings or training sessions, where the cost is directly related to delivery of the project. Catering must be proportionate to the number of participants, duration, and nature of the activity.
- Travel and accommodation where it's essential to project delivery, particularly for regional or remote participation
- Staff salary or wage costs for time directly attributable to project delivery (limited to no more than 10% of the total grant amount).

2.1.8 Ineligible projects and project costs

Ineligible projects

- Projects that do not meet the definition of an Aboriginal-led project in section 1.3.
- Projects focused primarily on increasing sport or active recreation participation, where there is no clear and explicit link to DFSV primary prevention outcomes.
- Projects whose primary purpose is crisis response, victim-survivor support, case management, counselling, perpetrator intervention or tertiary response
- Projects that do not use sport or active recreation as the primary setting for engagement and delivery
- Projects that have already been funded by the NSW Government unless significant new and additional scope is identified.
- Projects that will not be completed by 1 December 2027.

Ineligible costs

- Costs associated with preparing and submitting the grant application
- General administration costs, or organisational overheads that are not directly related to the Project.
- Prize money, trophies and presentation functions.
- Entertainment, hospitality, catering, food and drink not directly related to the Project. The purchase of alcohol will not be funded in any circumstances.
- Events organised primarily for fundraising purposes, including charity fundraising events.
- Purchase of land, rental of premises for the organisation's administrative and operational requirements, or associated occupancy payments.
- General running costs including capital equipment, insurance costs (public liability and general liability insurance).
- Infrastructure projects (e.g. construction, upgrade, maintenance, and repairs).
- Costs of engaging an independent evaluator or evaluation consultant.
- Retrospective funding e.g., projects that have already commenced and/or purchases completed prior to application submission.

Project budgets should not include any ineligible costs. These will be removed by assessors if included, at the absolute discretion of the Office of Sport.

2.2 Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Specific information and evidence required	Weighting
Criterion 1: Community Priority and prevention purpose	• Describe the Aboriginal community priority or need the project will address and explain how it addresses one or more relevant primary prevention drivers of DFSV outlined in section 1.	25%
Criterion 2: Project activities and use of sport	• Describe the main project activities, including what will be delivered and the people or groups the project intends to engage. • Explain how sport or active recreation will be used as the primary setting for method of delivery.	30%
Criterion 3: Aboriginal-led Partnership	• Explain how the project will be Aboriginal led.	25%
Criterion 4: Deliverability, safety and budget	• Provide an activity schedule identifying the main activities and timing, responsible parties, and the capability and capacity to deliver each activity. Demonstrate the project team has the resources, experience and systems required to deliver the project effectively and on time. • Identify any significant risks associated with the project, including risks to participants, capacity and explain mitigation strategies. • Provide a clear itemised budget showing that the proposed costs are eligible, reasonable and proportionate to the project.	20%

3

Application process

3 Application process

3.1 What is the application process?

How to apply: Follow the steps below to submit your application.



Step 1: Check your eligibility.

- See Eligible Applicants section of these Guidelines to see which organisations can apply for funding.
- If you are not eligible, you may be able to partner with an eligible organisation, although they will need to be the applicant organisation and submit the application.



Step 2: Understand the requirements.

- Before you apply, please read these guidelines and related materials including the application checklist to make sure you understand all relevant requirements, including whether you are eligible to apply.
- You can find the relevant information on the Office of Sport's website.



Step 3: Prepare your application.

- Gather your evidence including project plans, letters of support, partnership evidence (where appropriate), quotes etc.
- Consider using [SmartyFile](#). This is linked with SmartyGrants and allows organisations to collaborate with team members, pre-fill information into forms and manage, view, search and sort submissions across multiple funders in one spot. Applicants with an ABN can use this function.



Step 4: Submit your application.

- Applying for a grant is a simple process using the [SmartyGrants platform](#).
- The Office of Sport recommends that applicants familiarise themselves with the online application form ahead of preparing the application and plan to submit ahead of the closing date to reduce the risk of missing the deadline.
- Complete your application by filling in each of the sections. The SmartyGrants portal will not accept submission of an application unless all mandatory documents have been uploaded.
- Submit your application as soon as possible and before the closing date and time.
- You will be asked to declare that "The responses in this application and all supporting documents provided are to the best of my knowledge true and correct." The application may be deemed ineligible if the application contains false or misleading statements.
- Projects must be submitted through the [SmartyGrants website](#) to be considered eligible.

