



issues backgrounder

Number 7/July 2014

NSW Parliamentary Research Service

Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Members of Parliament regularly receive requests directly or through their electorate offices about funding opportunities for community groups. This Issues Backgrounder is designed to assist in responding to such requests. It is organised under the following headings:

- Government gateways to community grants
- Non-government gateways to community grants
- Grants in selected subject areas
- Selected private sector/non-government funding sources
- Selected local government funding sources
- List of useful links

It should be emphasised that this does not purport to be a comprehensive survey of the grants sector in Australia, an area which is as large as it is complex. The specific grants noted in the "Grants in selected subject areas" are indicative only, as are those in the "Selected private sector/non-government funding sources" and the "Selected local government funding sources" sections. It should also be emphasised that funding opportunities are subject to constant change and must therefore be checked for their current availability.

The key to successful funding is a proper assessment of the project at hand and matching this with the appropriate public and/or private sector scheme. For example, you may be seeking a grant for what is primarily a sporting activity, but grants may also be available under other categories, such as youth, older people, indigenous people, health and wellbeing.

It should be noted that the Federal Government has begun a national advertising campaign calling on Not for Profits to apply for funding to deliver services from January 2015 under its new grants arrangements (see this [Media Release](#)). It is said that:

The new arrangements include the creation of the Families and Communities Programme; Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme; and the Housing and Homelessness Programme; in addition to the existing Home Support Programme; Residential and Flexible Care Programme; Workforce and Quality Programme; and Ageing and Service Improvement Programme.

These changes will make it easier for organisations to apply for funding and allow them to focus on delivering important services in the community instead of filling out forms.

The improvements will create a more efficient and effective way of delivering government funds to the community by reducing red tape and duplication for service providers and creating more streamlined, simplified and consistent reporting processes.

To view a diagram of the Government's new grant arrangements, click [here](#). Applications for funding under the new program arrangements will open on 19 June 2014 and close 23 July 2014. Further information on each program area can be found [here](#).

1 Government gateways to community grants

1.1 [Commonwealth Department of Social Services](#)

At the Commonwealth level a good starting point is the Department of Social Services [website](#), which sets out where help can be found with grant applications and lists the sources of funding on a State by State basis. For NSW, the website states:

In New South Wales, the [Community Builders](#) website provides a list of funding programs from federal, state and local government, as well as institutions, philanthropic trusts and companies. Another funding option is the [Multicultural Advantage Grants Program](#), or for communities in South-East NSW the [IMB Community Foundation](#).

This [link](#) provides access to Commonwealth grants across all federal government websites.

1.2 [Community Builders NSW](#)

[CommunityBuilders.NSW](#) is a NSW Government initiative which describes itself as an:

electronic clearing house for everyone involved in community level social, economic and environmental renewal including community leaders, community & government workers, volunteers, program managers, academics, policy makers, youth and seniors.

This website again presents a gateway into the funding opportunities available to community groups. Funding sources can be searched by subject areas and by date. There is no cost involved.

1.3 [Commonwealth Government Grants Link](#)

This is a Commonwealth level initiative which can be accessed via the [business.gov.au website](#), which states:

Our Grants & Assistance Finder helps you locate the grants and assistance programs most relevant to your business for free. Grants and other funding programs are available from the Australian, state and territory governments, and in some cases from local councils. You can search for grants in many categories, including innovation, employment and environment. Visit our [Grants and assistance](#) topic for more information on finding grants and funding for your business.

Basically, the website offers a comprehensive guide to federal grants, organised around key subject areas and broken down by State. For example, the NSW related grants can be accessed [here](#) and searched for by type of grant, for which there is a drop down menu that includes such titles as “business development”, “climate change and environment”, “employment” and “regional”. A full list of grants that apply to NSW can be found [here](#). There is no cost involved.

1.4 [Regional Development Australia Sydney](#)

The [Grant Funding Directory](#) is a joint Commonwealth and NSW State Government initiative to provide a compilation of the programs and grants available to communities. According to the website:

This directory is a compilation of Australian and NSW State Government programs and grants available to communities, art groups, individual artists, as well as links to relevant websites. This does not represent the totality of available grants. RDA Sydney cannot guarantee the accuracy and currency of every grant. Therefore, users should check information on websites and seek advice from funding bodies before applying.

2. Non-government gateways to community grants

2.1 [Pro Bono Australia](#)

For non-government gateways a good starting point is this [website](#), which provides a free, comprehensive and up to date listing of grants available from all sources, government and non-government, and on all subject areas.

2.2 [Our Community.com.au](#)

The Our Community.com.au [website](#) is a non-government social enterprise body. The website provides accredited training, half-day workshops and conferences designed specifically for the staff, volunteers, board/committee members, and supporters of Australian community organisations. A [Grant Search database](#) is available to subscribers, as is a [Grants Help Centre](#).

For a small fee (from \$85 per year), an [Easy Grants newsletter](#) (now called the [Funding Centre Scoop](#)) is available and you must subscribe to this if you want to access all the details on the [Grant Search database](#); but note this is available to Members of the NSW Parliament via the Parliamentary Library's [homepage](#).

The [Funding Centre Scoop](#) is described as “Australia’s only comprehensive grants and fundraising hub”.

2.3 [Business Grants Australia](#) (free phone 1800 785 972).

This is another non-government central clearing house for a wide range of public and private sector grants, available to business and not for profit organisations and broken down by State. Full details and costs are available on request. For example, in respect to agriculture/fishing/forestry the [website](#) states:

Grants, loans and subsidies are in place to assist Australian Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry Industries. Currently there are over 1200 grants and loans available to business owners in Australia for industry needs including food manufacturers, export assistance, climate change plus much more.

