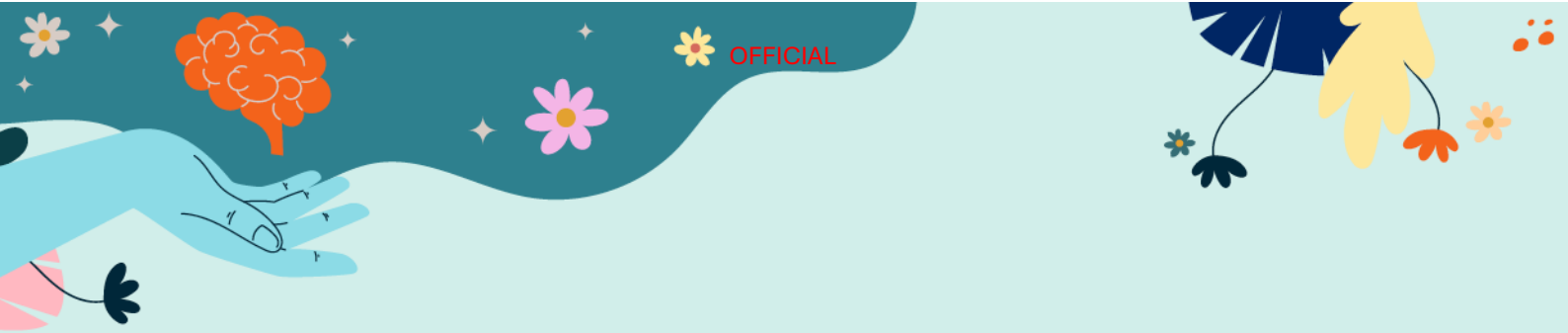




Bondi Connections – Grassroots Microgrants Program

9 October 2026

OFFICIAL



Acknowledgement of Country

The Premier's Department acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contributed to the development of this guideline.

We advise this resource may contain images, or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

Bondi Connections – Grassroots Microgrants Program

Published by Premier's Department.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/connected-communities>

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Grant Program Details	
Opening date and time	Friday 9 October 2026
Closing date and time	Friday 30 October 2026 (three weeks)
Application outcome date	End November 2026
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	12 months
Evaluation timeframe (for successful applications)	12 months
Decision-maker	Executive Director Delivery and Social, Delivery and Engagement, NSW Premier's Department
NSW Government Agency	Premier's Department
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts, excluding GST)	A total of \$200,000 is available over two years. Applicants may apply for individual funding amounts of \$1,000 to \$10,000 (excluding GST).
Enquiries	Connected Communities, Premier's Department connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

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1 About this grant program

The Bondi Connections – Grassroots Microgrants program is part of the NSW Government’s ongoing commitment to support the Bondi community following the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi in December 2025.

The NSW Government recognises the deep and lasting impacts of the Bondi Terror Attack and is committed to a recovery approach that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and community-led. It is acknowledged that recovery from terrorism extends beyond physical impacts to include enduring impacts on psychosocial wellbeing, social cohesion and community trust.

Local community organisations, small groups and individuals know their communities best. They are often the ones who can identify and lead activities that bring people together and strengthen connection within the community.

The NSW Premier’s Department will administer the Bondi Connections – Grassroots Microgrants Program.

Through these grants, we will support activities that help build and strengthen social cohesion and connections within communities, between communities or between communities and institutions.

Grants will be awarded through two rounds of an open, competitive grant process, which means:

- there will two rounds of funding, one round per financial year
- all eligible applications will be assessed individually
- funding decisions will be based on the criteria outlined in section 2
- if a high number of applicants meet the selection criteria, priority will be given to activities that engage underserved community groups that have not previously accessed support.

1.1 Objectives of the grant program

The objectives of this program are to fund initiatives that will help strengthen social cohesion and connections within communities or between communities following the Bondi Terror Attack. Initiatives must align with Community Cohesion and Wellbeing Outcomes and support the community in feeling safe, connected, well and heard.

Initiatives do not need to meet all objectives but must identify and address at least one of the following outcomes:

Safe

- People feel safe to return to public spaces, places of worship and return to everyday activities
- Community members are confident to be their authentic selves in public life free from discrimination or fear
- Antisemitism and other forms of hate and discrimination are actively managed and minimised.

