



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

Business Grants Hub

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30

Opening date:	Annual open and close periods for applications apply. Refer to Section 7.3 for more details.
Grant opportunity closing date and time:	5:00PM Australian Eastern Standard Time on 26 September 2029 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	19 August 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

Contents

1. Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 processes	4
1.1. Introduction	5
2. About the grant program.....	5
2.1. About the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 grant opportunity	5
3. Grant amount and grant period	6
3.1. Grants available	6
3.2. Project period.....	7
4. Eligibility criteria	7
4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?	8
4.2. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?	8
4.3. What qualifications, skills or checks are required?.....	8
5. What the grant money can be used for	8
5.1. Eligible grant activities	8
5.2. Eligible expenditure	9
5.3. Ineligible activities	10
5.4. What the grant money cannot be used for.....	11
6. The assessment criteria	11
6.1. Assessment criterion 1	11
6.2. Assessment criterion 2	12
6.3. Assessment criterion 3	12
7. How to apply.....	12
7.1. Attachments to the application	13
7.2. Joint (consortia) applications	13
7.3. Timing of grant opportunity processes	14
7.4. Questions during the application process.....	15
8. The grant selection process	15
8.1. Assessment of grant applications	15
8.1.1. Value with relevant money	15
8.2. Who will assess applications?	16
8.3. Who will approve grants?	17
9. Notification of application outcomes	17

9.1.	Feedback on your application	17
10.	Successful grant applications	17
10.1.	The grant agreement	17
10.2.	Exchange of letters grant agreement	Error! Bookmark not defined.
10.3.	Specific legislation, policies and industry standards	18
10.3.1.	Child safety requirements	18
10.4.	How we pay the grant.....	19
10.5.	Grant Payments and GST	19
11.	Announcement of grants	19
12.	How we monitor your grant activity	20
12.1.	Keeping us informed	20
12.2.	Reporting	20
12.2.1.	Ad-hoc reports.....	21
12.2.2.	End of project report	21
12.3.	Grant agreement variations.....	21
12.4.	Compliance visits	21
12.5.	Record keeping.....	22
12.6.	Evaluation	22
12.7.	Acknowledgement.....	22
13.	Probity	22
13.1.	Enquiries and feedback	22
13.2.	Conflicts of interest	23
13.3.	Privacy	23
13.4.	Confidential information	24
13.5.	Freedom of information	25
13.6.	National security	25
13.6.1.	Know Your Partner	26
13.7.	Disclosure of Commonwealth, state or territory financial penalties	26
14.	Glossary.....	26

1. Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program: National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 processes

The Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' Outcome One: *Support economic growth, productivity and job creation for all Australians by investing in science and technology, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting a strong resources sector.* The department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form addressing all of the eligibility and assessment criteria in order for your application to be considered.



We assess all grant applications

We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. We assess eligible applications against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money and compare it to other eligible applications.



We make grant recommendations

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.



Grant decisions are made

The decision maker decides which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.



We enter into a grant agreement

We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 grant opportunity

We evaluate your specific grant activity and National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section **Error! Reference source not found.**

We administer the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024](#)¹ (CGRPs).

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program (the program) provides funding for a range of initiatives delivered under the Inspiring Australia banner.

The program is delivering engagement initiatives that strengthen the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills pipeline and support national prosperity, resilience and wellbeing. Through this program, the Government aims to:

- build value and trust in STEM and its role in addressing national challenges
- strengthen the STEM pipeline by aligning initiatives with economic needs
- champion Australian scientists and innovators as national role models
- elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, with strong partnerships with Indigenous peoples and their communities
- support equitable participation in STEM and reduce barriers.

There will be other grant opportunities as part of this program and we will publish the opening and closing dates and any other relevant information on business.gov.au and [GrantConnect](#).

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

2.1. About the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 grant opportunity

National Science Week is Australia's major national annual celebration of science and technology, occurring in August each year.² National Science Week is run across Australia and provides the opportunity for wide public participation in activities and events across the nation.

