



Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) Program— Frequently Asked Questions

Tips for a competitive application

- Make sure your application clearly describes your project, answers the questions, and addresses the selection criteria and program outcomes outlined in the program guidelines.
- Make your responses concise—don't pad out your answers with unnecessary words that do not address the criteria. Word limits are maximums only—if you can answer a question in fewer words that still provides us with the necessary details, that's great!
- Don't assume the assessors know anything about your organisation or your project. Ensure all relevant information is provided in your application.
- Make sure your project has a clear arts, or language revival and/or maintenance outcome.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We recommend you read the FAQs in combination with the *ILA Program Guidelines 2019–20* and the SmartyGrants online application form.

Where can I apply for funding?

The Australian Government advertises grant opportunities and access to program guidelines via the GrantConnect website. The ILA program guidelines have links back to the Department of Communications and the Arts' [ILA program webpage](#) and importantly, to the [SmartyGrants website](#) where you will be able to lodge an online application.

Why are we encouraging applications for the career development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to teach, preserve and revive Indigenous languages?

In June 2016, the then Prime Minister the Hon Malcolm Turnbull and Minister for Indigenous Affairs the Hon Nigel Scullion committed an additional \$10 million to *Protect Preserve and Celebrate Indigenous Languages*. Specific areas for support were identified:

- working in partnership with Indigenous communities to identify and facilitate digital opportunities to address language needs
- innovative digital solutions to capture and teach language
- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' capacity to teach, preserve and revive Indigenous languages
- collaborative approaches to building the digital capabilities of communities
- the shifting of focus to encourage projects that support the career development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to teach, preserve and revive Indigenous languages.



What are some examples of projects that could support career development?

Example of language projects with a specific focus on supporting the career development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to teach, preserve and revive Indigenous languages could encompass:

- projects to build capacity
- training initiatives
- professional development initiatives
- support for individuals to undertake initiatives away from home
- creation of resources
- partnerships
- initiatives directed toward Indigenous linguists
- initiatives directed toward Indigenous language workers.

The ILA program also welcomes other ideas to support career development for Indigenous linguists and language workers.

Can I still apply for funding to support digital initiatives?

Yes. Item 1c of the ILA program objectives is to preserve, revive and maintain Indigenous languages by developing Indigenous language resources, including utilising digital technology in an innovative and culturally sensitive manner. Applicants are welcome to continue to apply for funding under 1c. These applications will be considered under the regular ILA process, rather than the focus of the Commitment.

2019 is the UNESCO International Year of Indigenous languages (IY2019)—where can I find out about IY2019 events and activities, and is there any funding available under the ILA program?

ILA does not provide funding to support international travel or activities that happen outside Australia. However, the ILA program encourages applications for Indigenous language activities that fall within the ILA guidelines and within the spirit of activities detailed in the UNESCO IY2019, including:

- support the revitalisation and maintenance of Indigenous languages
- provide access to education, information and knowledge in and about Indigenous languages
- promote Indigenous knowledge and values

Information on the IY2019 can be found on the official UNESCO IYL2019.org website and Australian events and activities will also be promoted through the arts.gov.au website.

Can I apply for funding for a festival?

ILA does not provide funding to support the administration and delivery of festivals. However, an organisation can apply for funding to develop and deliver an eligible project that will be presented as part of a festival.

Can I use ILA funding for NAIDOC Week celebrations?

ILA does not provide funding to support projects for the delivery of activities specifically for the celebration of NAIDOC week. However, funded activities may be included as part of NAIDOC week celebrations.

Will the intellectual property of my activity material that contains private and/or secret sacred Indigenous materials remain my property the property of my community?

ILA does not and will not retain any intellectual property over any activity materials that contain any Private and/or secret Sacred Indigenous Materials. This material is and will remain the confidential information of the relevant Indigenous person or Indigenous community.

Why is exhibition of traditional Indigenous arts and crafts production funded but not the conservation, exhibition or interpretation of museum artefacts?

ILA does not provide funding to support the conservation, exhibition or interpretation of existing artefacts in museums. However, an objective of ILA is to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' engagement in artistic activities that may include the teaching of skills to fashion, make or produce implements or tools and the knowledge of materials linked to tradition. These are eligible activities may include the exhibition of materials that were produced.

Can I apply for operational funds for my organisation?

A maximum of 30 per cent of the total ILA grant money may be used for project administration. Project administration may include items such as project management, report-writing, book-keeping, audits and financial management. Project administration may also include a contribution to wages for staff critical to the project. This might include a project officer, marketing or finance staff. See "What can the administration funds be used for?" in the guidelines for more information.

I am a sole trader/individual. Am I eligible to apply for an ILA grant?

ILA funding is provided for community projects and as such, individuals are not eligible for funding through ILA. If you are a sole trader or an individual wanting to deliver a community project, and you can demonstrate the project you are proposing has been generated within, and is supported by, the community, you may be able to apply through an auspicing arrangement with an eligible organisation.

If I am applying for funding under an auspicing arrangement do I need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the auspicing organisation?

When applying for ILA funding through an auspicing arrangement both parties should consider and develop an MOU that clearly sets out the expectations for both parties. This will alleviate any confusion and will ensure a smooth delivery of the project.

- [Short form MOU template.](#)

How should I demonstrate evidence of community support?

All projects must have the support of the local Indigenous community. You should consider how the local Indigenous community can be involved in the planning and delivery of the project, as well as participating in the project. We expect to see evidence of community support through letters from community representatives. Letters of support should:

- identify the role of the author and/or the organisation they represent in the community
- explain why the project is needed in the community
- outline how the author and/or the organisation they represent will participate in the project, including any contributions of funding or resources (if applicable—note that this is not a requirement).



If the applicant organisation is a non-Indigenous organisation, your letters of support should also outline how the author and/or organisation they represent has been consulted in the planning and will continue to be consulted over the life of the project.

When we assess the level of community support for your project, we will take into account the scope and scale of the project. If your project will be delivered in multiple communities, you should provide evidence that all participating communities support the project.

Some examples of organisations you might seek support from include:

- RNTBC (native title bodies)
- relevant local Aboriginal corporations, language centres, cultural arts centres, resource agencies, reference groups
- Empowered Communities Reference Groups
- other non-government agencies such as those working with young people, employment, housing, substance abuse, justice issues
- regional development organisations
- tertiary institutions
- local government organisations.

What do I need to write about accessibility for people with a disability?

The application form will ask you to talk about how your project can be inclusive and accessible to people with a disability. It is not compulsory to answer this question, but you are strongly encouraged to think about how your project can include accessibility. You can write about accessibility in the box provided, or you can download and complete the accessibility form that is hyperlinked in the application. To find out more about creating accessible arts and cultural activities, go to [Arts Access Australia](#).

The application will also ask you if your project is disability-led, and if anyone in your project team identifies as a person with disability. The department collects this information to understand how people with disability are participating in the arts.

My community has a language project where revival and/or maintenance of the language is already being funded through an Indigenous Language Centre?

ILA does not provide funding that supports the duplication of projects currently funded for the revival and maintenance of a language. However, if you consult with the organisation or Indigenous Language Centre delivering the current language activity, and it is determined your project does not duplicate this activity, an application may be submitted for the additional investment in that language. A list of Language centres can be found at www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-languages-and-arts-program.

Can Creole language workshops form part of the language activities funded?

The ILA program provides funding to revive and maintain Australia's traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. Creole is not classified as a traditional language, and is therefore not eligible for funding through the program. If you are unsure if your language is eligible for funding, please contact us at ila@arts.gov.au.



How can I submit an application to the Direct Offer grant opportunity?

Applications for Direct Offer funding are by invitation only. We select organisations that will be invited to submit applications through the Direct Offer grant opportunity based on past performance and identified need. We will contact eligible organisations to invite them to submit an application.

Who can I contact for help regarding my SmartyGrants application?

In the first instance you should email ila@arts.gov.au or phone 1800 006 992 for assistance. If your enquiry is a technical IT SmartyGrants system issue that we are unable to assist with, then your issue will be escalated to the SmartyGrants help desk.

Can I email my application as a word doc?

In order to be considered, applications must be submitted via Smarty Grants. If you are having problems, follow advice in the FAQ below. However hard copy application forms may be provided in exceptional circumstances.

When will I know if my application has been successful?

We anticipate notifying all applicants of the outcome of their application mid-2019. You will receive an email advising the outcome of your application once the funding recipients have been announced.

How can I find out why my application was not successful?

If your application is not successful, you will be formally advised and, at the same time, you will be invited to seek more detailed feedback.

What happens if only part of our funding request is approved?

It is possible that the Minister may approve partial funding under certain circumstances. If this happens, we will work with your organisation to revise the project objectives, deliverables and budget before finalising your funding agreement.