Successful submissions will be issued with a SmartyGrants system generated acknowledgement email containing a PDF copy of the application which will confirm the time the application was submitted.

3.2 Support available to applicants

A range of support is available to assist applicants understand the Aboriginal Sport for Respect Grant Program and navigate the application process.

3.2.1 Application support

Aboriginal Advisor

The Office of Sport has engaged an Aboriginal Advisor to provide free and culturally safe support to prospective applicants throughout the application period. The Aboriginal Advisor can help with:

- Understanding the program objectives, eligibility requirements and application process.
- Understanding the published assessment criteria and how these relate to the program objectives.
- Navigating the grant application process and application requirements.
- Discussing project concepts and how proposed activities align with the program objectives.
- Discussing community partnerships and approaches that support delivery of Aboriginal-led initiatives.
- Providing general grant program guidance and responding to applicant enquiries.
- Providing phone and email support during business hours.

To ensure a fair and equitable application process, the Aboriginal Advisor cannot:

- Write, draft, complete or submit applications on behalf of applicants.
- Prepare budgets, project plans or supporting documentation for applicants.
- Re-write, edit or review application responses.
- Assess draft applications against the assessment criteria or provide an indication of likely funding success.
- Participate in the assessment, moderation or approval of grant applications.

Office of Sport Support

Office of Sport staff are available to clarify interpretation of these Guidelines. They can also provide guidance relating to the online application process to provide culturally safe advice. The Office of Sport Grants Team can be contacted as follows:

- Phone: 13 13 02
- Email: grants@sport.nsw.gov.au
- The Program website: Aboriginal Sport for Respect – Stopping violence before it starts | NSW Government

For questions or technical issues relating to SmartyGrants, contact SmartyGrants at:

- Phone: 03 9320 6888
- Email: service@smartygrants.com.au
- [Technical help guide for applicants](#)

If you require the use of a translator, please call the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450, and ask them to call us on 13 13 02. The service provides immediate phone interpreting.

Online available resources

The following resources are available on the Office of Sport *Aboriginal Sport for Respect – Stopping violence before it starts* website to assist your application:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Online information sessions, including dates and registration details
- *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence*
- Template funding agreements
- Aboriginal Advisor Contact Details

3.3 Late application

3.3.1 Late application

- Late applications can only be made where an applicant has started an application in SmartyGrants prior to the relevant tier closing date/time.
- If for any reason you are unable to lodge your application on time, you must contact the Office of Sport within 24 hours after the relevant tier closing date/time.
- A late application will only be considered where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process. The final determination on whether a late application will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by advice from an independent probity advisor.

3.3.2 Late supporting documents

- If any document is not available prior to the closing date/time and you would like to submit this for consideration you must contact grants@sport.nsw.gov.au
- Late supporting documentation will only be accepted for applications already submitted in SmartyGrants before the closing date and time and will only be considered where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process.
- The final determination on whether a late supporting documentation will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by advice from an independent probity advisor.

4

Assessment process

4 Assessment process

4.1 Assessment of grant applications

The Aboriginal Sport for Respect Program is a targeted, competitive grant program where eligible applications will be assessed on their comparative merits against nominated criteria. The Aboriginal Sport for Respect Program is administered by the Office of Sport in two stages:

1. Eligibility check
2. Merit assessment

Throughout the assessment process the Office of Sport may request additional information from the applicant.

An independent probity advisor will oversee the grant process and attend all Grant Assessment Panel meetings.

The Minister for Sport will consider the recommendations of the Grant Assessment Panel and make decisions relating to the approval of funding.

4.2 Eligibility check

The Office of Sport will undertake an eligibility check on all grant applications, including any late applications which have been accepted for assessment and make recommendations to the Grant Assessment Panel on ineligible applications. The Grant Assessment Panel will make the final determination on eligibility.

4.3 Merit assessment

The Office of Sport will support the Grant Assessment Panel by conducting a preliminary merit assessment of all eligible applications against the Assessment Criteria (see section 2.2) and provide administrative support.

The Office of Sport will assess all eligible applications against the Program Criteria considering the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provided supporting evidence to determine the preliminary merit assessment score.

The Grant Assessment Panel will then consider the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provide supporting evidence to determine the final merit assessment score.

During the assessment process, the Grant Assessment Panel may apply a minimum scoring requirement to one or more of the criteria, or an overall application score (weighted and/or raw). Where an application does not meet the minimum scoring requirement adopted during the assessment process, the Grant Assessment Panel reserves the right not to consider the application for grant funding.

