

OFFICIAL



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

Business Grants Hub

Sample application form

Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program

Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement Grants 2026

This document shows the questions included in the online application form for this grant opportunity. It will help you prepare your responses and the mandatory attachments you need before you apply online.

Instructions

The online form captures the information required by the department to assess and manage your application for services and funding.

The first page of the application page contains the following instructions.

Internet browsers supported by the portal

We recommend that you use the following browsers for optimum functionality:

- On Windows: The latest versions of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge
- On Mac: The latest versions of Safari and Google Chrome

Selecting a program

On the following page you must enter your details and then select the program you are applying for.

Are you eligible to apply?

Before you start your application, you must answer some questions to self-assess whether you are eligible to apply.

Completing your application

The application consists of separate pages, shown in a navigation menu on the left hand side of the portal page. You can navigate between pages using the menu or the buttons at the bottom of each page.

A warning message may appear if you have not completed all of the mandatory questions or if there is an issue with information you have entered. If a question is not mandatory it will be clearly marked – Optional.

Saving your responses

Once you start your application, you can save your changes at any time by using the Save button.

To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out.

You must use the Save and Continue button to validate the information on each page. A tick indicates a validated page.

You can modify saved responses up until you submit your application.

Participants

Once you start your application, you may invite others to assist, via the application summary page. To do this:

- select the Application summary link at the top of the page
- select the Participants button
- enter the details.

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An email will be sent to the participant inviting them to access the application.

Saving with multiple participants

If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

Submitting your application

You must complete every page of the application before you can submit.

You must also read and agree to the declaration which advises you of your responsibilities.

Check all your answers before you submit your application. After you submit, it will no longer be editable.

Getting help

If you require further assistance completing your application, [contact us](#) by email or web chat or on 13 28 46.

Sample

A. Program selection

Before you start your application, we need to first identify what type of entity is applying.

Some programs we offer allow entities without an ABN to apply. The form is designed to accommodate these entities. However for this grant opportunity, an ABN is mandatory. If you do not have an ABN this grant opportunity will not appear in the program selection at the bottom of the first page and you will not be able to continue.

If you are a trustee applying on behalf of a trust we will need details of both the trust and trustee.

Before you start you should have the following details ready if they are applicable to you.

Australian Business Number (ABN)

or

Australian Company Number (ACN)

Indigenous Corporation Number

Australian Registered Body Number

Australian Registered Scheme Number

Incorporated Association Registration

Co-operative Registration Number

Charity status

Not for profit status

Where applicable, international organisations will need to provide

country of registration

registration number

A.1. Program selection

You must select from a drop-down menu the program that you are applying for. If you have been provided with an Invitation code, you will be able to enter it here which will select the program for you.

Field 1 select – Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement Grants 2026

Field 2 select - Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement Grants 2026

When you have selected the program, the following text will appear.

This grant opportunity will run over 2 years from 2026-27 to 2027-28.

The grant opportunity was announced as part of the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program. A total of \$2 million is available for this grant opportunity.

The objectives of the program are

- deliver projects where students and youth under 18 years of age, at the time of application, can develop and apply their STEM knowledge through experimentation, tinkering and hands-on learning by engaging with a range of technologies
- encourage practical skills, creativity and entrepreneurial thinking through the delivery of hands-on STEM-related events and activities

Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement Grants 2026 application requirements

- inspire students and youth under 18 years of age to pursue further studies and careers in STEM
- make projects accessible to as many young people as possible, including those in regional, rural and disadvantaged areas
- make a positive and ongoing impact on students and youth under 18 years of age, particularly those historically underrepresented in STEM including as defined in the glossary of the grant opportunity guidelines.

The minimum grant amount is \$20,000 and the maximum is \$100,000.

You should read the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) and [sample grant agreements](#) before filling out this application. We recommend you keep the guidelines open as you are completing your application so you can refer to them when providing your responses.

You may submit your application at any time up until 5.00pm AEST on the day applications close. Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.

To prevent you losing your work you should save often. The portal will time out after 30 minutes if you do not save. Typing or moving your mouse does not reset the time out.

If more than one participant is working on your application at the same time you cannot save simultaneously. You should coordinate your entries to prevent losing your work.

B. Eligibility

We will ask you the following questions to establish your eligibility for the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement Grants 2026 grant opportunity.

Questions marked with an asterisk are mandatory.