Connected

- Communities are provided with opportunities to connect via community-led events, programs and initiatives
- People build or regain a strong sense of belonging and sense of connection within and across communities
- Community is supported through enhanced partnership between different segments of the local community.

Well

- Local healing, wellbeing and long-term psychosocial recovery at the community level is supported (psychosocial recovery promotes positive wellbeing, resilience, social connection and social cohesion activities within the community)
- Affected communities are strengthened and develop ongoing resilience through capacity building
- People who are disconnected from support are identified and encouraged to connect through activities.

Heard

- People feel informed and able to navigate recovery decisions
- People have opportunities to voice views within community and institutions to improve agency
- Cohesion and wellbeing initiatives are community-led and trauma informed
- People and communities build trust in key institutions.

1.2 How much funding is available

- Grants will be from **\$1,000** (ex GST) up to **\$10,000** (ex GST) per project
- Total funding available is up to \$200,000 over two years (to June 2028).

2 Selection criteria

2.1 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for this funding you must:

- Be one of the following:
 - be an individual aged 16 or over
 - be a small group of individuals aged 16 or over
 - be a community group or organisation
 - be a not-for-profit organisation
 - be an incorporated organisation.

Your activity must:

- be delivered within Waverley, Randwick or Woollahra Local Government Areas
- start after funding has been approved (no retrospective funding)
- align with at least one of the program objectives and meet the assessment criteria detailed below.

You must also:

- be able to enter into a funding agreement with NSW Premier's Department and have an Australian bank account.

- have adequate public liability insurance of \$10 million or be willing to buy it. You can include the cost of insurance as part of the project budget.
- where needed, have Working with Children Checks, WorkCover and superannuation coverage for any individuals or staff delivering programs and projects, or be willing to obtain.

Additional eligibility requirements:

- If the funding is to support existing or an ongoing activity you must be able to demonstrate one or more of the following benefits:
 - more people can be reached through the project or initiative
 - additional community benefit is provided
- Cultural competency and/or experience working alongside Jewish people and communities or other individuals, families and communities affected by the ongoing impacts of the attack.
- Applicants under the age of 18 will need to submit a support letter from a suitable referee attesting to their skills, experience, commitment, and ability to successfully deliver the proposed activity.
- Organisations who host a Community Resilience Engagement Coordinator (CREC) position or Resilience Support Service (RSS) program funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority are eligible to apply for funding. For the grant proposal to be eligible:
 - the organisation must have the capacity to deliver the initiative without depending on CREC/RSS resourcing
 - the initiative must not duplicate the program of work being undertaken by the CREC or the intent of the RSS program.

What will not be funded:

Funding is not available for activities or costs that:

- do not align with the purpose and objectives of the Grassroots Microgrants program
- do not clearly support connection, belonging or community wellbeing
- have already happened (retrospective funding)
- are for celebration of independence days and national days
- are for political activities
- are for business, profit or private benefit
- repeat existing activities without adding value or reaching more people
- are for ongoing operational activities without additional benefit
- involve fundraising, cash prizes, vouchers or gifts
- involve alcohol or tobacco as a main focus
- are for capital costs such as building works, maintenance or equipment purchase
- are for consultant fees.

2.2 Assessment criteria

Before you start your application make sure you meet the **eligibility criteria** in Section 2.1

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. The activity must show a clear community benefit and contribute to at least one of the four outcomes in the Outcomes Framework, **Safe, Connected, Well, Heard**. See Section 1.1 for more information on each of these outcomes.
2. You must demonstrate that you can deliver the activity.

Prioritisation

If a high number of applicants meet the selection criteria, priority will be given to activities that engage underserved community groups that have not previously accessed support.

Your application will be assessed on your answers to the following questions.

Criteria	Evidence required	Weighting
3. The activity must show a clear community benefit and contribute to at least one of the four outcomes in the Outcomes Framework	A strong application: - Clearly explains how the activity will benefit the community. - Names the outcome or outcomes in the Outcome Framework the activity contributes to. - Outlines how the activity supports this outcome(s).	50%
4. Your ability to deliver the activity. (We want to understand how you will make this activity happen.)	A strong application: - Shows strong links to the focus community, such as experience working with that community. - Shows the skill and or experience to deliver the event. - Includes a project plan that shows the event has been planned carefully and designed to benefit participants. The project plan should include activities such as planning, bookings, engaging performers or service providers, promotion, and event delivery. - Includes a realistic and cost-effective budget. - The event addresses accessibility and safety requirements. - Includes a clear promotion and marketing plan, including how it will be promoted, how participants will register. Shows clear benefits for participants and good value for the funding requested.	50%

3 Application process

3.1 How to apply

Applications open on 9 October 2026 and close at 11:59pm (AEST) on 30 October 2026.