The Grant Assessment Panel may, by agreement, recommend a reduced grant amount at their discretion. If ineligible project scope and components are included in the application the Grant Assessment Panel will adjust the requested grant amount accordingly.

To avoid duplication of State Government funding for projects, and/or to further assess risks when recommending funding for an application, written comment/feedback on applications may be requested from the following stakeholders to inform the assessment:

- Regional Organisation of Councils
- Premier's Department

- Office of Local Government
- Other State Government entities/agencies providing funding for similar projects
- State/national sporting organisations
- Relevant experts.

The Grant Assessment Panel will consider the following to determine the recommendation of projects for funding:

- project type and scale
- geographical spread of local government areas across NSW
- grant amount per applicant
- project size
- achieving the objectives of the Program

The Grant Assessment Panel will make recommendations to the NSW Minister for Sport. The Minister for Sport is the decision-maker for this Program.

4.4 Notification of application outcome

All applicants will be formally notified in writing following the final approval of outcomes. For successful applicants, the notification will include the approved grant amount and the confirmed project deliverables.

4.5 Feedback on applications

Due to the high volume of applications, the Office of Sport team is unable to provide individual feedback on each unsuccessful application. There are no appeals under the Aboriginal Sport for Respect Program 2026. Any feedback about the program or individual applications should be submitted in writing to grants@sport.nsw.gov.au.

4.6 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (**Guide**) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect. This information is also open access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (**GIPA Act**), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the [NSW Government Funding Finder](#) as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).

5

Successful grant
applications

5 Successful grant applications

All successful applicants are required to enter into a funding arrangement with the Office of Sport.

5.1 Grant agreement

The standard Terms and Conditions and/or Funding Agreement are published on the Office of Sport website, and no amendments will be considered.

The following reflects the intent of some key provisions that will be included in the terms and conditions with successful applicants:

- Grant payments will not be made until an executed funding agreement is in place and the Office of Sport will not be responsible for any project expenditure until this time.
- If, for whatever reason, an organisation is unable to proceed with a project, the Office of Sport must be informed in writing as soon as possible.
- Successful applicants may be required to complete periodic project updates, in addition to listed reporting requirements in the funding agreement.
- The Office of Sport reserves the right to request grant and project related data from successful applicants on an ad hoc basis for a period of up to five years following completion of the project.
- The Office of Sport reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding to successful organisations within seven years of funding payment.

If a grant recipient breaches any of the terms and conditions of the funding agreement, the Office of Sport reserves the right to terminate the terms and conditions and reclaim the grant in part or in whole at its discretion.

5.2 Conditions of funding

All successful applicants (including partners) are required to:

- Participate in the Office of Sport's Community of Practice meetings.
 - Participate in the Office of Sport's training opportunities and other capacity building activities related to the Program.
 - Participate in the evaluation of the Program.
-

5.3 Variations to an approved project

The Office of Sport acknowledges that things may occur that will impact grant recipients and projects at any time. Any variation requested by a successful applicant to a project that constitutes a change to the original application will require a revised assessment of the application to determine whether the project should still be funded in accordance with the program guidelines.

Any variation to the project as detailed in the application form must be agreed to in writing by the Office of Sport and may require Minister approval. In these circumstances, the grant recipients should request a variation via SmartyGrants. Requests for variations to the terms and conditions or changes to the project will only be considered in limited circumstances.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their application provides accurate costs and timelines to reduce the need for variations.

5.4 Grant payment

Payments to successful applicants will be made up front or in accordance with the milestones set out in the funding agreement. To receive payment, for grantees who are registered for GST, the Office of Sport will issue Recipient Created Tax Invoices (RCTI) for the grant. For grantees not registered for GST, the Office of Sport will issue a remittance advice only (and not an RCTI).

Applicants that do not have an ABN must provide a signed ATO Statement by Supplier form that can be downloaded from the [Australian Tax Office website](#).

5.5 Unspent funds

Where a project is completed and there are unspent funds remaining from the grant allocation, the unspent funds will be split pro rata in accordance with the original budget contributions. The Office of Sport may require the grant recipient to return some or all of the unspent funds.

5.6 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements

Project Completion

A project completion report will be required within 30 days of completion of the project as outlined in the funding agreement.