Select which type of entity your organisation is. *

- an entity, incorporated in Australia
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth)
- an incorporated association
- an incorporated not for profit organisation
- a publicly funded research organisation (PFRO)
- a government or non-government vocational education and training (VET) provider
- none of the above.

You must select one of the eligible options from a drop down menu to proceed to next question.

Is your project aimed at delivering STEM-related activities and events to meet the objectives and outcomes outlined in section 2.1?

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Will your project be for the benefit of youth under 18 years of age?

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Can you contribute at least 20 per cent towards eligible project expenditure?

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

- Will your project involve scientific, technological, engineering or mathematics experts, inventors, innovators or entrepreneurs to work with participants to gain practical knowledge and skills in design, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship?

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Are the activities in your project new or an expansion of your current business as usual activities?

You must answer yes to proceed to next section.

Is your project collaborative in nature and does it include at least one partner organisation during the life of the project? *

You must answer yes to proceed to next question.

Does your project have at least \$25,000 in eligible expenditure?

You must answer yes to proceed to the next question.

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C. Applicant address

C.1. Applicant street address

You must provide your street address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

C.2. Applicant postal address

You must provide your postal address.

When you start typing the address in the field you can select the correct one from the drop down list that appears. If it is not there you can enter manually.

Sample

D. Key contacts

You must provide the details of a primary contact for your application.

The primary contact is the person authorised to act on behalf of the applicant, and we send all email correspondence to this person. If you are not the primary contact, we will send an email to this person to invite them to register as a participant in the application. It is important that they register, or our emails will not be received. We recommend you let them know this.

If these details change, inform us as soon as possible so emails can be redirected.

If this application is successful, the primary contact will also need to nominate an authorised signatory to accept an agreement with the Commonwealth. The primary contact will not be able to accept an agreement unless they invite themselves to be the authorised signatory as well.

Primary contact

Title (optional)
Given name
Family name
Job title
Phone number
Email address
Relationship to applicant

Authorised signatory

Title (optional)
Given name
Family name
Phone number
Email address

E. About your organisation

We collect the following data from all applicants. We use this data to better understand your organisation and to help us develop better policies and programs.

E.1. Latest financial year figures

Values must be that of the entity applying (the ‘applicant’), regardless of whether the entity belongs to a consolidated group for tax purposes.

These fields are mandatory and entering \$0 is acceptable if applicable for your organisation.

All values must be whole numbers. For example:

6.5 months should be presented as 7 months

\$2 million should be presented as \$2,000,000.

Has your organisation existed for a complete financial year?

If yes, what was the latest financial year completed?

If no, enter the number of months completed in the financial year to date.

Provide the following figures for the financial year you have entered above.

Sales revenue (turnover)

Total revenue from the sale of goods and services, as reported in your organisation’s Business Activity Statement (BAS).

Export revenue

Total revenue from export sales, as reported in your organisation’s Business Activity Statement (BAS).

R&D expenditure

Expenditure on research and development, i.e. creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge, including knowledge of humankind, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise new applications.

Taxable income

Taxable income or loss as per your organisation’s income tax return form.

Number of employees including working proprietors and salaried directors (headcount)

Number of individuals who are entitled to paid leave (sick and holiday), or generate income from managing your organisation. This should include working proprietors and salaried directors.

Number of independent contractors (headcount)

Number of individuals engaged by your organisation under a commercial contract (rather than an employment contract) to provide employee-like services on site.

E.2. ANZSIC code

Provide the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification ([ANZSIC](#)) details for your organisation from a drop-down menu:

your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC division.

your organisation's main revenue earning ANZSIC class.

E.3. Indigenous organisations

Is your organisation Indigenous owned?

An organisation is considered Indigenous owned where at least 51% of the organisation's members or proprietors are Indigenous.

Is your organisation Indigenous controlled?

An organisation is considered Indigenous controlled where at least 51% of the organisation's board or management committee is Indigenous.

Sample

F. Project information

On this page you must provide the detailed information about your proposed project.

If your application is successful, we will publish some grant details on [GrantConnect](#) and other government publications. Published details include:

name of the grant recipient

a project title

a brief project description and its intended outcome

amount of grant funding awarded.

F.1. Project title and description

Provide a project title.

Your response is limited to 75 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Provide a brief project description for publication.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Ensure your project description focuses on your project's key activities and outcomes.