Applicants will need to submit a short application via the online program SmartyGrants, accessible through a portal on the NSW Government's Grants and Funding page via this link:
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding>.

If you have previously used SmartyGrants use your existing username and log in details. If this is your first time using SmartyGrants you will need to set-up a new registration/account.

All required attachments must be uploaded through the online application form in SmartyGrants. The online application form includes an application checklist to ensure all the required information is provided.

All required fields marked with an * within the online application form must be completed.

The Premier's Department will not accept applications unless they are submitted online through the SmartyGrants portal. Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will not be eligible for assessment.

3.2 What you will need to include in your application

Read the application carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Connected Communities team:

- [mailto: connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au)

Application checklist:

- provide your details or details of your community group or organisation
- ensure that you have undertaken the necessary planning to formulate your project and can provide evidence that it will fulfil at least one of the program objectives
- provide a draft run sheet and budget provide simple clear answers to all questions
- ensure all supporting information and documentation is provided to demonstrate any additional eligibility requirements noted under 2.1
- ensure your application is complete.

Partially completed applications cannot be submitted through the online application systems and will not be considered.

3.3 Support available

The following support is available to you:

Bondi Connections Grassroots Microgrants

If you have any questions about eligibility or the assessment criteria, please contact the Connected Communities team:

- [mailto: connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au)

If you have any questions while completing your application, please submit them in writing via email to connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

SmartyGrants

If you have any questions about SmartyGrants, the online grants management system, or experience any technical issues while using it, please contact the support team on:

Email: service@smartygrants.com.au

Phone: (03) 9320 6888 Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (AEST).

4 Assessment process

4.1 How applications will be assessed

Grassroots Microgrants will be awarded on merit and assessed by a multi-agency assessment panel made up of government staff.

5. Your application will firstly be reviewed to ensure compliance with the **eligibility criteria** and that all required documentation has been submitted through the online application system.
6. Two assessment panel members will then independently assess your application on **merit** against the **assessment criteria** and award it a score of either a (1) low, (2) satisfactory or (3) high against each of the two merit criteria.
7. Your application will be ranked by the Chair of the assessment panel based on its overall average score.
8. The assessment panel will then meet to discuss all applications.
9. The assessment panel make its recommendations to the final decision-maker, the Executive Director Delivery and Social, Delivery and Engagement, NSW Premier's Department.
10. The Executive Director will consider the recommendations and makes the decision to award funds.

4.2 Notification of application outcome

You will be notified in writing via email of the outcome of the assessment process.

The anticipated assessment outcome date is the week commencing Friday 27 November 2026.

The anticipated date for funding agreement execution with successful applicants is by Thursday 26 November 2026.

Feedback on your application

If your application is unsuccessful, you can request feedback from the Connected Communities team. You can request feedback for up to one month after you are notified that your application was unsuccessful.

To request feedback on your application please email the Connected Communities team:

- connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

5 Successful grant applications

If your application is successful, you will be required to:

- Enter into a funding agreement with The NSW Premier's Department agreeing to the funding terms and conditions.
- Once the agreement is signed by all parties and an invoice is received, 100% of the grant will be paid into your nominated bank account.
- After the agreement is signed, Premier's Department will meet with you to discuss grant requirements and answer questions.
- You must use the funds for the stated purpose for which the funding was awarded unless written permission has been obtained from the NSW Premier's Department. We understand that circumstances can change, and we're happy to discuss any proposed amendments with you.
- Please note that changes made without prior written approval may result in the grant offer being withdrawn.
- You must provide evidence of spending the funds for the agreed purpose (acquittal) within the agreed timeframe in their funding agreement.

- Share relevant images and videos for promotional purposes, with relevant consent procedures in place.
- You will be required to return any unspent funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.
- You may be required to keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.

5.1 Reporting and acquittal requirements:

You must spend all grant funds within 12 months of the execution of the Funding Agreement.

Once your activity has been delivered, you will need to complete and submit a Completion Report and Acquittal Statement within two weeks. The Premier's Department will provide the required forms before they are due.