The National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 grant opportunity funds projects that support wide public participation. The grant opportunity aims to support initiatives that enable inclusive and broad-based engagement with science by the public.

There are other grant opportunities available for school-based activities or events, such as National Science Week School Grants provided by the [Australian Science Teachers Association \(ASTA\)](#), with support from the Australian Government. This grant is also part of the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are to:

- inspire wide public participation in STEM, including groups historically underrepresented in STEM (as defined in the Glossary)
- provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge
- encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public
- encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in
- encourage new and innovative ways of engaging with audiences.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- increased national and international interest in Australian science
- improved critical engagement with key scientific issues by the public
- increased inspiration drawn from science and improved value of science as perceived by the public
- increased participation from groups historically underrepresented in STEM (as defined in the Glossary).

If you are successful, you will have until the following dates to register your event/s on the National Science Week website:

- National Science Week 2027 – 31 May 2027
- National Science Week 2028 – 31 May 2028
- National Science Week 2029 – 31 May 2029
- National Science Week 2030 – 31 May 2030

² For National Science Week dates for 2028, 2029 and 2030, please go to <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/faq/>

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

For this grant opportunity funding up to \$500,000 is available for each financial year from 2027 to 2030.

- The minimum grant amount is \$5,000 per application.
- The maximum grant amount is \$20,000 per application.

You are responsible for the remaining eligible and ineligible project costs.

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another Commonwealth, state or territory government grant for the same activities in the same year. You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth, state or territory government program, but if your application is successful, you must choose either the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30 or the other Commonwealth, state or territory government grant.

Applicants can only apply during one National Science Week batch³ at a time. In each batch, more than one application may be submitted by the same entity, but they must be for different events in the National Science Week. You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates for each batch as set out in Table 1 in section 7.3.

3.2. Project period

Your project must be focused on conducting eligible activities that take place during National Science Week, or where appropriate, in the week before or after National Science Week. Your activity earliest start and completion dates for each batch are set out below.

National Science Week 2027 Activities	Earliest Start Date: 7 August 2027 Complete no later than: 29 August 2027
National Science Week 2028 Activities	Earliest Start Date: 5 August 2028 Complete no later than: 27 August 2028
National Science Week 2029 Activities	Earliest Start Date: 4 August 2029 Complete no later than: 26 August 2029
National Science Week 2030 Activities	Earliest Start Date: 3 August 2030 Complete no later than: 25 August 2030

Your project period will begin from the date we notify you that your application is successful and will cease four weeks following the end of the relevant National Science Week, unless otherwise agreed by the Program Delegate (who is a Manager within the Business Grants Hub

³ For a definition of batch see the Glossary at section 14.

in DISR with responsibility for administering the program). Eligible expenditure cannot be incurred prior to grant agreement execution.

The project period is longer than the activity period to accommodate for any work required to prepare for your National Science Week activities and to allow you to finalise any payments following the completion of your activities.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- be an individual 18 years of age or older or;
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)

Joint applications (consortia) are acceptable, provided you have a lead organisation who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply. For further information on joint applications, refer to section 7.2.

4.2. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the [National Redress Scheme's website](#) on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has [not complied](#) with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*.
- a Commonwealth government body (including non-corporate and corporate Commonwealth entities and Government Business Enterprises)
- a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust).

4.3. What qualifications, skills or checks are required?

If you are successful, relevant personnel working on the project must maintain the following registration/checks:

- Working with Children check
- Working with Vulnerable People registration.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your National Science Week activities must:

- be directed towards a science-related activity that will be available to and cater to the wider public

- be conducted in Australia during the relevant National Science Week, or where appropriate, in the week before or after the relevant National Science Week
- address one or more of the following purposes:
 - draw the nation's attention towards the sciences
 - spark broad interest and engagement in the sciences
 - provide an opportunity for all Australians, including those historically underrepresented in the sciences, to participate in science events and activities
 - foster partnerships between the public, research organisations and industry
 - trial new and innovative science communication activities.
- be delivered in at least one of the following formats:
 - an in-person event involving physical attendance
 - an online event involving two-way audience participation or involvement.

