

# Funding sources

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages — Resource guide



This resource guide supports school communities to identify and apply for potential funding sources to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It refers to sources of funding or grants that could be accessed to support school community language projects and associated activities.

**Note:** Schools are encouraged to seek further specific information about eligibility and other criteria from the respective funding organisations. Some funding is directed towards community organisations, rather than schools, and in these instances there may be potential for schools to partner with local community groups.

## Funding categories

Funding sources fall into three broad categories:

1. **Recurrent assistance** — ongoing financial support, generally from Australian and/or state/territory governments; this funding is based on eligibility criteria such as needs, target groups or per capita enrolments. The application process is minimal and is implemented via an agreement with the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), either per individual school or as part of an overarching education sector agreement. Typically, there is a reporting and accountability framework based on performance and progress towards negotiated targets aligned to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) targets, i.e. early childhood education; literacy and numeracy; Year 12 retention and completion.

This type of funding provides a foundation for school communities to conduct language activities on an ongoing annual basis.

2. **Non-recurrent assistance** — one-off or targeted funds for a specific purpose or project, mainly provided through a range of government departments. Generally, there is an application-based process requiring funding submissions according to eligibility criteria and program guidelines. Funding amounts are classed as small (<\$5,000), medium (\$5,000–\$25,000) or large (>\$25,000).

This type of funding has the potential to allow school communities to implement targeted programs or specific short-term language projects to better meet the needs of the community.

3. **Philanthropic assistance** — financial support provided by philanthropic organisations or Australian companies with a philanthropic/benevolent charter; funding is generally submission-based or through negotiated partnering arrangements. Normally, funding is drawn from the corporate/private sector and requires a submission-based process according

to eligibility guidelines, including geographical locations, community interests and priorities. Funding amounts may be small (<\$5,000), medium (\$5,000–\$25,000) or large (>\$25,000).

This type of funding potentially allows school communities to implement targeted programs or specific short-term language projects to better meet the needs of the community.

## 1. Overview of recurrent funding sources

While not specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, there may be potential to use some of this funding for language activities as part of a school program that aims to improve educational outcomes.

Funding source	Eligibility/Guidelines
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>	
Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recurrent expenditure funding programs <a href="http://deewr.gov.au/grants-recurrent-expenditure">http://deewr.gov.au/grants-recurrent-expenditure</a></li> <li>The Smarter Schools National Partnerships initiative, established under the COAG agenda, targeting three priority areas               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>low socio-economic status school communities</li> <li>literacy and numeracy</li> <li>quality teaching</li> </ul> <a href="http://smarterschools.gov.au">http://smarterschools.gov.au</a> </li> </ul>
<b>Queensland Government</b>	
Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE)	<p>A range of recurrent funding support, through various allowances and grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>available to state schools, non-state schools, parents and students, and other organisations servicing the needs of students <a href="http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/index.html">http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/index.html</a></li> <li>supporting specific outcomes, including Indigenous education, through targeted funding grants <a href="http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/state/targeted/index.html">http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/state/targeted/index.html</a></li> <li>available to non-government schools, based on student enrolments <a href="http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/non-state/recurrent.html">http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/non-state/recurrent.html</a></li> </ul>

## 2. Overview of non-recurrent funding sources

This list provides an insight into the range and nature of potential non-recurrent funding sources. As a rule, these funding and grants programs are point-in-time initiatives and dependent on a range of factors, including government priorities.

While not specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, some of this funding may potentially be used for language activities as part of the school program. Refer to funding guidelines and priority areas to identify current initiatives that can link to language projects within the school community.

Schools could also try Grantsearch, a subscription-based service to locate grants and funding opportunities. Free sample searches are available: [www.grantsearch.com.au/](http://www.grantsearch.com.au/).

The Australian Government has a national compact agreement setting out shared values and principles for working with the not-for-profit sector: [www.notforprofit.gov.au/compact](http://www.notforprofit.gov.au/compact).

Funding source	Eligibility/Guidelines
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>	
GrantsLINK	Overview of government grants and funding opportunities for community groups and organisations <a href="http://www.grantslink.gov.au">www.grantslink.gov.au</a>
Parliament of Australia	Guide to Commonwealth, State & Territory sources of community grants, including non-government organisations <a href="http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Browse_by_Topic/community">www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Browse_by_Topic/community</a>
Australian Government Australian Research Council (ARC)	The Discovery Indigenous initiative, supporting research led by Indigenous researchers <a href="http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/di/di_default.htm">www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/di/di_default.htm</a>
Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of funding available to schools and/or communities, including several initiatives under the umbrella of education and schooling <a href="http://deewr.gov.au/funding-schools">http://deewr.gov.au/funding-schools</a></li> <li>Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP) 2011–2013 priority areas, including languages and Indigenous students <a href="http://deewr.gov.au/australian-government-quality-teacher-program">http://deewr.gov.au/australian-government-quality-teacher-program</a></li> <li>Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) community-driven initiative increasing parental engagement in schools <a href="http://deewr.gov.au/parental-and-community-engagement-program">http://deewr.gov.au/parental-and-community-engagement-program</a></li> </ul>
Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)	A range of funding programs to support community-based projects <a href="http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/grants-funding/grants-funding-0">www.fahcsia.gov.au/grants-funding/grants-funding-0</a>
Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Office of the Arts	A range of community-based funding programs available for Indigenous arts and culture, including maintenance of Indigenous languages and records (MILR). Schools would need to support and partner with community organisations to be eligible <a href="http://www.arts.gov.au/topics/indigenous">www.arts.gov.au/topics/indigenous</a>
<b>Queensland Government</b>	
Queensland Government Grants	A list of grant-specific pages in Queensland Government organisations (search results; longer than one page) <a href="http://pan.search.qld.gov.au/search/search.cgi?query=grants&amp;x=0&amp;y=0&amp;num_ranks=10&amp;tiers=off&amp;collection=qld-gov&amp;profile=qld&amp;form=grants">http://pan.search.qld.gov.au/search/search.cgi?query=grants&amp;x=0&amp;y=0&amp;num_ranks=10&amp;tiers=off&amp;collection=qld-gov&amp;profile=qld&amp;form=grants</a>
Department of the Arts (Arts Queensland)	Funding for the Arts, including cultural activities <a href="http://www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/index.html">www.arts.qld.gov.au/funding/index.html</a>
Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services	Departmental funding to support a range of community services <a href="http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/funding-and-grants">www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/funding-and-grants</a>
Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE)	Scholarships and grants, some targeted to Indigenous staff or students <a href="http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/scholarships.html">www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/scholarships.html</a>
Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)	Funding for cultural heritage projects <a href="http://www.datsima.qld.gov.au/atsis/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-peoples/indigenous-cultural-heritage">www.datsima.qld.gov.au/atsis/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-peoples/indigenous-cultural-heritage</a>