Financial Acquittal

A financial acquittal will be required within 30 days of project completion within SmartyGrants. This will require you to provide evidence of expenditure on the project e.g. copies of receipts, paid invoices, remittance advice, transaction listings from your finance system, bank statement or similar. The acquittal certificate must be verified by two office bearers of the recipient organisation stating that the funding had been spent in accordance with the grant application and terms and conditions.

Successful recipients should ensure that all invoices, receipts, remittances and bank transfers are retained in order for this to occur.

The Office of Sport reserves the right to reduce proportionally the amount of the grant if the total cost of the project is less than the amount stated in the application or ineligible cost items are included in the acquittal. In these instances, the Office of Sport will withhold remaining payments or require the recipient to repay a proportion of the grant. The revised grant amount will be recalculated to maintain the original financial co-contribution ratio between the Office of Sport and the recipient. Accordingly, both the grant funding and the recipient's financial contribution will be reduced on a pro-rata basis to reflect the adjusted project cost.

Recipients that do not provide a financial acquittal by the required date(s) may be ineligible for future Office of Sport grants until the required documentation is provided.

5.7 Evaluation

The Office of Sport has engaged an independent evaluator NOUS and Curiyo to support the evaluation of the Program and build the evaluation capability of successful applicants.

Curijo's Aboriginal evaluation approach will be community-led and relational with a foundation of Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, and doing. Curijo prioritises self-determination, Cultural safety, and Indigenous Data Sovereignty, using methods such as yarning and deep listening to ensure evaluations reflect community values and lived experience.

Nous and Curijo's approach to Culturally appropriate engagements



Successful applicants will be required to participate in relevant program evaluation activities when required. The specific evaluation requirements and available support will be communicated to successful applicants.

In addition to these reporting requirements, the Office of Sport reserves the right to request grant and project related data from successful applicants on an ad hoc basis for a period of up to five years following completion of the project and/or identified evaluation activities, including by an external evaluator.

5.8 Acknowledging the NSW Government

Successful applicants must acknowledge the NSW Government's support through the provision of funding as per the [NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

The NSW Government reserves the right to be involved in media opportunities and speaking engagements relating to the funded project.

Recipients must ensure that any media opportunities, speaking engagements and signage relating to the Program or project are discussed with, and approved in advance by, the Office of Sport.

5.9 Publicity

The NSW Government reserves the right to be involved in media opportunities and speaking engagements relating to the funded project. Recipients must ensure that any media opportunities, speaking engagements and signage relating to the Program or project are discussed with, and approved in advance by, the Office of Sport.

5.10 Insurances

Organisations approved for funding by this Program are required to have a minimum level Public Liability Insurance cover stated in these Guidelines. In exceptional circumstances, the Office of Sport may, in its sole discretion, consider a lower amount of cover based on the nature and risks of

the project. The determination will be made on the level of risk posed by a proposed project. If an Applicant proposes Public Liability Insurance cover below the minimum required threshold, a detailed justification outlining the exceptional circumstances must be provided to warrant the reduced coverage.

It is recommended, but not a condition of funding, that applicant organisations have Personal Accident, Professional Indemnity and Directors and Officers insurance. Organisations that employ staff must comply with the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* (NSW).

6

Additional information and
resources

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Complaint handling

Complaints can be made online using the Feedback option in the contact form on the [Office of Sport website](#) to provide details of your compliment, complaint or suggestion and they will be forwarded to the right team for action.

The Office of Sport is a public authority covered by the NSW Ombudsman scheme. The NSW Ombudsman is an independent integrity agency that pursues fairness for the people of NSW. It strives to ensure that those entrusted with public power and resources fulfil their responsibilities and treat everyone fairly. For information about the NSW Ombudsman, including when and how you can make a complaint, visit: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

6.2 Access to information

The GIPA Act provides for the proactive release of government information by agencies and gives members of the public an enforceable right to access government information held by an agency (which includes Ministerial offices). Access to government information is only to be restricted if there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

The NSW Legislative Council has the power to order the production of State papers by the Executive Government. Standing Order 52 provides that the House may order documents to be tabled by the Government in the House. The Cabinet Office coordinates the preparation of the papers – that is, the return to order. The return to order may contain privileged and public documents. Privileged documents are available only to members of the Legislative Council. Note that documents submitted as part of a grant application may be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.3 Disclosure of project information

Information submitted in the application will be shared within the NSW Government. Should your application be successful, the Office of Sport may provide certain information to the media and Members of Parliament for promotional purposes. This information may include applicant name, project name, project description, location of the project, location of the grant recipient, amount funded and total project cost. Information provided in the grant application/milestone and project completion reports may be used to develop case studies including photos. The contact details supplied by the person submitting the application may also be provided to the relevant Members of Parliament.