National Science Week activities may involve school-aged participants, however, if an event is held at a school it must be open to the general public. We will consider your activity to be open to the general public where:

- the timing and location enables public attendance (e.g. outside school hours)
- it attracts people beyond students and parents/carers
- it is promoted to the broader community (not only through school channels)
- anyone can attend (e.g. through public registration or walk-ins).

Eligible National Science Week activities may include:

- events relating to existing exhibitions (including travelling exhibitions)
- cinema and theatre
- debates
- quizzes
- open days
- interactive presentations and workshops
- expos and fairs
- forums
- online events that include two-way audience participation or involvement, such as interactive virtual tours, online Q&As or online workshops
- field-based or guided activities
- citizen science participation activities
- public talks, panels and symposium-style events.

We may also approve other activities. Any additional activities must be in line with objectives and outcomes in section 2.1.

5.2. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement.

Eligible expenditure items are:

- travel and accommodation
- external venue hire
- equipment hire

- catering limited to snacks and light refreshments (excluding alcohol) required to conduct project activities, up to 5% of eligible expenditure
- external presenter fees and travel
- salaries and related expenses for presenters up to 20% of eligible expenditure
- consumable materials used during your event
- tools that directly relate to the project
- prizes
- event advertising and promotion, including graphic design
- visual displays and signage for the event
- costs associated with a change in delivery method (for example, virtual tours and online streaming of events) if required
- bilingual and Auslan support, interpreting and translation costs
- development of video and online content in preparation for the event.

We may update the guidelines on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be incurred by you within the project period
- be a direct cost of the project or be incurred by you for required project audit activities (where applicable)
- meet the eligible expenditure guidelines.

You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

You may elect to commence your project from the date we notify you that your application is successful. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur until a grant agreement is executed. The Commonwealth will not be liable, and should not be held out as being liable, for any activities undertaken before the grant agreement is executed.

5.3. Ineligible activities

Ineligible activities include:

- academic conferences (for example, a STEM education conference mainly for teachers and researchers)
- activities where the primary target audience is STEM professionals or other professional, industry or academic audiences (for example, a science communication forum for educators and researchers)
- activities that are exclusively for a school or schools (for example, a presentation delivered only to students of one or more schools without access for the general public)

- in-school incursions or workshops delivered during school hours (for example, a workshop delivered within the school day rather than as a public event)
- school-only activities with only a minor public add-on (for example, an expo or fair that is primarily school-based, with only a limited public viewing opportunity)
- activities not genuinely open to the wider community (for example, a forum that is restricted to an existing network rather than open to the public)
- activities of a solely commercial nature (for example, a STEM event mainly used to promote paid classes or products)
- business as usual and ongoing activities (for example, a regularly occurring STEM program without a distinctive National Science Week benefit)
- research or data collection activities where public engagement is incidental (for example, a STEM activity mainly used to collect data or trial materials).

5.4. What the grant money cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- infrastructure and permanent fixtures
- capital expenditure
- non-consumable items that can be used on an ongoing basis
- activities of a solely commercial nature
- business as usual and support costs associated with ongoing activities
- salaries and related expenses, including for project partners (presenters excluded)
- general administration, reporting and co-ordination costs
- administrative levies/fees imposed by a parent organisation
- internal charges (such as internal or partner venue hire)
- teaching resources and curriculum development materials
- research projects including surveys
- conferences and meetings
- expenses incurred prior to grant agreement execution
- professional development and training for teachers
- expenditure items that receive funding under another Commonwealth or state/territory government program, or from a National Science Week state or territory Coordinating Committee, in the same year.

Other expenditure may be ineligible as determined by the Program Delegate.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all assessment criteria in your application. We will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion. See section 8.1 for further information on the assessment of applications.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays character limits for each response.

We will only award funding applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion.

6.1. Assessment criterion 1

The reach and impact of the project (70 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. the size and composition of your intended audience, including the relevant geographical reach of the event
- b. how your project will enable wide public participation in science and its likely impact
- c. how your project will engage with groups historically underrepresented in STEM (see glossary definition in section 14) and reference any related letters of support.

