



# GRANT ROUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 2026 South Australia Arts Grant Round

### **WHO CAN APPLY:**

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#### **Is my organisation eligible for a grant?**

To be eligible, your organisation must hold both Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Item 1 and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status or have an approved auspicing arrangement in place. Please review the full eligibility criteria on the grant round page before applying.

#### **Can an individual apply?**

No. As a Private Ancillary Fund The Balnaves Foundation is legally unable to make grants directly to individuals. This grant round is open to eligible organisations only. Individuals wishing to apply are encouraged to explore whether an auspicing arrangement with an eligible organisation may be appropriate.

#### **Can government-owned or government-funded organisations apply?**

Generally, no. Government agencies, departments, and statutory authorities are not eligible to apply. However, entities operating primarily for the delivery of cultural or arts experiences to the public, such as art galleries, theatres, museums, and libraries are eligible, regardless of whether they are government-owned or receive government funding.

#### **What does “operating primarily for the delivery of cultural or arts experiences to the public” mean?**

This means your organisation’s core day-to-day activity is delivering cultural or arts experiences to the public. Organisations that fund or administer the arts, rather than delivering experiences to the public, are not eligible for this grant round.

#### **Are schools, universities, or TAFEs eligible?**

No. Schools, universities, and TAFEs are excluded for this grant round, regardless of whether they are government-owned or independent

#### **My organisation does not yet have DGR status but has applied for it. Can we still apply?**

No. DGR status must be confirmed at the time of application. Organisations with pending DGR status are not eligible to apply in this round.

### **Can my organisation apply via an auspice?**

Yes. If your organisation does not hold DGR Item 1 and TCC status, you may apply through an approved auspic arrangement. The auspic organisation will be responsible for the grant and its acquittal.

### **Can we apply as a consortium or partnership?**

Yes. Partnerships and consortiums are welcome to apply; however, one organisation must be nominated as the lead applicant and complete the submission. The lead applicant must meet all eligibility requirements and will be responsible for the grant and its acquittal.

### **Does the project have to be based in South Australia?**

Projects must be delivered in South Australia. Organisations based outside South Australia are welcome to apply if they can demonstrate the capacity to deliver the project within the state.

## **THE APPLICATION:**

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### **Can our organisation submit more than one application in this round?**

Yes. There is no limit on the number of applications an organisation may submit; however, each application will be assessed on its own merits against the criteria.

### **Do you fund existing projects?**

This grant round is intended to support new projects. Existing projects are generally not eligible; however, The Balnaves Foundation may consider applications where funding would support a specific and clearly defined innovation or development to an existing project.

### **Can we apply if our project has a competitive element, such as a prize or award?**

Yes. Projects that include a competitive element, such as a prize or award, will be considered provided they meet all of the grant round criteria. In particular, the project must include a meaningful public programming component and place young and emerging audiences at the centre of the work.

### **Should we include support letters with our application?**

Support letters are not required at the EOI stage. At the Proposal stage, support letters are optional but welcome.

### **Can I use AI tools to help prepare my application?**

Yes. AI tools may be used to assist with preparing your application and developing your project concept. However, please ensure your submission is a true and accurate reflection of your organisation, the intended project, and your capacity to deliver it.

### **Can I contact The Balnaves Foundation about my application?**

We encourage applicants to read the grant round guidelines and this FAQ carefully before making contact. Most questions are answered here. Please note that The Balnaves Foundation does not have the capacity to preview or provide feedback on project ideas prior to submission. If your question is not addressed in the guidelines or FAQ, you are welcome to email us at [info@balnavesfoundation.com](mailto:info@balnavesfoundation.com). Please note that once your EOI has been submitted, it cannot be edited. The Balnaves Foundation is unable to provide updates on how an application is progressing or offer feedback on unsuccessful applications.

### **How do I submit my EOI?**

EOIs must be submitted via the online portal on [The Balnaves Foundation website](#). The portal will open at 9am on Monday 4 May 2026.

## THE PROCESS:

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### **What happens once an application is received?**

All EOIs are reviewed against the eligibility criteria and grant round priorities. You will be notified if your EOI is unsuccessful. If further information is required, we will be in touch. If your EOI progresses to the next stage, you will be invited to submit a Proposal.

### **When will we find out the outcome of our EOI?**

EOI outcomes will be communicated to all applicants by late June 2026.

### **My organisation has applied previously and was not successful. Can we apply for this grant round?**

Yes. You are welcome to submit a new EOI through the [online portal](#) when it opens at 9am on Monday 4 May 2026.

### **If my EOI does not progress to a Proposal, can we resubmit?**

Yes. If your EOI does not progress in this round, you are welcome to resubmit through the Foundation's general grants process 12 months after the closing date of this round.

### **What should I do if I have a conflict of interest?**

Organisations with a known connection to The Balnaves Foundation staff or its Trustees must declare this in the designated section of the EOI form. The Foundation reserves the right to manage any conflict of interest as it sees fit.

## THE GRANT:

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### **How much funding can we apply for?**

Multi-year grants of \$150,000–\$250,000 p.a. are available in this round.

### **What is the period of funding?**

This grant round supports multi-year projects with a minimum funding period of two years and a maximum of five years. We consider three years to be the optimal funding period, allowing sufficient time for ambitious work to develop, evolve, and find its audience.