6.4 Privacy policy

The Office of Sport will collect and store the information you voluntarily provide to enable processing of this grant application. Any information provided by you will be stored on a database that will only be accessed by authorised personnel and is subject to privacy restrictions. The information will only be used for the purpose for which it was collected (or otherwise with your consent). The Office of Sport is required to comply with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. The Office of Sport collects the minimum personal information to enable it to contact an organisation and to assess the merits of an application. Applicants must ensure that people whose personal details are supplied with applications are aware that the Office of Sport is being supplied with this information and how this information will be used. The Office of Sport may engage external service providers to assist it in assessing applications, evaluating grant programs and/or ensuring probity of programs. Any such service provider is required to comply with privacy laws.

6.5 Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest exists when a person might reasonably perceive that the personal interests of a key decision maker of the funded organisation could be favoured over the duties to the funded organisation.

Applicants will be asked to declare as part of their application, and as part of continuous disclosure required by the terms and conditions, any perceived or existing situation which could or does give rise to a conflict of interest. If applicants later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to a grant application, they must inform the Office of Sport in writing immediately. All key decision makers of your organisation including persons who will be responsible for expending the funds (such as board/committee members, the CEO (or equivalent) and managers of the project) must also declare any conflicts of interest.

With respect to this Program, applicants must not:

- do anything which could place a public official in a conflict of interest.
- offer gifts or inducements to any public official.

6.6 Confidentiality

Each party agrees it must maintain the confidentiality of all commercially sensitive or confidential information it receives from the other party, unless it obtains the consent of that other party to disclose the information. For the purposes of this section, the Office of Sport considers the amount of the Funding to be confidential information.

This does not apply if the information disclosed is publicly available at the time of the disclosure; and/or is required to be disclosed under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*(NSW) or process or requirement of Parliament, law or a court; or is required to be disclosed for the purpose of preparing a party's financial statement.

6.7 Records management

The Office of Sport complies with the management, storage and retention requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* to the extent it applies to any documents created by the Office of Sport, funding applicants or funding recipients under this Program.

6.8 Disclaimer

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The costs of preparing an application are borne by the applicant as are any costs incurred prior to agreeing to the terms and conditions.

6.9 Probity

The Office of Sport has appointed O'Connor Marsden & Associates Pty Ltd (OCM) as independent Probity Advisors for this Program. If there are any concerns regarding the probity or integrity of this Program, contact should be made with the Office of Sport in the first instance via email on grants@sport.nsw.gov.au

7

Appendix

7 Appendix

7.1 Supporting Documentation

The supporting documentation requirements for this Program have been designed to be proportionate to the available grant amounts.

Every requirement listed in the table below is mandatory.

Requirement	What must be provided	When required
Partnership Evidence	Information identifying each project partner, its organisation or group type, contact details, role and contribution, and whether it is an Aboriginal organisation or community group. Applicants must also explain the Aboriginal leadership and decision-making arrangements for the project.	Mandatory completion and upload when submitting the application
Activity Schedule	Provide an activity schedule identifying the main activities and timing, responsible parties, and the capability and capacity to deliver each activity.	Completed within the application form
Project Risk Information	Identify risks associated with the project, including risks to participants or communities, and their mitigation strategies	Completed within the application form
Project Budget	An itemised budget identifying each cost and the amount of grant funding requested.	Completed within the application form
Quotes or cost evidence	Quotes, estimates, invoices or other evidence supporting high-value or unusual project costs.	Completed within the application form
Evidence of applicant eligibility	Evidence confirming incorporation, Aboriginal governance, ownership or another relevant eligibility requirement.	Completed within the application form
Public Liability Insurance	A current certificate of currency demonstrating required level of public liability insurance.	Successful applications only, provide through the Funding Agreement process
Additional supporting documentation	Applicants may provide relevant supporting documents relating to letters of support, signed partner confirmations, memorandum of understanding, partnership agreements, Aboriginal governance ownership or other additional relevant eligibility requirements.	Optional upload when submitting the application.

SmartyGrants will not allow an application to be submitted until all mandatory fields have been completed and all mandatory documents have been uploaded. Office of Sport is under no obligation to inform an applicant of any omitted or missing supporting documentation.

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