6.2. Assessment criterion 2

Your capacity, capability and resources to carry out the project (20 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. your ability to run this type of project, including access to personnel with the right skills and experience
- b. your access to appropriate venues, accessible facilities, infrastructure, capital equipment, technology, and any required regulatory or other approvals. You should include detail on how risks associated with project delivery will be identified and managed
- c. why grant funding is necessary to deliver your project.

6.3. Assessment criterion 3

The extent to which your project will deliver meaningful benefits to the public (10 points).

You should demonstrate this through identifying:

- a. how your project will benefit the public. For projects that build on previous activities funded through Commonwealth National Science Week grants, you should identify any additional benefits.

7. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample [application form](#) and the sample [grant agreement](#) published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect. Any alterations and addenda⁴ will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these grant opportunity guidelines.

⁴ Alterations and addenda include but are not limited to: corrections to currently published documents, changes to close times for applications, Questions and Answers (Q&A) documents and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online [portal](#). You can only submit an application during the applications open and close period.

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online [portal](#)
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments.

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. The use of artificial intelligence and other forms of automation is permissible in developing your application, but you remain responsible for the accuracy, security and suitability of all information submitted as part of your application.

Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995](#). If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we can contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility/merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- proof of age for individuals 18 years or older (where applicable)
- letter of support from each project partner and collaborative partner (template provided on [business.gov.au](#))
- trust deed (where applicable).

Where applicable, you should provide the following documents with your application:

- letter of support from an Elder, Traditional Owner, land council or similar representative
- letter of support from any key stakeholders or communities, which can be used as evidence to support relationships or stated linkages within the assessment criterion responses.

The Commonwealth's intent to work with First Nations people means that a letter of support from Elders, Traditional Owners, land councils or similar representative groups is highly regarded when engaging First Nations people/communities in delivering grant activities.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. Individual file sizes cannot be greater than 25MB, while the total of all attachments cannot exceed 50MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request including any links or videos provided.

7.2. Joint (consortia) applications

We recognise that some organisations may want to join together as a group to deliver a project. In these circumstances, you must appoint a lead organisation. Only the lead organisation can submit the application form and enter into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The application must identify all other members of the proposed group and include a letter of support from each of the project partners (see section 7.1). Each letter of support should include:

- details of the project partner
- an overview of how the project partner will work with the lead organisation and any other project partners in the group to successfully complete the project
- an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project partner will bring to the group
- the roles/responsibilities the project partner will undertake, and the resources it will contribute (if any)
- details of a nominated management level contact officer.

The Department may request a copy of the formal agreement at any time throughout the project.

7.3. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates as set out in Table 1 below. We cannot accept late applications.

Table 1: Grant opportunity open and close dates for National Science Weeks 2027-2030

National Science Week Batch	Open/Closing date and time
National Science Week 2027	Open: 1 September 2026
	Close: 5.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 6 October 2026
National Science Week 2028	Open: 25 August 2027
	Close: 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 28 September 2027
National Science Week 2029	Open: 24 August 2028
	Close: 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 28 September 2028
National Science Week 2030	Open: 23 August 2029
	Close: 5.00pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on 26 September 2029
<i>Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.</i>	

Table 2: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	7 weeks
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	6-7 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	4 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of project	Date of notification that your application is successful
Project completion date	Refer section 3.2

7.4. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, [contact us](#) at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, your application will proceed to the assessment stage.

National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30

Grant opportunity guidelines July 2026

| [business.gov.au](#)

We will then assess your application against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications in the same batch

We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value with relevant money.⁵

8.1.1. Value with relevant money

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s of the grant opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how your project contributes to meeting those objectives
- the relative value of the grant sought
- distribution of grants by Australian state and territory
- how the grant activities will engage with groups or individuals, especially those historically underrepresented in STEM.