2.4 [Philanthropy Australia](#)

[Philanthropy Australia](#) is another non-government organisation which provides a searchable database of grants and other funding opportunities available to community groups. It describes itself as follows:

Philanthropy Australia does not provide funding of any kind.

We are the national peak body for philanthropy, with a membership consisting of trusts and foundations, businesses, families and individuals who want to make a difference through their own philanthropy and to encourage others to become philanthropists.

We can't recommend who you should go to for funding, but there are plenty of resources at your disposal, in the [Seek funding](#) section of our website. You can also purchase the [Directory of Funders](#) to access contact details for more than 250 grant-makers.

3. Grants in selected subject areas

For all these subject areas, searches can be conducted on each of the "gateway" websites cited above. The subject areas are as follows:

- Rural and regional grants
- Regional infrastructure
- Sport and recreation
- The Arts
- Culture
- Environment
- Disability

3.1 Rural and regional grants

The [***Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal***](#) (FRRR) website provides a good introduction to a range of grants available to rural and regional NSW. Any Australian not-for-profit organisation that offers clear public benefit for communities living in small rural, regional or remote locations in Australia can apply for funding of its projects and activities. There is an "eligibility criteria" [link](#) which sets this out very clearly. There is also a [Grants Calendar](#) page which states that

Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

FRRR has a number of grants that open at different times of the year. As most of our grants are recurrent they are generally provided during the same periods each year. Our event calendar allows you to check the current status of each grant to see what is currently available, and the respective opening and closing dates for each program.

As of 24 June 2014 the following grants were “open”:

Grant Program	Summary	Status	Key dates
REAPing Rewards - Round 4	National program targeting educational outcomes in rural and remote communities. It supports locally-driven projects and programs that directly benefit people up to 18 years of age, and their educators.	Open	Applications close 25 August 2014
Repair-Restore-Renew (RRR) 2013	The Repair-Restore-Renew (RRR) grants program helps communities in Qld, NSW, VIC and TAS recover from the fires, floods and cyclones that affected communities during 2013.	Open	Applications close 1 August 2014
Grants for Resilience & Wellness (GR&W) - Round 6	Program with the specific focus of providing assistance towards community-strengthening and resilience-building projects for communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires to build strength and capacity for the future.	Open	Applications opened 14 June 2014
Tackling Tough Times Together	The Tackling Tough Times Together grant program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the drought.	Open	Applications opened 19 June

In addition the [website](#) makes reference to the following grants programs:

Grant Program	Summary	Status	Key dates
Lachlan Region Community grants program	Funding for projects that contribute to the social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas for communities in the Lachlan Shire, NSW.	Closed	Applications open August 2014
Caring for Ageing Rural Australians (CARA)	A targeted program designed to benefit and support older people living in small rural and remote communities.	Closed	Applications open 7 July 2014
ANZ Seeds of Renewal	An ANZ funded program which focuses on enhancing education and employment opportunities in rural, regional and remote areas. Preference is given to projects in communities with fewer than 15,000 people.	Closed	Applications open 8 July 2014
Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) - Round 26	Grants for communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer in small rural and remote locations in Australia.	Closed	Applications open 1 August 2014
Back to School (BTS)	National program that helps rural	Closed	EOIs will open 1

	and remote children and young people access quality educational experiences by providing vouchers from Target or local retailers, to students in need, and their families.		September 2014
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There is an [FAQ page](#) to assist with applications.

The **NSW Department of Primary Industries** [website](#) is another useful website for accessing rural and regional grants in this State. Some of the programs cited currently are as follows:

Commonwealth Learning Scholarships	Assist rural, regional, and Indigenous students with the costs of high education. The scholarships are merit-based, non-repayable and are available through individual higher education institutes. There are two new scholarships: The Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship which provides \$2000 per year for up to four years; and The Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarship which provides undergraduate students from rural and regional areas with \$4000 per year for up to four years.
Greening Australia - Whole of paddock rehabilitation	Landholders that have areas of 10ha or more of degraded box gum woodland can apply under this program. Greening Australia will carry out a 5 year restoration program of revegetation involving stewardship payments for loss of income during rehabilitation. EOIs open now, assessed on a first come first served basis.
Ian Potter Foundation	Provides grants up to \$100 000 for Australian urban and regional communities to live sustainably and preserve biodiversity. Expressions of interest are ongoing.
Leg-Up Grants for Volunteer-Run Museums	Provides \$100 to \$500 dollar-for-dollar matched grants for things such as attending a workshop, visiting another museum to gather information, hosting an event, travel assistance, attendance fees and speaker fees. Available any time throughout the year until funds are expended.
Greening Australia - Whole of paddock rehabilitation	Landholders that have areas of 10ha or more of degraded box gum woodland can apply under this program. Greening Australia will carry out a 5 year restoration program of revegetation involving stewardship payments for loss of income during rehabilitation. EOIs open now, assessed on a first come first served basis.
Women in Tourism & Hospitality Scholarship	Gives a young woman from regional NSW the opportunity to achieve her career goals through a \$20 000 scholarship grant from the AHA (NSW)'s Charitable Foundation. The recipient will undertake a three-year Bachelor of Business Degree (International Hotel & Resorts Management) at the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School.