Please ensure your report and acquittal are submitted on time. If they are not received by the due date, the Premier's Department may consider the activity not to have taken place and may require repayment of any grant funding already provided within 28 days.

You must keep all financial records relating to the grant, including expenditure and acquittal documentation, for a period of seven years.

If your activity is managed by a committee and there is a change in membership, these records must be securely passed on to the incoming committee to ensure they remain available if required.

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Publication of grants information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, relevant information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 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), unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

All records related to these decisions will be managed in line with the State Records Act 1998 (NSW).

6.2 Advertising and promotion

You are responsible for promoting and advertising your activity to the community.

When promoting your activity, you must acknowledge the financial support of the NSW Government in any relevant promotional materials.

If you provide photos or videos of your activity to the Premier's Department, you must ensure that appropriate consent has been obtained from participants, or from a parent or guardian where required.

To help improve future programs, information about your activity may also be used by the Premier's Department for monitoring, evaluation and reporting purposes

6.3 Complaint handling

Any concerns about the Program should be submitted in writing via <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/contact-us>

The NSW Premier's Department is committed to responding to external complaints fairly, efficiently and effectively in accordance with the [TCO and PD External Complaints Handling Policy](#).

This policy sets out the steps for managing an external complaint regarding the Bondi Connections – Grassroots Microgrants Program. If you are a person with a disability or experience difficulties in providing your complaint in writing, you can make a verbal complaint by contacting (02) 9228 5555. NSW Premier's Department may require a verbal complaint be made in writing in circumstances where the matter is complex or contentious. If you do not agree with the way the Department handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

6.4 Access to information

Under the NSW Grants Administration Guide, information about grants awarded must be published on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder within 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect. This information is also open access information under the GIPA Act, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

Information received in applications is treated as confidential, and funding decisions and assessment outcomes must remain confidential until announced and applicants are notified. However, documents held by the government may be released under the GIPA Act, subject to the deletion of exempt material. Documents submitted as part of a grant application may also be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.5 Conflict of interest management

Any real or perceived conflicts of interest arising during the assessment process must be disclosed and managed.

Risks are managed in accordance with The Premier's Department risk management systems and grant guidelines.

Fraud controls are in place to support the management of conflicts of interest.

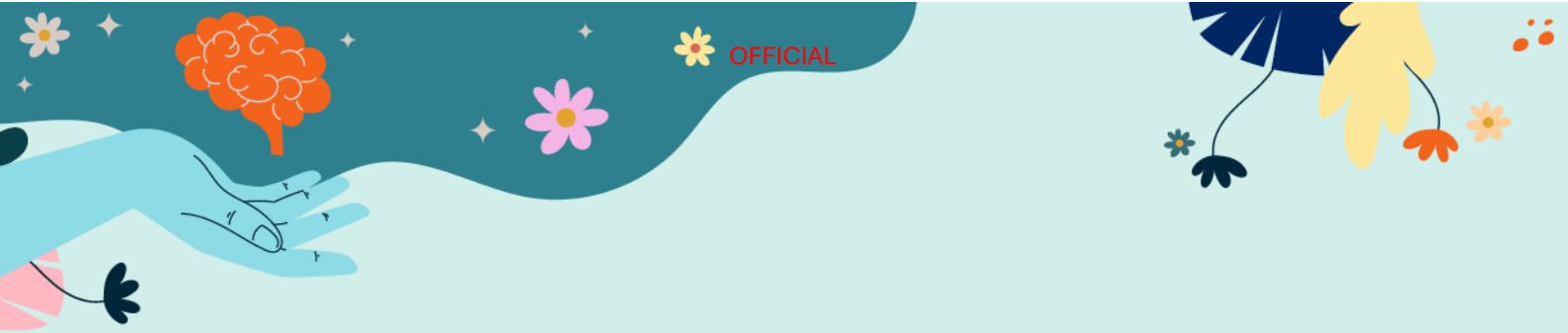
Any conflicts of interest must be declared and managed in accordance with The Premier's Department Code of Conduct.

Risk management will continue throughout the grant life cycle.

6.6 Confidentiality

Successful applicants may be required to keep the outcome of the application process confidential until the NSW Government makes a public announcement.

The Premier's Department follows all confidentiality requirements that apply to grants administration and the assessment process under the NSW Grants Administration Guide.



For Enquiries

E: connectedcommunities@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au

W: www.nsw.gov.au/community-services/connected-communities