If applications are scored the same, to support a spread of projects across each state and territory in Australia and increase accessibility of STEM-related activities and events, the Program Delegate/Committee will also take into account value for money, the science discipline, modes of delivery, organisational distribution, geographic location of the activities and events, proposed audiences, and historically underrepresented groups addressed to recommend applications for funding.

We also consider any national interest, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issue or risk that we identify during any due diligence process that we conduct in respect of the applicant. This includes its directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the Corporations Act) or its application that could bring the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to fund the applicant. Such issues and risks include where we consider that funding the application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy. Where possible, we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during this due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the assessment process.

We may seek additional information about you, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the Corporations Act) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth agencies, for due diligence purposes. We may do so even if you do not nominate the sources as referees. We may also consider information that is discovered through the normal course of business.

⁵ See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

Due diligence checks may occur at eligibility, merit or decision-making stages. We use this information to verify the information you provide in the application and to identify issues and risks. See Section 13.2 for information on how we use the information you provide to us.

8.2. Who will assess applications?

We assess your application against the selection criteria.

We refer your application to the National Science Week Public Event Grants Committee (the Committee), an independent committee of experts. The committee may also seek additional advice from independent technical experts or advisors to inform the assessment process. Any expert or advisor, who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The committee will assess your application against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications in the same batch before recommending which projects to fund. The committee will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

The Committee may seek additional information about you, your application, project partners, related bodies corporate, related entities and associated entities (as defined in the [Corporations Act 2001](#)⁶) and related personnel from third party sources, including other Commonwealth entities. They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if you do not nominate the sources as referees. The Committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available as a result of the due diligence process or through the normal course of business.

The committee recommends to the Program Delegate which applications to approve for a grant.

8.3. Who will approve grants?

The Program Delegate decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations and advice of the committee and the availability of grant funds.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Program Delegate will not approve funding if there is insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00818/latest/text>

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant. You will then have until the date as outlined in section 2.1 to register your event/s on the National Science Week website.

9.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

You can submit a new application for the same (or similar) project in any future funding batches. You should include new or more information to address the weaknesses that prevented your previous application from being successful. If a new application is substantially the same as a previous ineligible or unsuccessful application, we may refuse to consider it for assessment.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth.

The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample [grant agreement](#) is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.

The approval of your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter an agreement under the National Science Week Public Event Grants 2027-30, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations in the grant agreement prior to execution of the grant agreement. You must always comply with state and territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

We will use an exchange of letters grant agreement. We will send you a letter of offer advising that your application has been successful. You accept the offer by signing and returning to us. We consider the agreement to be executed from the date we receive your signed document. You will have 30 days from the date of our letter to sign and return to us otherwise the offer may lapse.

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

10.2.1. Child safety requirements

You must comply with all relevant legislation relating to the employment or engagement of anyone working on the project that may interact with children, including all necessary working with children checks.

You must implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/national-principles-child-safe-organisations)⁷ endorsed by the Commonwealth.

You will need to complete a risk assessment to identify the level of responsibility for children and the level of risk of harm or abuse, and put appropriate strategies in place to manage those risks. You must update this risk assessment at least annually.

You will also need to establish a training and compliance regime to ensure personnel are aware of, and comply with, the risk assessment requirements, relevant legislation including mandatory reporting requirements and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

You will be required to provide an annual statement of compliance with these requirements in relation to working with children.

10.3. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party (where applicable).

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will pay 100 per cent of the grant on execution of the grant agreement. You will be required to report how you spent the grant funds at the completion of the project.

10.4. Grant Payments and GST

This grant is Goods and Services Tax (GST) exclusive.

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required

⁷ <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/national-principles-child-safe-organisations>

to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities⁸.

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the [Australian Taxation Office](#). We do not provide tax advice.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of effect.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#), Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

Information collected on the application forms of successful projects will also be used to inform the public about the grant outcomes, and to inform Questacon and the relevant state and territory National Science Week Coordinating Committees for the purpose of helping to promote events. Successful project applicant contact details will be added to the National Science Week stakeholder database, which is not available to the public. Applicants may request to be removed from the database at any time.