Further programs include the **Global Fund for women**, which

Supports women's groups that advance the human rights of women and girls by providing small, flexible, and timely grants ranging from \$500 to \$20 000 for

operating and project expenses. Groups applying must: be based in a country outside the United States; demonstrate a strong commitment to women's equality and human rights; and be governed, directed, and led by women. Priority is given to groups that: are just beginning or need initial funding, and which do not have access to funds from larger donor agencies; are working on issues that are difficult or controversial for women to raise in their communities, yet are critical to the realisation of women's human rights; are organized and led by women from particularly marginalised populations, including but not limited to: refugees, rural women, lesbians, sex workers, women with disabilities, and women from ethnic, religious, and cultural minorities; are located in a region or country that has extremely limited funding resources; and actively seek to include the perspectives of those served by or benefiting from its activities.

Website: www.globalfundforwomen.org

There is also the **James N Kirby Foundation Grants** program which:

Provides grants to charitable, educational and technical bodies throughout Australia in the areas of health, education, technology and science, art, literature, and the conservation, management and development of Australia's natural resources. Grants range from \$500 to \$100 000 and the average grant is around \$4 000.

Website: www.kirbyfoundation.com.au

Discussed below is the Regional Arts NSW [website](#).

3.2 Regional Infrastructure

Commonwealth Regional Development grants:

The federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website refers to the [Community Development Grants Programme](#), stating:

The Australian Government has established the Community Development Grants Programme to support needed infrastructure that promotes stable, secure and viable local and regional economies. The Programme will fund projects including the 2013 election commitments and some identified uncontracted projects from the Regional Development Australia Fund and Community Infrastructure Grants Program.

More than \$300 million is available under the Community Development Grants Programme for single year or multiple years projects. Funding for projects range in value from \$2,000 to \$13 million. Funding will commence in the 2013-14 financial year and will cease on 30 June 2017. Multi-year projects must be scheduled for completion and final payment made on or before 30 June 2017.

Guidelines, application forms and further details are available on the same [website](#).

Note that the [Regional Development Australia Fund](#) (RDAF), a national program to support Australia's regions and enhance the economic development and liveability of their communities, is now closed. Also, the [Community Infrastructure Grants Program](#) was not open for new applications as at June 2014.

3.3 Sport and recreation

Federally, a good starting point is the Australian Sports Commission [website](#), which sets out a range of grants and scholarships available to individuals. The following schemes are included:

- [Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program](#)
- [Local Sporting Champions grants program](#)
- [Women Leaders in Sport Grant Program](#)
- [National Officiating Scholarship Program](#)
- [Active After-school Communities grants management](#)

NSW Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation

Financial assistance and grants are available to sport and recreation organisations through a number of sources, including:

NSW Footy Facilities Fund

The NSW Footy Facilities Fund is an initiative of the National Rugby League (NRL) and the NSW Government and assists clubs improve the quality, availability and standard of their facilities.

The NSW Footy Facilities Fund aims to improve facilities for a variety of benefits including increasing participation, safety and security, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and building strong communities. **Applications closed on Friday 30 May 2014.**

Participation and Facility Program

The focus of this program is to provide increased opportunities for participation in sport and recreation and assist with the funding for the development of local and regional level sport and recreation facilities in NSW. **Applications closed on 2 April 2014.**

Sport and Recreation Events Program

The primary focus of the Sport and Recreation Events Program is to attract financially viable sporting events to NSW. The Program will provide funding for events that are international or national in focus, are recognised by the relevant sporting authority and provide an opportunity for talented athletes, officials and coaches to develop their skills through exposure to and participation in these events. The Program will also support events conducted in regional and rural areas that promote participation in sport and physical activity and provide a focal point for community building and engagement. **Applications closed on 13 June 2014 (for events planned after late-July 2014).**

Safe Shooting Program

To assist shooting, hunting and collecting clubs meet Work Health and Safety obligations and compliance requirements as assessed by the NSW Firearms Registry. **Applications closed on 19 February 2014.**

Sports Development Program

The Sports Development Program (SDP) is designed to assist eligible State sporting organisations and peak industry bodies to work in partnership with the State Government to develop their sport and recreation activities at all levels in NSW. This program provides a flexible system of financial support, which responds to the priorities of organisations and is consistent with government policies and priorities.

There is an [FAQs link](#) which sets out eligibility for funding.

Other grants include the **Layne Beachley Aim for the Stars Grant**. This:

Provides grants to Australian females aged 12–26 years to achieve goals in their sporting, academic, community, business, environmental or cultural pursuits. Grants are provided to hard-working females who are committed to pursuing their passion and who need financial support. 2014 grants close 15 November 2013.

Website: www.aimforthestars.com.au

3.4 The Arts

Federally, a good starting point is the Attorney-General's Department/Ministry for the Arts [website](#), which sets out the full range of funding and support opportunities. Among other things, the website [notes](#) the following three sources:

Australia Council

The Australia Council is the Australian Government's principal arts funding body, which provides a range of programs to individual artists and arts organisations. Further information on funding grants can be found [here](#).

Creative Partnerships Australia

Creative Partnerships Australia (CPA) drives private giving, social investment and philanthropy for the arts in Australia. It also encourages sponsorship and corporate support, and builds partnerships between artists, business, private donors and the community to support the arts. Launched in February 2013, CPA is a Commonwealth owned company resulting from the merger of the Australia Business Arts Foundation and the Australia Council's Artsupport Australia program. Further information on CPA can be found [here](#).

Arts Access Australia

Cultivate is a professional development fund for Australian artists with a disability. *Cultivate* provides seed funding of up to \$8,000 for the costs associated with developing a professional practice as an artist including specific skills or professional development opportunities.