Outline what it is you are going to do and how these activities will deliver STEM-related activities for students and youth under 18 years of age to meet the objectives and outcomes outlined in section 2.1

F.2. Detailed project description and key activities

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Describe in detail what your project involves. What are you proposing to do? What activities are involved and how are you going to implement them?

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

F.3. Project outcomes

This information will be included in your grant agreement if your application is successful.

Provide a summary of the expected project outcomes.

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

What result do you anticipate in undertaking this project? Explain how this will help your organisation, referencing the objectives of the grant opportunity.

F.4. Project reach

- What is the expected target audience size?
- Who is the target audience?

Your response is limited to 1000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

- What is the expected number of events or activities?
 - Explain how you estimated the figures for audience size and number of events or activities

Your response is limited to 1000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting

- Identify which of the diverse cohorts or communities historically underrepresented in STEM your project targets? Select one or more options.
 - First Nations peoples
 - culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people
 - women and girls
 - people living in regional and remote areas
 - people with disability
 - people from low socio-economic backgrounds
 - neurodivergent people
 - LGBTQIA+ people
 - people who face age-based discrimination.

You will be asked to provide further information later in the application under Assessment Criteria 1.

F.5. Project duration

Your project must be completed in line with the dates provided in the grant opportunity guidelines.

The start and end dates you enter here will determine the financial years in the project budget.

The project length will be calculated by the start and end dates you enter.

Estimated project start date November 2026

Estimated project end date 30 June 2028

F.6. Project milestones

Provide measurable milestones you will reach while undertaking your project. You may add up to 10 milestones.

The milestone start and end dates must be within the project start and end dates.

Milestone title

Your response is limited to 100 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Milestone description

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

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F.7. Project location

You must provide the address where your project will be undertaken and the estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at that site. If you have multiple sites you must add the address of each site.

A project location must be a street address. Do not provide a postal address, institution or building name.

Project site address

Estimated percentage of project value expected to be undertaken at site

F.8. Disclosure of financial penalties

Have any of your board members, management or persons of authority been subject to any pecuniary penalty?

A pecuniary penalty is a monetary penalty that can be civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state, or territory court or entity.

If yes, provide details of the penalty.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

F.9. Foreign affiliations

Does your project receive any funding or non-financial support from a foreign source?

If yes, provide details of the foreign financial support.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project receive financial support or benefits from a foreign source?

If yes, provide details of the arrangement.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project have any current or former association with a foreign talent program?

If yes, provide details of the foreign talent program.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Do any entities or key personnel involved with the project have any ties to a foreign government, military or state-owned enterprise?

If yes, provide details of the affiliations or associations.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

F.10. National security plan

Do you have a plan to manage any potential security risks associated with the project and your organisation more broadly?

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The plan should include protecting your organisation from potential national security risks including cyber security threats and the secure handling of data. We may ask for a copy of your plan at a later stage.

Sample

G. Project partners

Provide details about all project partners. We can only accept applications where you deliver the project through a collaborative partnership (refer to glossary in the grant opportunity guidelines):

- the partnership must be established prior to the submission of your application
- the partnership must include at least one partner organisation during the life of the project
- you can partner with organisations such as libraries, private companies, schools, and not-for-profit bodies to deliver collaborative projects (internal organisation partnerships are not eligible)
- the partnering organisation/s must be active participants in the delivery of the project and not just beneficiaries of the proposed activities.

For details about project partners and their contributions refer to the grant opportunity guidelines.

If a project partner is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust we will need details of both the trust and trustee.

You must provide:

Australian Business Number (ABN) where applicable

Other registration number where applicable

Business address

Postal address

Contact details

G.1. Letter of support

You must attach a letter of support from each project partner/s, maximum of 10 partners per project (template provided on business.gov.au).

For details about letter of support requirements refer the grant opportunity guidelines.

Files must be one of the following types: docx, rtf, pdf, xlsx, csv, jpg, jpeg, png, gif. Filenames should only include letters or numbers and be fewer than 40 characters.

H. Project budget

H.1. Eligible expenditure

Enter grant amount sought below. We will add GST to this where applicable.

Provide a summary of your eligible project expenditure over the life of the project.

- Registered for GST - enter amounts exclusive of GST.
- Not registered for GST - enter amounts inclusive of GST.

The minimum project expenditure for this grant opportunity is \$25,000.

The grant amount will be up to 80 per cent of eligible project expenditure.

