

# Aboriginal Sport for Respect Grant Program

Stopping violence before it starts

## FAQs

### Program Details

#### What is the Aboriginal Sport for Respect – Stopping Violence Before It Starts program?

Aboriginal Sport for Respect is a NSW Government grant program that supports Aboriginal-led, community-driven projects that use sport and active recreation as a platform for the primary prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence. The program recognises the important role that sport can play in strengthening culture, supporting leadership, promoting respectful relationships and creating safer communities.

#### What are the purposes and objectives of the Program?

The Program supports Aboriginal-led prevention through sport, promotes safe and inclusive sporting environments, addresses the drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence in culturally meaningful ways, strengthens partnerships and capability, and supports learning, reflection and evaluation.

#### What is meant by primary prevention?

Primary prevention means stopping violence before it occurs. It focuses on addressing the underlying attitudes, behaviours, norms and conditions that contribute to domestic, family and sexual violence.

#### What are the drivers of violence in Aboriginal communities?

Research identifies three key and interconnected drivers: the ongoing impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal peoples and communities, the ongoing impacts of colonisation within broader Australian society including racism and structural inequality, and the gendered drivers of violence including harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women.

See more through: [Changing the picture: Executive Summary](#)

#### What is an Aboriginal-led project?

An Aboriginal-led project is one where Aboriginal people hold documented authority to make or approve key decisions relating to project design, community engagement, delivery, cultural content, evaluation and significant project changes.

#### What funding amounts can we apply for?

Grants between \$3,000 and \$25,000 are available.

#### What is the maximum funding amount available?

The maximum funding amount is \$25,000.

#### What is the project delivery timeframe?

Projects should commence within two months of notification and must be completed by 1 December 2027.

## Aboriginal Advisor

#### What is the 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.

#### Why has the Office of Sport engaged an Aboriginal Advisor?

The role has been established to improve accessibility, reduce barriers to participation and support equitable access to grant funding opportunities.

**Who can access support from the Aboriginal Advisor?**

Support is available to prospective applicants, project partners and community organisations interested in applying to the Program.

**What kind of support can the Aboriginal Advisor provide?**

The Advisor can explain Program requirements, discuss project concepts, provide guidance on partnerships and Aboriginal-led approaches, and assist applicants to understand the application process.

**Can the Aboriginal Advisor review, write or edit my application?**

No. The Advisor cannot write, review, edit or assess applications, prepare budgets or indicate the likelihood of funding success.

**Will speaking with the Aboriginal Advisor improve my chances of receiving funding?**

No. Accessing support from the Aboriginal Advisor does not provide any additional merit, assessment points or preferential treatment. The Advisor's role is to help applicants understand the program and prepare the strongest application they can. All applications will be assessed against the published assessment criteria only.

## **Partnership Model**

**Do I need a partnership to apply?**

Yes. The Program uses a mandatory partnership model requiring at least one eligible applicant and one project partner.

**Can I partner with more than one organisation?**

Yes. Partnerships may include multiple organisations where each partner has a meaningful role in design or delivery.

**Does a project partner need to meet the eligible applicant requirements?**

No. Only the applicant organisation must meet the eligible applicant requirements.

**How do we demonstrate the partnership?**

Applicants must provide supporting evidence such as partnership agreements, memoranda of understanding, letters of support, emails or meeting records.

## **General**

**How do I apply?**

Applications must be submitted through the [SmartyGrants platform](#).

**When do applications close?**

Applications close at 1:00pm on Tuesday 6 October 2026.

**Can my organisation submit more than one application?**

Yes. However, the maximum amount of funding that can be awarded to any one applicant is \$25,000.

**Will all applications receive funding?**

No. The Program is competitive and funding is limited.

**Can we seek funding for a project that has already commenced?**

No. Retrospective funding is not available.

**Is a financial co-contribution required?**

No. There is no mandatory financial co-contribution requirement. Applicants will not receive additional merit or assessment points for providing a financial or in-kind contribution. Applications will be assessed against the published assessment criteria only.

**Can the Office of Sport review draft applications?**

No. Office of Sport personnel cannot review or provide feedback on draft applications.

## **Assessment**

**What are the assessment criteria?**

Applications are assessed against four criteria: Community Priority and Prevention Purpose, Project Activities and Use of Sport, Aboriginal-led Partnership, and Deliverability, Safety and Budget.

**What happens after I submit my application?**

Applications undergo an eligibility assessment followed by a merit assessment.

**Who decides whether an application receives funding?**

The Minister for Sport is the final decision-maker following recommendations from the Grant Assessment Panel.

**Can the Grant Assessment Panel recommend a different funding amount?**

Yes. The Panel may recommend a reduced grant amount where they feel is appropriate.

**Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?**

Due to application volumes, detailed individual feedback is generally not available.

## **Requirements of Funded Projects**

**What are the requirements for successful applicants?**

Successful applicants must enter a funding agreement, participate in Communities of Practice, training and evaluation activities, and meet reporting requirements.

**How will grant funding be paid?**

Payments will be made upfront or in accordance with the funding agreement.

**Do successful applicants need insurance?**

Yes. Public Liability Insurance must be provided as part of the funding agreement process. Project partners are not required to hold their own Public Liability Insurance.

**What reporting is required?**

Recipients will be required to submit a Project Completion Report and Financial Acquittal.

**Do successful applicants need to participate in evaluation?**

Yes. Successful applicants are required to participate in Program evaluation activities.

**How should funding be acknowledged?**

Funding must be acknowledged in accordance with the NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines.

**What happens if we need to change the project?**

Any significant change requires a formal variation request and written approval from the Office of Sport.