For more information about *Cultivate* go to the [Arts Access Australia website](#).

For this State, a good starting point is the Regional Arts NSW [website](#), which sets out the grants available by category and also by calendar date. In respect to regional arts grants the following are noted:

[Regional Arts Fund \(RAF\)](#)

The Regional Arts Fund provides grants for arts and cultural activities in regional NSW that are sustainable, have long term cultural, economic and social benefits, develop partnerships and cultural networks and provide skills development opportunities. [Read more](#)

- Closing: **14 August 2014**
- Categories: **All Artforms / General**
- Open To: **Organisations**

[Country Arts Support Program](#)

Small grants to arts and community organisations and local arts councils in regional NSW for short term, locally initiated projects. [Read more](#)

- Closing: **1 October 2014**
- Categories: **All Artforms / General**
- Open To: **Organisations**

[Quick Response Grants \(QUICKS\)](#)

Small grants that respond to arts development and professional development opportunities that arise at short notice. Before you proceed, please see this document for a list of activities that will NOT be funded under the Quick Response Program. [Read more](#)

- Closing: **Ongoing**
- Categories: **All Artforms / General**
- Open To: **Individuals, Organisations**

The Regional Arts NSW [website](#) sets out a summary of the main grants and funding opportunities available to artists and not-for-profit organisations who work in the arts and cultural sector, as follows:

- [Accessible Arts](#)
- [Arts NSW](#)
- [Australia Council for the Arts](#)
- [Australia- Thailand Institute](#)
- [Balnaves Foundation](#)
- [Community Relations Commission](#)
- [Copyright Agency](#)
- [Department of Communications](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- [Department of Social Services](#)
- [Destination NSW](#)
- [Environment & Heritage NSW](#)
- [Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)
- [Graham F. Smith Peace Trust Inc](#)
- [Ian Potter Foundation](#)
- [Metro Screen](#)
- [Ministry for the Arts](#)
- [Museums and Galleries NSW](#)
- [Music NSW](#)
- [National Association for Visual Artists](#)
- [National Library of Australia](#)

- [Next Wave](#)
- [NRMA Insurance](#)
- [NSW Trade & Investment](#)
- [Outback Theatre For Young People \(OTYP\)](#)
- [Phonographic Performance Company of Australia](#)
- [Regional Arts NSW](#)
- [Royal Australian Historical Society](#)
- [Screen Australia](#)
- [Screen NSW](#)
- [The Myer Foundation and Sydney Myer Fund](#)
- [The Seed Fund](#)

In NSW there is also an Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund. The details are set out on the NSW Department of Trade & Investment, Arts NSW [website](#). Note that the current funding round closed in March 2014. A list of past funding recipients can be found [here](#). Reference is also made to the [NSW Aboriginal Regional Arts Fund Guidelines](#).

3.5 Culture

The [NSW Community Relations Commission](#) provides funding assistance to organisations to support the objectives of the Commission as set out in the Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000.

The NSW Community Relations Commission [website](#) provides details for three broad categories of grants that it administers under the **Multicultural Advantage Grants Program**, as follows:

[Multicultural Partnership Grants](#) From time to time the Commission invites suitable organisations and partners to apply for a Partnership Grant of up to \$ 80,000 for long-term projects (up to three years), that maximise economic participation and the linguistic and cultural assets of the NSW population.

[2013/2014 Community Inclusion Grants](#) For grants of up to \$20,000 for projects with a particular focus on mentoring and on inter-cultural and inter-faith activities that bring diverse groups of people together.

[Sponsorship Grants](#) of up to \$2,000 to support events and activities, such as festivals that foster community cohesion and promote the benefits of a multicultural society. Applications for Sponsorship grants must be submitted to the Commission not less than 8 weeks prior to the event.

Detailed information on the timetable, eligibility and funding arrangements and priorities are available under each heading. Application forms for all three categories of grants can be found [here](#).

Details of past grants recipients can be found [here](#).

3.6 Environment

The NSW Department of Environment and Heritage is one source of funding for community groups in this area. These are set out on the Grants Programs [website](#), which includes reference to the following current programs as at 24 June 2014

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Program	Description
Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream	An environmental restoration and rehabilitation program that funds projects that restore or rehabilitate degraded areas; or protect important ecosystems and habitats; prevent or minimise future environmental damage and enhance the quality of specific environmental resources. These projects are run by community groups and are to be sustained over a six year period.
Eco Schools	Funds schools so they can involve their students and the community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.
Food Gardens in Schools	Provides learning opportunities for students, teachers and other members of the school community about healthy sustainable living through growing and harvesting food in school gardens.
Education	Supports projects that increase commitment to protecting the environment and promoting sustainable behaviour.
Lead Environment Community Groups	Provides administrative funds for environmental organisations that work with their communities to conserve the environment.
Protecting our Places	Supports projects that restore or rehabilitate Aboriginal land or land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people, or that educate Aboriginal and other communities about the environment.
Research	Funds projects managed by research institutions, government agencies and community organisations that research local solutions to environmental problems and ways of operating that are less harmful to the environment.
Restoration and Rehabilitation	Funds projects that restore or rehabilitate degraded areas, or protect important ecosystems and habitats, prevent or minimise future environmental damage and enhance the quality of specific environmental resources.
Pollution Clean-up	Two programs which assist with clean-up of emergency pollution, illegally dumped asbestos and orphan waste.
Waste Less Recycle More Initiative	Programs run in partnership with the EPA that support new and innovative waste and recycling programs funded by the Waste and Environment Levy. Local government, community groups with the not-for-profit sector, and SMEs will be funded to increase diversion of waste from landfill.