The minimum grant amount is \$20,000

The maximum grant amount is \$100,000

You must fund at least 20 per cent of eligible project costs with cash and/or in-kind contributions. Where you provide in-kind contributions including facilities, equipment and services, you must calculate the dollar value for the in-kind activities that directly relate to the project. Only eligible expenditure will be counted towards your contribution to the project

You must only include eligible expenditure items in 'other eligible expenditure costs'. Further details of this expenditure should be included in your detailed project budget. Ineligible expenditure items as detailed in Appendix B of the grant opportunity guidelines will not be accepted.

Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Total
Contractor costs		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Labour costs (up to 30 percent of total project costs)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Labour on-costs (up to 30 percent of total labour costs)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$

Head of expenditure	Financial Year	Total
Venue and equipment hire		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Domestic travel (up to 20 per cent of total project costs)		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Tools and equipment and consumable materials		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Prizes and competitions		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Marketing, design, advertising and promotion		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Software and ICT hardware		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Other eligible expenditure		\$
	2026/27	\$
	2027/28	\$
Total project expenditure		\$

Details of 'Other' eligible expenditure.

You must provide detailed information for each item detailed under 'Other eligible expenditure' in the budget. Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

H.2. Grant amount sought

You must enter the amount of grant funding you are requesting. We will add GST to this where applicable. The minimum grant amount is \$20,000

The maximum grant amount is \$100,000

Enter grant amount sought \$

H.3. Contributions

You must provide a description for all contributions. You should detail whether your contribution is sourced from cash flow, loans, equity etc.

You will need to provide the following information for all contributions:

- Name of contributor
- Contribution type
- Financial year
- Amount
- Description

Contributions are divided into the following types

- Cash
- In-kind

Contribution type	Financial year	Amount	Description
		\$	
		\$	
		\$	
Total		\$	

Contributor name

Provide name of contributor/s. A table must be completed for each contributor.

Is this government funding?

Contributors are divided into the following types:

- Applicant contribution
- Other Commonwealth government grants
- State, territory or local government grants
- Other contributions

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I. Assessment criteria

We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion and against the indicators listed beneath each criterion. We will only consider funding applications that score at least 50 per cent against each criterion as these represent best value for money.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide should be commensurate with the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should define, quantify and provide evidence to support your answers.

I.1. Assessment criterion 1 (50 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

The reach and impact of your project

You should demonstrate this by identifying

- a. how your project will increase access and participation of students and youth under 18 years of age in STEM-related events and activities, particularly from those historically underrepresented in STEM (refer to section 14 of the guidelines)
- b. how your project will enable students and youth under 18 years of age to:
 - i. gain practical knowledge and skills in STEM through hands-on, inquiry-based learning
 - ii. make a positive and ongoing impact through hands-on, inquiry-based learning.

I.2. Assessment criterion 2 (20 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project

You should demonstrate this by identifying

- a. your track record managing similar projects, including how you managed and mitigated any risks
- b. your access to personnel with the right expertise and experience, including management and technical staff, and how you will work with project partners, collaborative partners and stakeholders to successfully deliver the project
- c. your access, or future access to, any accessible facilities, infrastructure, capital equipment, technology and approvals needed to deliver the project.

I.3. Assessment criterion 3 (30 points)

Your response is limited to 5000 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Impact of grant funding

You should demonstrate this through describing

- a. the total cost of the project, how you intend to use the grant funding and why you plan to use the grant funding in this way
- b. why the grant funding is necessary to deliver your project
- c. cash and/or in-kind contributions, including those from proposed partnerships, and how they support the delivery of the project. This should include a justification of how you calculated the dollar value of in-kind contributions.

Sample

J. Bank account details

J.1. Bank account details

If your application is successful, we will need to set up a payment process to pay your grant. We need your bank account details to do this. If your application is not successful we will not process these details.

We can only pay grant funding to the applicant organisation, who if successful will be party to a grant agreement with the Commonwealth. You must provide bank account details for this organisation.

J.2. Account details

All payments are in AU\$ and must be made into an account with an Australian financial institution.

Account name

BSB

Account number

J.3. Payment contact

We will send the payment remittance advice to this person. All other notifications are sent to the primary contact.

Title (optional)

Given name

Family name

Email address

Phone number

K. Application finalisation

You must answer the following questions and add any supporting documentation required.

K.1. Conflict of interest

Do you have any perceived or existing conflicts of interest to declare?

Refer to the grant opportunity guidelines for further information on your conflict of interest responsibilities.