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- joint/consortia partners and related arrangements (if applicable).

⁸ See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at [ato.gov.au](#)

You must also inform us of any material changes in the circumstances of project participants including but not limited to:

- changes to organisation ownership or governance structure
- changes in financial and in-kind support contributions
- affiliations with foreign governments, including foreign militaries, intelligence organisations, police forces and government-owned or sponsored organisations (see section 13.6).

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- participation numbers and reach, demonstrating who engages with the event or activity (e.g. students, families, teachers, general public)
- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount. The use of artificial intelligence and other forms of automation is permissible in meeting your reporting requirements, but you remain responsible for the accuracy, security and suitability of all information submitted in your reports.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.1. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.2. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

12.3. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome
- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

12.4. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period, or at the completion of your project to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.5. Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.6. Evaluation

We will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.7. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure or publication, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This project received grant funding through Inspiring Australia – An Australian Government Initiative.’

The Inspiring Australia logo may be used on all materials related to grants under the program.

13. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by DISR. When this happens, the revised guidelines will be published on GrantConnect.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#)⁹, noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered ‘contracted service providers’ (see [NACC fact sheets](#)¹⁰).

13.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by [web chat](#) or through our [online enquiry form](#) on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our [Customer Service Charter](#) is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You can also contact the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#)¹¹ with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

13.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if any individual or entity¹² involved in assessing, funding, administering or undertaking the project:

⁹ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2022A00088/latest/text>

¹⁰ <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>

¹¹ <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

¹² Including: any of our staff able to influence the project, any member of a committee or advisor, you, your project partners, and any personnel involved in the project.

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party which is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with, or interest in, a party which could prevent the activity from being carried out fairly and independently or otherwise compromise the integrity of the activity or its participants
- has a relationship with, or interest in, a party from which they could receive personal gain because the party receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the [Public Service Act 1999](#). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our [conflict of interest policy](#)¹³ on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

13.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per 13.4, or
- personal information as per below

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#)¹⁴ and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#)¹⁵. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, the committee, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities

¹³ <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy>

¹⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A03712/latest/text>

¹⁵ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles>

- identify and manage any financial, legal/regulatory, governance, national interest, or national security risks.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our [Privacy Policy](#)¹⁶ on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

As part of your application, you declare that you will comply with the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles and that you will impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by DISR would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Privacy Act.

13.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to the committee and our Commonwealth employees, contractors and service providers, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament
- to other Commonwealth agencies for risk management purposes.

¹⁶ <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy>

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

13.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

13.6. National security

Eligible activities under this grant may have national security implications. It is your responsibility to consider any such implications of the proposed project and identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, intellectual property protection, espionage and foreign interference and unwanted transfer of technology, data or other knowledge.

You must inform the department if you identify any material risks relating to national security. To assist with managing security risks, you are strongly encouraged to review the department's [Guide to undertaking international collaboration](#)¹⁷.

13.6.1. Know Your Partner

You should ensure that you know who you are collaborating with by undertaking appropriate due diligence, proportionate to the risk and subject to available information, on all partners and personnel participating in the project. This should take into account any potential security, ethical, legal and reputational risks, and, where necessary, you should be prepared to demonstrate how you will manage and mitigate any identified risks.

¹⁷ <https://www.industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/increasing-international-collaboration/a-guide-to-undertaking-international-collaboration>

13.7. Disclosure of Commonwealth, state or territory financial penalties

You must disclose whether any of your board members, management or persons of authority have been subject to any pecuniary penalty, whether civil, criminal or administrative, imposed by a Commonwealth, state, or territory court or a Commonwealth, state, or territory entity. If this is the case, you must provide advice to the department regarding the matter for consideration.