The [National Landcare Directory](#) (NLD) is a network of community environmental 'care' groups across Australia, including Landcare Networks and support organisations. [Landcare Australia](#) administers the **Junior Landcare Grants Program**, through which any school or organization (including youth groups, scouts groups, pre-schools, primary schools, high schools, day care centres) that would like to involve their students in Landcare projects, in conjunction with local Landcare groups, can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. The "grants now open" [website](#) states:

Yates Junior Landcare Creative Gardening Grants 2014

Yates and Junior Landcare are encouraging schools to get creative in the garden. In celebration of the 25 years that Landcare Australia has been working with the Landcare community, Yates is proud to award 25 grants of up to \$1,000 each to schools and youth groups who can demonstrate innovative ways of creating a garden within their school or community. Grants will be awarded to the most innovative, sustainable and environmentally conscious entries. [Find out more and apply.](#)

Planting the Future Grants

We have been working with the Landcare community for the last 25 years, building a generation of Landcarers. To celebrate this milestone and to help facilitate the next generation of Landcarers, **25 grants of up to \$1,000** will be awarded to successful recipients who can implement Junior Landcare projects that demonstrate Landcare's commitment to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing Australia's natural environment and its productivity. [Find out more and apply.](#)

Turf Australia Perfect Pitch of Green Program 2014

After two years of running the "Perfect Patch of Green" program we are pleased to support the Perfect Pitch of Green program in 2014. Turf Australia and Junior Landcare continue their commitment to making a positive difference to children's play environments and will be providing 10 schools and youth groups (including sporting clubs that involve young people) the opportunity to have a professional turf grower provide natural turf as grass coverage for kids and students to experience and enjoy. [Find out more and apply.](#)

Jemena Junior Landcare Grants

The Jemena Junior Landcare Grants encourage **primary school** communities within [Jemena's areas of operation](#) to undertake projects that will increase environmental sustainability at their school or in their communities. **20 x \$1,500 grants** are available to realise the project. Schools may also be invited to present their project at some stage at a Jemena sponsored school event. [Find out more and apply](#)

3.7 Disability

The NSW Department of Education and Communities administers the [Intervention Support Program – Community Grants Program](#), the purpose of which is to improve the educational opportunities and personal development of children with disabilities. The [Program](#) consists of 4 components. But note that all 4 components have now closed for applications and that this area of funding is currently under review. The 4 components are as follows:

- **Young Children with Disabilities (YCWD)** - to provide grants to support learning and educational development opportunities for children with disability who are below school age to prepare them for inclusion into early childhood education programs and school.
- **Children in Residential Care (CIRC)** - provides grants to assist children with disability living away from their families in residential care.
- **Non-School Organisations (NSO)** - to assist in the provision of services which assist students with severe disabilities to access appropriate educational programs in government and catholic schools, eg itinerant programs, specialist support staff.
- **Capital Grants for Projects at Non-Government Centres** - to provide capital grants for projects that are integral to programs designed to improve educational outcomes for children (birth to 18 years) with disabilities by improving their participation and achievement.

Eligibility for applying for funding is set out under the guidelines for each of the programs, all of which are basically geared to assist the not-for-profit sector.

Another NSW Government scheme is the [Supporting Children with Additional Needs \(SCAN\)](#) program, which also appears to be under review currently. The website states:

The SCAN program is designed to build the capacity of eligible services to include children with additional needs. SDN Children's Services manages SCAN in the Metro Central Region (South Eastern Sydney and Inner Western Sydney). This program is funded by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

.....
SCAN aims to:

- improve opportunities for children with additional needs to access a preschool setting
- support children with additional needs to participate meaningfully in a quality early childhood program consistent with the *Early Years Learning Framework*
- develop the ability of educators to respond to, and include, children with additional support needs into the education program

Who is eligible to apply?

- approved preschools in NSW (not-for-profit and incorporated)
- children with additional needs, enrolled in preschool and aged 3 years (on or before 31 July) to school age

The Commonwealth provides grants in this area under its new program structure, with its website stating:

The Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme will provide support for people with disability and mental health issues, and their carers.

The programme has a focus on early intervention and other support through community based initiatives. The Programme actively seeks to help individuals with disability to find a suitable position in the workplace.

The programme encompasses grants that promote an understanding of people with disability and carers, to encourage support for their dignity, rights and wellbeing and to maximise their potential to participate as equal citizens in society. Service models designed in consultation with the mental health sector will better meet the needs of clients, communities and service providers.

Further details on the Disability, Mental Health and Carers Programme can be found in the Programme Guidelines Overview and fact sheets below.

- [Disability and Carer Service Improvement and Sector Support Programme Guidelines Overview](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Disability and Carer Support Programme Guidelines Overview](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Community Mental Health Programme Guidelines Overview](#) and [Fact Sheet](#)

According to Community Builders NSW, the [Perpetual Foundation](#) is one example of a non-government body that provides funding to community groups to aid and support people with disabilities (among other things). The funding that is available is between \$5,000 and \$50,000. Further information is available at <http://www.perpetual.com.au>

The [Pro Bono Australia website](#) notes that:

Grants are now on offer for programs that are designed to boost and foster arts and disability practice in NSW.

Delineate 2014, an initiative of Accessible Arts in partnership with the Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign, is offering grants of \$3000 as part of its small arts grant program that aims to develop a deepening engagement for programs with a focus on sustainable outcomes.

According to Accessible Arts, Delineate is an arts program that seeks to enrich the creative initiatives of the Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign run by Family and Community Services (FACS) to celebrate International Day of People with Disability (December 3).

It said those encouraged to apply include: disability services coordinating quality arts programs; service providers working with people with disability in the arts; arts organisations providing programs for people with disability; individual artists with disability; and applicants must be a resident of NSW.

“Recipients will receive \$3000 towards an arts project and/or program to be developed throughout the Don't DIS my ABILITY campaign,” Accessible Arts said. Grants will be available for the following art forms: dance, music, theatre, visual arts, writing, hybrid/interdisciplinary arts, screen arts, multi-media and community arts.

Applications close on Monday June 30 at 4pm and recipients will be notified on Friday, August 1.

4. Selected Private Sector Funding Sources

4.1 [IMB Community Foundation](#)

The [IMB Community Foundation](#) provides grants for community groups in a region covering Wollongong and the Shoalhaven to Bega and the far south coast, inland to Canberra, Goulburn, the Southern Highlands, the Macarthur Region and into southern and western Sydney can apply. Most applications received by the IMB Community Foundation usually request between \$1,000 and \$30,000 for project funding. The objectives of the Foundation include:

1. To encourage and assist economic, social and environmental diversification within the communities in which IMB operates (projects must have strong links to the areas in which IMB members live and work);
2. To advance shared prosperity and sustainability in the region by supporting social, cultural, environmental, heritage, educational, tourism and economic initiatives within communities, which will ultimately provide economic and social benefits;

A list of the 2014 recipients can be found [here](#). For example, in the Illawarra region they include a grant to Bulli High for an “Environmental Sustainment” project and for Peterborough School to compile, print and distribute a “Disability Options Directory”. Nearly 50 grant recipients and projects are listed in total. Further information is available at <http://www.imb.com.au/community-community-foundation.html>. It states:

The IMB Community Foundation was established in 1999 to provide financial support to community groups with positive ideas and concepts to help them convert their ideas into working projects.

Since its inception, the IMB Community Foundation has granted \$7.1 million to support over 450 projects with a diverse range of project themes, throughout our local communities.

Applications for funding in 2014 are now closed.

4.2 [OPTUS Connecting Community Grants Program](#)

The relevant [website](#) states that:

Optus Community Grants were born to help organisations like yours. To help the helpers. With funding of up to \$10,000.

Is it working? You tell us. In five years, we've donated almost 1.2 million dollars to more than 200 community organisations across Australia. Now maybe it's your turn to get a helping hand.

The 2013 Optus Community grants closed on October 31st, 2013 with all applicants notified in December 2013. Our 2014 grants will open in September so stay tuned to this website for more information closer to the date.

The same [website](#) has links to "previous projects" and "guidelines" for applicants. As for eligibility, it is stated that:

At Optus we support two types of non-profit organisations – organisations with Deductible Gift Recipient ("DGR") status and organisations without DGR status. You can check if your organisation has DGR status online at www.abr.gov.au. Simply search by name or ABN to find if your organisation has this status.

As for "entry categories", the [website](#) notes:

All funded projects must address at least one of the selection criteria:

- **Education:** This category funds projects that help to improve education outcomes. Projects funded will aim to close education gaps, help kids stay engaged in school and remove barriers to completing education or training. Projects may fund equipment enabling the completion of school or TAFE assignments.
- **Wellbeing:** This category funds projects, which help to improve young people's wellbeing. This category includes young people accessing appropriate programs or resources in areas such as mental health, emotional and physical wellbeing support.
- **Access to technology:** This category funds projects for young people who come from difficult backgrounds with limited financial resources and access to technology. Projects may focus on the safe and responsible use of phones and the internet among youth.

3.8 [BUPA Health Foundation](#)

This is one example of where a major provider of private health care provides grants for health related projects. The [website](#) states:

Since our inception in 2005, we have invested around \$22 million across our five focus areas:

- Wellbeing
- Healthy ageing
- Promoting affordable healthcare
- Empowering people about their health
- Chronic disease

Further information about the Foundation Grants Program can be found [here](#). Grants range from \$100,000 to \$500,000 for up to three years.

There is a [FAQs](#) section which sets out the application process. It also includes the following information:

My organisation is a not for profit/charity. Can I still submit an application to be considered? The Bupa Health Foundation funding is open to all organisations.

Is the Foundation interested in local community initiatives? The Foundation wants to get involved in projects with a potential for national or state level significance in order to help as many Australians as possible.

How much funding is available? In the past the Foundation has given up to a total of \$3 million each year to various initiatives, both targeted and those awarded through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

The current and completed initiatives can be found [here](#). Recipients seem mainly to be major institutions and not for profit organisations, such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Faculty of Pain Medicine and Life Be In It.

3.9 [ANZ](#)

The ANZ Trustees manage a range of funding opportunities, which fall into 4 broad categories:

- Grants by invitation
- Small grants
- Major grants
- Health and Medical Research Grants

According to the [website](#), which sets out contact and application details, the ANZ Trustees manage a wide range of small grant programs typically allocating up to \$50,000 for discrete projects to be completed within 12 months. The [major grants](#) are generally larger than \$50,000 per annum and may be allocated for up to 3-5 years. In respect to grants by invitation, the various trusts and foundations administered by ANZ are listed and it is said:

ANZ Trustees manage an extensive range of granting programs that invite specific organisations to apply. These grants range in value from small to large grants.

It is further [stated](#) that:

Annually the charitable funds managed by ANZ Trustees generate around \$70 million for charitable distribution and make grants to over 1600 Australian charities and not-for-profit organisations. The size of grants can range from \$1,000 to \$5.7 million, and each grant program has its own guidelines and closing date for applications. A range of grant programs are available from educational, medical to indigenous and more. We prefer to help charities that approach social problems in smart, contemporary and creative ways.

Recent grants are listed [here](#).

4.5 [Commonwealth Bank Community Grants](#)

The purpose of these grants, which are funded and administered by Commonwealth bank employees, is to assist children's charities. The website states that:

Congratulations to all successful Community Grant recipients in 2014. We awarded more than \$2 million in Community Grants to 238 community organisations across Australia, who are working to improve the health and wellbeing of young Australians.

Since 1917 our Staff Community Fund has been supporting the health and wellbeing of Australian children. Thanks to the generosity of our staff who donate to the Staff Community Fund, we are able to assist thousands of Aussie kids each year.

As with other schemes, a [FAQ](#) section is included which answers questions about levels of funding and eligibility. Grants are for amounts up to \$10,000. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

To be eligible to receive a Community Grant your organisation must run, manage, conduct or implement a program that supports children and youth up to the age of 21 years old in Australia.

You must also be endorsed with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Tax Office or Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Applications for the next round of Community Grants will open in early 2015.

A full list, divided by State, of successful 2014 recipients is provided [here](#). One example is the **Amputee Association of Sydney** which received \$8,540:

The Amputee Association of Sydney assists new amputees with peer support, education and comfort. With outreach to all ages, it gives children with congenital or amputated limbs, and their families, the opportunity to connect with others. Its annual camp at Cobbitty engages and empowers interstate attendees while reducing social isolation and loneliness. This Community Grant will support Teen Amp Camp, Australia's only camp for teens with limb loss or congenital limb differences. The Amputee Association gives up to 30 young people the opportunity to meet others with similar challenges and experiences, while being supported by healthcare professionals and engaged in recreational, creative and physical activities and informative workshops.

Another example is **Central Coast Kids in Need** which received \$8,000:

Central Coast Kids in Need assists local families with accommodation costs, so they can stay with sick children who are undergoing specialised treatment in Sydney and Newcastle hospitals. It enables parents without the financial means to pay for accommodation to provide emotional support for their children during their hospital stay. This Community Grant will help around 200 families living on the Central Coast to support a child with serious illness through their frequent or prolonged hospital visits. By covering travel costs, it alleviates parents' financial burden and helps keep local families together through times of crisis.

4.6 [Telstra's Kids Fund](#)

According to the [Telstra Foundation website](#):

The Telstra's Kids Fund is a unique countrywide program run by the Telstra Foundation. It offers our employees the chance to support community groups their children and families benefit from.

The Fund gives grants to grass roots initiatives and projects that develop children's talents and increase their connection to their own communities.

In 2013 alone, we've supported 625 community non-profit organisations across Australia in areas such as:

- Arts and culture
- Disability
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Sport and recreation
- Valuing cultural diversity

All the details about the Fund can be found [here](#), including the eligibility criteria, which restrict grants to Telstra group employees. It said in this respect:

Telstra's Kids Fund is a valuable means by which Telstra employees can direct Telstra's philanthropic giving and support their local communities across Australia.

4.7 [Aurizon Community Giving Fund](#)

The relevant [website](#) states:

The Aurizon Community Giving Fund program was established to provide relevant and sustainable support to communities in the areas of Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety, Environment and Education. Since 2011, we have helped almost 150 community groups around Australia help others. Those eligible for cash grants are non-profit organisations that hold an approved deductible gift recipient (DGR) status charity (Item 1) from the Australian Tax Office.

The next round of the Aurizon Community Giving Fund will open September 2014.

4.8 [Clubs NSW](#)

The ClubGrants [website](#) states that, last year registered clubs allocated more than \$92 million to deserving causes through the ClubGRANTS program.

Since the scheme began, clubs have given close to \$1 billion to recipients such as Surf Life Saving, the Ted Noffs Foundation, Vision Australia and Legacy.

ClubGRANTS funding is available to community groups, charities and sporting teams across NSW.

Approximately 500 clubs voluntarily allocate funds to the ClubGRANTS scheme. Funding is available under three separate categories:

Category 1: *Supports community welfare and social services; community development; employment assistance activities; community health services; and projects aimed at improving the living standards of low income and disadvantaged people.*

Category 2: *Provides funding for general community development and support activities, such as junior sport.*

Category 3: *Is a state-wide fund that supports large-scale community infrastructure projects, such as hospitals and sporting facilities.*

Examples of funding projects in 2013 can be found [here](#). One example is that Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club (Sharks) gave \$12,000 to fund swimming lessons for local children with a disability.

4.9 Other private sector/non-government funding sources include:

Coles – [Our Local Community Support Program](#)

Coles - [Junior Landscape School Garden Grant](#)

Woolworths – [Community Grants](#)

Myer – [The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund](#)

NAB – [Community Grants](#)

Westpac - [Foundation Community Grants](#)

[Sisters of Charity Foundation](#)

Further examples of non-government sources for grants can be found [here](#) in this 2013 Commonwealth Parliamentary Library publication.

5. Selected Local Government funding sources

5.1 [City of Sydney](#)

The City of Sydney offers a wide range of grants, including community matching grants, heritage grants, community service grants, cultural grants and local community grants. The last 2 are set out in more detail by way of example:

[Cultural grants](#)

The City of Sydney sponsors a wide variety of projects and initiatives. Priority is given to activities that help support Sustainable Sydney 2030.

The cultural grants and sponsorship program provides funding opportunities over \$5,000 for cultural organisations and organisations undertaking cultural activities within or that will benefit the local area.

The City takes a broad view of cultural activity, including performing and visual arts and crafts, literature, film, digital arts, design, architecture, history and heritage, food and wine, and their expression through public debate, festivals, exhibitions, creative space development, performances, competitions and public celebrations of importance to individual communities and/or greater Sydney.

Applications for this program are invited once a year.

Local community grants

The Local Community Grants Program provides opportunities for funding of up to \$5,000 per project to support work done by local community organisations based in, or providing events or services for, the City's local area.

General policy [eligibility and exclusions apply](#).

Applications for this program are invited twice a year:

- round 1 applications are now closed.
- round 2 applications are now closed.

5.2 Wollongong City Council

Grants covering a number of subject areas are available from the Council, including:

- **Small cultural grants**: Established in 1998, our Small Cultural Grants program supports a diverse range of activities that enrich the cultural life of our area, and promote community participation in cultural activities. This program is open to individual and not-for-profit community groups in the local cultural industry, including music, performing arts, visual arts, crafts and other cultural initiatives. Those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply.
Applications for this program were invited from 1 February - 31 March 2014.
- **Small Grants NAIDOC Week Events**: This grant aims to involve as many people as possible in NAIDOC Week celebrations of the history, culture and achievements of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
Applicants must be not-for-profit community organisations proposing an activity that will occur as part of NAIDOC Week.
Applications for this program were invited from 1 February - 31 March 2014.
- **Contribution to public bands and choirs**: Council provides support on an annual basis to public bands and choirs that contribute to the community's sense of belonging and cultural life.
Applications for this program were invited from 1 February - 31 March 2014.

5.3 Armidale Dumaresq Council

The Council's [website](#) makes reference to the following programs:

- **Sports Council Small Grants**: Applications from Individuals may be considered at each two monthly meeting. Applicants can apply for up to \$500 per calendar year. Applications from organisations will be considered six monthly and funding will be determined by merit.

Applications must be made on the "Standard Application for Funding Support" forms which may be downloaded. Applicants should consult the funding guidelines outlined within the application form. All grants must be acquitted.

- **Community Assistance Small Grants Scheme:** Round 2 of the Community Assistance Small Grants Scheme has now closed. Please visit the page again in the future for further Community Grants.

5.4 [The City of Newcastle](#)

The Council's [website](#) makes reference to the Make Your Place Community Grant Program, as follows:

The Make Your Place Community Grant Program provides for grants of up to \$2,000 (inc GST) for projects that:

- Benefit existing users of the place with potential to increase community use in a positive way - by providing physical improvement to the place, eg additional activity, comfort, appearance, or by encouraging use of the place through a community gathering
- Show evidence of collaboration and/or partnerships
- Involve community members in doing the project.

The next round closes on Monday 18 August 2014 at 5pm.

6 **List of Useful links (extract from the Grants and Funding Institute website - <http://www.thegfi.com.au/community-links/>)**

GrantsLink – government portal that regularly updates information and links for available funding and grants.	www.grantslink.gov.au
Community Builders NSW – government site linking those involved in the community sector	www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/funding.html
Australian Government cultural portal	www.artsinfo.net.au
Our Community	www.ourcommunity.com.au
Philanthropy Australia	www.philanthropy.org.au
Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations	www.deewr.gov.au
Grantsearch – fee for service	www.grantsearch.com.au
Regional Arts NSW – peak body for arts activity in NSW	www.regionalartsnsw.com.au
Chapel York – international & cross border fundraising	www.chapel-york.com
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts	www.arts.gov.au/grants_and_funding
The Grants and Funding Institute	www.thegfi.com.au
Not-for-Profit Network	www.nfpn.com.au

Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

IMB Community Foundation	www.imb.com.au/ community-community-foundation.html
Grant Guru – Community	community.grantready.com.au
Indigenous Small Business Fund - offers funding to Indigenous Community based organisations	www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/ Organisation/Businessassistance/ IndigenousSmallBusinessFund
Emerging Indigenous Entrepreneurs Initiative	www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/ Programmes/IndigenousProgs
Australian Parliament House - links to Government and Non-Government organisations and commercial services providing grants	www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/ spgrants.htm
Grants Information Collection - international funding directory for organisations	grants.library.wisc.edu/organizations/ internationalfunding.html
Community Broadcasting Foundation - an independent non-profit agency providing funds for the maintenance and development of community broadcasting in Australia	www.cbf.com.au/cbf_home.asp
Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations - The grant opportunities listing provides an overview of all current open grant opportunities and details of each	http://www.deewr.gov.au/Department/ Pages/GrantOpportunities.aspx

Selected NSW Departmental/Agency websites

Department of Education and Communities	https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eas/isp/index.htm
Department of Family and Community Services	http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/funding_and_grants
Department of Environment and Heritage	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/grantsintro.htm
Office of Communities, Sport and Recreation	http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants/
Department of Primary Industries	http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn/funding
Department of Trade & Investment, Arts NSW	http://www.trade.nsw.gov.au/http://www.trade.nsw.gov.au/
NSW Community Relations Commission	http://www.crc.nsw.gov.au/home
Regional Arts NSW	http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/

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Last updated: 1 July 2014

For further information please contact the Research Service on 9230 2356

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