### **Can the project be co-funded?**

Yes. However, The Balnaves Foundation must be the project's largest single philanthropic funder, contributing at least 50% of total funding or the greatest share where multiple funders are involved. Applicants should clearly indicate any additional funding sources in their submission.

### **What if our funding request exceeds 15% of our organisation's total annual revenue?**

The Foundation is conscious of not becoming too large a share of any organisation's overall funding. If your funding request exceeds 15% of your total annual revenue, you will have the opportunity to explain why this level of funding is appropriate in your EOI.

### **Is there an opportunity for renewal beyond the funding period?**

For projects that demonstrate strong outcomes, it is not uncommon for the Foundation to renew at the end of the funding period. However, The Balnaves Foundation does not provide ongoing funding in perpetuity. Renewal is not guaranteed and will be considered on merit.

### **When should the project start?**

Funded projects must commence by 1 June 2027.

**Can we include indirect, overhead and administrative costs in our budget?**

Recurrent administrative, operational, or capital expenditure is generally not eligible. However, operational costs that are directly related to, or reasonably apportioned to the specific project can be included in your budget and will be considered.

**Is there a limit on staffing costs?**

No. Staffing costs are not subject to a separate limit and will be assessed as part of the overall budget.

**Does a grant attract GST?**

The Balnaves Foundation makes each grant payment as a donation and does not consider that it receives any material benefit in return. Under the GST Act, making a gift to a non-profit body does not constitute the provision of consideration for a supply, and accordingly GST should not apply to grant payments.

In some circumstances the GST position may not be straightforward. We recommend that your organisation seeks its own GST advice if needed and ask that you notify us if your organisation reaches a different conclusion.

**How will grant payments be made?**

Payment schedules are determined in consultation with funded organisations and will be aligned to the scope and timeline of the project.

**What are the obligations if a grant is awarded?**

Funded organisations will be required to report on their project. Reporting requirements and any other obligations will be determined in consultation with The Balnaves Foundation and tailored to the scope and parameters of the funded project.

**Will The Balnaves Foundation visit or attend our project?**

The Balnaves Foundation may attend or visit funded projects at its discretion.

**COMMONWEALTH CHILD SAFE FRAMEWORK:**

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**Does The Balnaves Foundation require compliance with child safe requirements?**

Yes. All successful applicants must comply with all Australian laws relating to employing or engaging people who work or volunteer with children. This includes working with children checks and mandatory reporting obligations.

**What are the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and do they apply to us?**

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations are a set of principles developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission to help organisations create cultures and practices that keep children safe. If your organisation provides services directly to children, or your funded activities involve contact with children, you will be required to implement the National Principles as a condition of funding. You can find out more at [childsafeframework.gov.au](https://childsafeframework.gov.au).

**When do these requirements apply?**

Child safe requirements apply to all successful applicants. The National Principles apply specifically where your funded activities involve direct contact with children. You will be asked to confirm your compliance with these requirements as a condition of your funding agreement.

## FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL PROTOCOLS AND PROJECTS:

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### **What is a First Nations-led and/or controlled organisation?**

An organisation is considered First Nations-led and/or controlled if it meets the following three criteria:

- Governance: At least 51% of the Board of Directors or governing body identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Leadership: The CEO and/or senior executive team are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Mission: The organisation is established primarily to deliver outcomes for First Nations people and is accountable to the community it serves.

### **If your organisation is governed by a majority non-Indigenous board, it is considered a mainstream organisation.**

Your organisation is still eligible to submit an EOI, however where First Nations people and/or communities are the primary beneficiaries of the project, you must ensure First Nations leadership is central to the project's delivery. If your submission progresses to Stage 2, you will be required to provide evidence of genuine co-design and partnership with the community during this stage.

### **Do I need to think about First Nations cultural protocols if my project isn't specifically for First Nations audiences?**

Yes. If your project engages with First Nations cultural material, stories, knowledge, or artistic traditions in any way, you should refer to [Creative Australia's Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#) when developing your project and application, regardless of who the primary audience is. This includes work that draws on First Nations design traditions, is set on Country, references ecological or environmental knowledge with First Nations origins, or incorporates language, song, or oral history. If you are unsure whether your project falls into this category, reading the Protocols is a good starting point. You can access them at [creative.gov.au](http://creative.gov.au).

### **When should I engage with the Protocols?**

You should engage with the Protocols before you commence development on your project. The Protocols should inform how your project is designed and developed, not just how it is described in your application. Assessors will consider whether First Nations cultural protocols have genuinely shaped the work, so engaging with them early will strengthen your application.

### **My project primarily serves First Nations communities. What additional requirements apply?**

If your organisation is not First Nations-led and/or controlled, and your project primarily serves First Nations people and/or communities, you must be able to demonstrate that First Nations creative sovereignty is reflected in the project governance and design. Projects involving First Nations cultural material should be First Nations-led and take into account First Nations perspectives. Projects that are extractive or tokenistic are not eligible for funding.

At the Expression of Interest stage, you will be asked to describe the nature of your project leadership and outline community involvement. If your EOI is successful, you will be required to provide more detailed information during Stage 2, which may include, but is not limited to, evidence of community consultation, letters of support from First Nations partners, and documentation of how First Nations creative sovereignty is reflected in the project governance and design.