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
activity period	Eligible activities that take place during National Science Weeks 2027-30, or where appropriate, in the week before or after National Science Weeks 2027-30. The activity period is outlined at section 3.2.
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.
batch/es	For these grant opportunity guidelines, batches encompass annual open and close periods for applications in 2027, 2028, 2029 and 2030. There are four batches in total under this grant opportunity.
<i>Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)</i>	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
community participation	An approach that enables broad and inclusive participation by diverse groups of people in events relevant to their communities. For school-hosted

Term	Definition
	projects, community participation requires open access and participation beyond a single school community or network.
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
consumable materials	Goods or items that are intended to be consumed and are not for continued use. This may include but not limited to workbooks, chemicals, timber, nails, glue, foil, paper, matches, scissors, batteries, string, cardboard, wire, rulers, pliers, paperclips, duct tape, sticky tape, metal sheeting, plastic, wheels, plastic or metal piping, electronic and solar kits.
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is signed or a specified starting date. Where there is no grant agreement, entities must publish information on individual grants as soon as practicable.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
decision maker	The person who makes a decision to award a grant.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1.
eligible application	An application or proposal for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2.
General Manager	Position title for Senior Executive Service level staff within DISR.
general public	The general public, the whole population or all the people of an area, country and wider population. For school-hosted projects, projects require open access and participation beyond a single school community or

Term	Definition
	network to be considered available to the general public.
grant	For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money¹⁸ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money¹⁹ is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single DISR Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.

¹⁸ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

¹⁹ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant
groups historically underrepresented in STEM	These groups include but are not limited to: ▪ 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.
guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
ineligible activities	Activities applied for that are not eligible for funding or that have not been approved in the grant agreement.
ineligible expenditure	Expenditure applied for that is not eligible for funding or that has not been approved in the grant agreement.
Manager	A manager in the Business Grants Hub within DISR.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science.
National Science Week Coordinating Committee	The volunteer committee that is responsible for local co-ordination of National Science Week in their state or territory, and (if applicable) the distribution of any state or territory National Science Week grants.
National Science Week Grants Committee	The body established by the Program Delegate to consider and assess eligible applications and make recommendations to the department for funding under the program.
non-consumable	Items or assets that can be used on an ongoing basis.
non-corporate Commonwealth entity	A non-corporate Commonwealth entity is a Commonwealth entity that is part of the Commonwealth and which represents and acts on

Term	Definition
	behalf of the Commonwealth. They are Commonwealth departments, such as a department of state (for example, Department of Industry, Science and Resources), as recognised by the Administrative Arrangements Orders, or a Parliamentary Department.
online event involving two-way audience participation or involvement	A virtual activity delivered via a digital platform where attendees actively engage with presenters or each other in real time. Interaction may include live questions, discussions, polls, or other participatory activities, rather than passive viewing.
personal information	Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is: Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program Delegate	A Manager within the Business Grants Hub in DISR with responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
project period	The full duration of the grant project, from date of notification of successful application, to the project completion date. The project period includes preparation work in the lead up to National Science Week, and the wind-down work afterwards, up to the project completion date.
school	Includes home schooling, early childhood, primary and/or secondary school. Both government and non-government (private) educational institutions for the following sectors: Home Schooling: including education provided to a child at home, rather than through attendance at a registered school

Term	Definition
	▪ Early Childhood: including but not limited to pre-schools and other child-care settings that provide care and supervision of children, to prepare children for school, and to ensure that children are able to effectively participate in subsequent learning opportunities ▪ Primary: for students starting at Foundation (also called kindergarten/ preparatory/ pre-school) through to Year 6 or 7 ▪ Secondary/Senior Secondary: for students from Years 7 or 8 to 10 and/or Years 11 to 12.
selection criteria	Comprises of eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
the sciences/STEM	Means any or all of: ▪ Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander knowledge systems ▪ the natural and physical sciences, such as biology, physics, chemistry and geology ▪ the applied sciences, such as engineering, medicine and technology ▪ newly emerging and interdisciplinary fields, such as environmental science, nanotechnology and phenomics mathematics.
tools	Devices, objects or instruments (e.g. hand tools, hammers, glue guns and soldering irons) required to deliver the project or event.
value with money	Value with money in this document refers to ‘value with relevant money’ which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government’s outcomes being achieved; and

Term	Definition
	the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.