If yes, describe the perceived or existing conflicts of interest.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

If yes, describe how you anticipate managing this conflict.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

K.2. Additional information

Attach additional supporting documentation here. You should only attach documents that we have requested:

The total of all attachments cannot exceed 50 MB.

Individual files must be smaller than 25 MB, and be one of the following types: docx, rtf, pdf, xlsx, csv, jpg, jpeg, png, gif.

Filenames should only include letters or numbers and should be fewer than 40 characters.

Trust deed (where applicable)

Where you have indicated your entity type is a trustee applying on behalf of a trust, you must attach documents showing the relationship of the incorporated trustee to the trust.

K.3. Program feedback

Your responses help us improve the design and delivery of programs. They will not affect the assessment or outcome of this application.

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

Did you read the grant opportunity guidelines?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

If yes, how useful were the guidelines in completing your application?

We welcome any additional feedback on the guidelines.

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

How satisfied were you with the process of applying for this grant?

You must select from a drop-down menu.

We welcome any additional feedback on the application process

Your response is limited to 750 characters including spaces and does not support formatting.

Sample

L. Declaration

In order to submit your application you will be required to agree to the following declaration.

L.1. Privacy and confidentiality provisions

I acknowledge that this is an Australian Government program and that the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department) will use the information I provide in accordance with the following:

[Australian Government Data and Digital Strategy](#)

[Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#)

grant opportunity guidelines

applicable Australian laws.

Accordingly, I understand that the department may collect, use and share my personal information provided in this application within this department and other government agencies:

- a. for purposes directly related to administering the program, including governance, research and the distribution of funds to successful applicants
- b. to facilitate research, assessment, monitoring and analysis of other programs and activities
- c. for the purposes of due diligence, preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with suspected fraud in grant applications and related processes

unless otherwise prohibited by law

I understand that where I am successful in obtaining a grant, the financial information that I provide for the purposes of payment will be accessible to departmental staff to enable payments to be made through the department's accounts payable software system.

I understand that information that is deemed 'confidential' in accordance with the grant opportunity guidelines may also be shared for a relevant Commonwealth purpose.

The department will publish information on individual grants in the public domain, including on the department's website, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

L.2. Applicant declaration

I declare that I have read and understood the grant opportunity guidelines, including the grant agreement, privacy, confidentiality and disclosure provisions.

I declare that the proposed project outlined in this application and any associated expenditure has been endorsed by the applicant's board/ management committee or person with authority to commit the applicant to this project.

I declare that the applicant will comply with, and require that its subcontractors and independent contractors comply with, all applicable laws.

I declare that the applicant and any project partners are not listed on the [National Redress Scheme](#) list of institutions, where sexual abuse has occurred, that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme.

I declare that the applicant is not named by the [Workplace Gender Equality Agency](#) as an organisation that has not complied with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*.

I confirm that the applicant, project partners and associated activities are in compliance with current [Australian Government sanctions](#).

I declare that the information contained in this application together with any statement provided is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate, complete and not misleading and that I understand that giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*.

I acknowledge that I may be requested to provide further clarification or documentation to verify the information supplied in this form and that the department may, during the application process, consult with other government agencies, including state and territory government agencies, about the applicant's claims and may also engage external technical or financial advisors to advise on information provided in the application.

I agree to participate in the periodic evaluation of the services undertaken by the department.

I approve the information in this application being communicated to the department in electronic form.

I understand that the applicant is responsible for ensuring that it has met relevant state or territory legislation obligations related to working with children, and that any person that has direct, unsupervised contact with children as part of a project under this grant opportunity, has undertaken and passed, a working with children check, if required under relevant state or territory legislation. The applicant is also responsible for assessing the suitability of people I engage in this project to ensure children are kept safe.

I acknowledge that if the department is satisfied that any statement made in an application is incorrect, incomplete, false or misleading the department may, at its absolute discretion, take appropriate action. I note such action may include excluding an application from further consideration; withdrawing an offer of funding; using the information contained in the application for a fraud investigation that would be consistent with the Australian Government's Investigations Standards and Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework and/or for a grant under management, terminating a grant agreement between the Commonwealth and the grantee including recovering funds already paid.

I declare that I am authorised to submit this form on behalf of the applicant and acknowledge that this is the equivalent of signing this application.

By checking this box I agree to all of the above declarations and confirm all of the above statements to be true