### 3. Philanthropic funding sources

Philanthropic and corporate sources are a relatively new concept; however there is enormous potential for schools and/or community groups to enter into partnering arrangements with these groups.

Funding source	Eligibility/Guidelines
Philanthropy Australia	Overview of Philanthropic organisations and their grants programs <a href="http://www.philanthropy.org.au/">www.philanthropy.org.au/</a>
Bendigo Bank Community Grants Program	Administers a range of grants to support community organisations <a href="http://www.bendigobank.com.au/public/foundation/">www.bendigobank.com.au/public/foundation/</a>
Coca Cola Australia Foundation	Approximately \$1,000,000 each year for projects that are ambitious, innovative or unique in their approach to assisting marginalised young people in Australia realise their potential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• national grants (up to \$300,000 per annum) — 1–5 year programs</li> <li>• community grants (&lt; \$10,000) — local, one-off programs</li> </ul> <a href="http://ccamatil.com/AboutCCA/Pages/Coca-ColaFoundation.aspx">http://ccamatil.com/AboutCCA/Pages/Coca-ColaFoundation.aspx</a>
Commonwealth Bank Community Grants Program	Grants of up to \$10,000 to support community organisations <a href="https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/in-the-community/employee-giving/staff-community-fund/local-grants.aspx">https://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/in-the-community/employee-giving/staff-community-fund/local-grants.aspx</a>
Foundation for Young Australians	Opportunities for young people, including specific projects for Indigenous youth <a href="http://www.fya.org.au">www.fya.org.au</a>
Macquarie Group Foundation	Funding for community programs in areas including education and the arts <a href="http://www.macquarie.com/mgl/com/foundation">www.macquarie.com/mgl/com/foundation</a>
Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund	Support for projects in key priority areas including the arts and humanities, education, poverty and disadvantage <a href="http://www.myerfoundation.org.au/">www.myerfoundation.org.au/</a>
National Australia Bank, Schools First Initiative	Funding for school–community partnerships <a href="http://www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/index.php">www.schoolsfirst.edu.au/index.php</a>
Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (QLD)	A range of funding programs for community groups, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gambling Community Benefit Fund (statewide)</li> <li>• Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund (Townsville &amp; NQ)</li> <li>• Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund (Southern Qld)</li> <li>• Reef Hotel Community Benefit Fund (Cairns and FNQ)</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/index.shtml">www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/index.shtml</a>
Telstra Foundation	A range of community development grants, particularly aimed at young people <a href="http://www.telstrafoundation.com.au">www.telstrafoundation.com.au</a>

## Applying for grants

In most cases, schools and communities will need to submit an application for funding outlining their language project and the associated activities and outcomes. Government departments and other agencies provide templates and advice on identifying funding sources and writing successful grant applications on their websites, for example:

- OurCommunity — [www.ourcommunity.com.au](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au)
- GrantsLINK — [www.grantslinkgov.au](http://www.grantslinkgov.au)

A small amount of relevant research exists, for example:

- *A worthwhile exchange: A guide to Indigenous philanthropy* (2010) and
- case studies in *Rio Tinto Aboriginal fund: more than a decade of social investment* (2008).

Both are available at: [www.riotinto.com.au/ENG/library/37\\_reports\\_and\\_publications.asp](http://www.riotinto.com.au/ENG/library/37_reports_and_publications.asp).

## Writing a grant application

The following steps are a general guide for writing an application.

1. **Develop a project plan**  
This should form part of the overall community language revival and will include scoping the needs of the community.
2. **Identify sources of funding**  
Identify potential sources of financial assistance, e.g. government, corporate, philanthropic. Match the aims of the funding program with your project and check your project's eligibility.
3. **Do the research**  
Ensure that you have background information and data to support your application, e.g. budget costings.
4. **Follow the funding guidelines**  
Make sure you follow all of the application guidelines, addressing the criteria and providing the supporting documentation that is requested. Support documents from external agencies can also improve your application.
5. **Present your application professionally**  
Review your application, checking that the writing is clear, accurate, and well-structured.
6. **Follow up your submission/application**  
If unsuccessful, seek feedback to improve your next application.

## More information

Please email [langtrial@qsa.qld.edu.au](mailto:langtrial@qsa.qld.edu.au), phone (07) 3864 0310 or visit the QSA website <[www.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au)> and search for "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages".