



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program Open Competitive Grant Guidelines

Opening date:	09:00 AEDT Friday 31 October 2025
Closing date:	23:45 AEDT Friday 5 December 2025
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, please contact the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) team via email at ivais@arts.gov.au or via phone on 1800 006 992.
Date guidelines released:	09:00 AEDT Friday 31 October 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Open Competitive

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1. IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity processes

The IVAIS program is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives.

This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts Outcome 6.1. The department works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 \(CGRPs\)](#).



The grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on [GrantConnect](#)



You complete and submit a grant application

You complete the application form and address all of the eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant. Grant applications are submitted online through SmartyGrants. Follow the application link and fill out the online application form.



We assess the eligibility of all grant applications

We assess applications against the eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible.



All eligible applications are assessed

We assess your eligible application against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with relevant money, past performance and compare it to other 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 determines which applications are successful.



We notify you of the outcomes

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 you if your application is successful.
The type of agreement is based on the nature of the grant and is proportional to the risks involved.



Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We [or other entity if applicable] manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.



Evaluation of IVAIS program

We evaluate the specific grant activity and the IVAIS program as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect through various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the **IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity**. You must read these guidelines before applying for an IVAIS grant.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how applications are considered and selected
- how applicants are notified and receive grant payments
- how activities will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant opportunity.

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

2. About the grant program

The Australian Government is committed to recognising, respecting, and investing in First Nations stories at the centre of Australia's arts and culture.

Under the First Nations First pillar of the Australian Government's [National Cultural Policy - Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place](#) the government has committed to continue investing in First Nations art centres and pivotal industry organisations through the IVAIS program.

IVAIS was established in 2012, building on earlier programs supporting First Nations arts and culture that have operated since 1992. From 2015 IVAIS has included funding for the employment of Indigenous arts workers.

The IVAIS program invests over \$30 million annually.

The intended outcomes of the IVAIS program are:

- a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry that features strong participation by, and provides economic opportunities for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- the continued production, exhibition, critique, purchase and collection of Indigenous visual art.

Its objectives are:

- To strengthen the Indigenous visual arts sector, by offering employment and economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- To support production, exhibition, critique, purchase and collection of Indigenous visual art.

The IVAIS program is underpinned by the [Indigenous Art Centre Framework](#). The Framework outlines a cooperative structure for art centres, industry service organisations and the Australian Government to work together to build and maintain a professional, strong and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry, including encouraging strong participation and employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The IVAIS program supports participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression and contributes to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts' Outcome 6.1 Arts and Cultural Development. Further information is available in the department's [2024–25 Corporate Plan](#).

This grant will contribute to Closing the Gap, with a focus on the following priority reforms:

¹ [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 - Federal Register of Legislation](#)

Priority reform 1: Formal partnerships and shared decision making

Priority reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

Priority reform 3: Transforming government organisations

Refer to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap for more information.

2.1. About the IVAIS grant opportunity

Grant funding under the IVAIS program is available through the following grant opportunities:

IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity

An annual grant opportunity open to all eligible organisations seeking funding to deliver activities that meet IVAIS program outcomes.

IVAIS Closed Non-Competitive Grant Opportunity

A Closed Non-Competitive grant opportunity is available for organisations currently funded under the IVAIS program or invited to deliver program specific activities.

Appendix – There is no maximum amount for each grant. Funding levels vary depending on the scale and type of activity, and the funding available. As a result, some applicants may receive partial funding for their activity. If this happens, we will work with applicants to determine the activity can still progress, and revise project objectives, deliverables and budget before finalising the funding agreement.

*Appendix A – These guidelines relate to the **IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity**. Please see separate guidelines for the **IVAIS Closed Non-Competitive Grant Opportunity**. Please contact the IVAIS team at: ivais@arts.gov.au if you need further information about the respective grant opportunities.*

3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1. Grants available

IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity

Approximately \$6million² in uncommitted funding is available through the IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity from 2025–26 to 2027–28.

It is anticipated that most grants will be between \$45,000 – \$300,000, depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity.

There is no maximum grant amount but grants cannot exceed the amount of available funds.

3.2. Grant period

The maximum grant period is 2 years.

4. Eligibility criteria

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

We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another government source for the same purpose.

² Subject to annual parameter adjustments.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible for an IVAIS grant, your organisation must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN),
- be registered for the purposes of GST, if required by the Australian Taxation Office,
- have an account with an Australian financial institution be one or more of the following entity types:
 - an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*³
 - an entity established through specific Commonwealth or State or Territory legislation
 - a company incorporated in Australia
 - a company limited by guarantee
 - an incorporated association
 - a publicly funded research organisation, or
 - state, territory or local government body

and

- have no overdue acquittals or serious breaches relating to Australian Government funding. A serious breach is one that has resulted in, or warrants, the termination of a grant agreement.

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

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an individual or sole trader
- an unincorporated association
- an overseas resident/organisation
- an organisation that is at risk of insolvency
- an organisation not included in **section 4.1**
- 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. Further information is available at: www.nationalredress.gov.au.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your grant activity must meet one or more of the following objectives:

- provide professional support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists in the production, promotion and marketing of their art
- provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to develop, extend, market and generate income from their professional visual art practice
- provide employment and economic opportunities in the visual arts industry for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in remote communities

³ [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006 - Federal Register of Legislation](#)

- provide opportunities for art centre staff, artists and board members to develop professional skills and gain experience
- contribute to strengthening the Indigenous visual art industry, including the delivery of professional services and support by industry service organisations
- support the upgrade or refurbishment of art centre facilities*
- increase access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to national and international markets
- increases digital literacy and/or infrastructure*.

* IVAIS funding can be used to contribute to upgrades or refurbishments of art centre facilities, however cannot be used for major capital works. The IVAIS program can consider funding a contribution towards capital works in partnership with, for example, other government entities and/or philanthropists, in agreement with the IVAIS team.

5.2. Eligible locations

Grant activities are expected to be based in Australia.

5.3. Eligible expenditure

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on eligible grant activities, and consistent with the budget you will be required to submit, if you are successful.

For guidance on eligible expenditure, see Appendix A.

We may update the guidance on eligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version of the guidelines in place when you submitted your application applies to your grant activity.

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

Not all expenditure on your grant activity 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.

You must incur the expenditure on your grant activities between the start date and end or completion date for your grant activity for it to be eligible.

The Australian Government's National Cultural Policy - *Revive* recognises that fair pay and conditions for arts and cultural workers are essential.

Artists and professionals employed or engaged to deliver activities funded under the IVAIS program must be fairly remunerated for their work and able to work in safe professional workplaces. You must comply with legally-binding industrial awards and employment agreements, and related costs must be reflected in your budget. Minimum standards developed by Creative Workplaces must be adhered to. Further information is available at: [Creative Workplaces](#).

5.4. What the grant money cannot be used for

You cannot use the grant for:

- activities that involve working primarily with children (under 18 year old)
- major construction/capital works, landscape design or architectural work

- activities that are primarily focussed on community development or cultural maintenance, or art restoration⁴
- covering retrospective costs or activities that have already occurred
- activities that are the primary responsibility of other Commonwealth, state or territory government programs.⁵

6. The assessment criteria

6.1. Criteria

Your application needs to demonstrate the extent to which the proposed activity satisfies the selection criteria in contributing to meeting the program outcomes as well as achieving value with money.

You must address all of the following assessment criteria in your application.

Your application will be assessed based on the weighting given to each criterion.

Grant selection will also take into consideration prioritisation (see **section 8.1**) based on whether the applicant:

- is an Indigenous Art Code Signatory or Supporter Member (see **section 10.2**),
- is an Indigenous organisation or non-Indigenous organisation, and/or
- has a demonstrated commitment to increasing Indigenous employment, supplier use and/or engagement.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount requested. The application form includes word limits.

We will only award funding to applications that score highly against all assessment criteria.

Criteria	Weighting
1. The degree to which the activity will contribute to achieving program outcomes – see section 2.	30%
2. The degree to which the activity aligns with the strategies and actions outlined in the <i>Indigenous Art Centre Framework</i> – see section 2.	30%
3. The demonstrated expertise and capacity of the organisation to undertake the grant activity.	20%
4. The demonstrated need for the grant.	20%

Criterion 1

The degree to which the activity will contribute to achieving IVAIS outcomes (weighting: 30%)

At a minimum you should demonstrate how the activities will achieve IVAIS outcomes and provide:

⁴ IVAIS provides funding for professional visual arts activities that have strong connections to the art market. It does not fund activities focused on community arts development, Indigenous languages or cultural maintenance. This means that funding is not available to support cultural centres and keeping places, art therapy programs and cultural development programs unless strong connections to the art market can be demonstrated. For project based arts activities with an Indigenous languages focus, you may wish to look at the department's Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) program at: [Indigenous Languages and Arts program | Office for the Arts](#)

⁵ refer to www.business.gov.au/ for information about other government grants.

- the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:
 - artists expected to participate in or benefit from the activity
 - employees working in the organisation
- the number of events and exhibitions
- the value and/or number of art sales
- opportunity for market expansion, innovation and/or improving capacity and sustainability.

As this is a national grant opportunity, consideration will also be given to the overall balance of activities funded across remote regions.

Criterion 2

The degree to which the activity aligns with the strategies and actions outlined in the *Indigenous Art Centre Framework* (weighting: 30%)

In providing a response to this criterion you should refer to the *Indigenous Art Centre Framework*. At a minimum, you should demonstrate how your activity addresses the relevant key result areas

In providing a response to this criterion you should refer to the Framework. At a minimum, you should demonstrate how your activity addresses the relevant key result areas:

1. Artists and industry
2. Culture and community
3. Marketing and promotion
4. Business management
5. Employment, professional development and training
6. Resources and infrastructure.

Criterion 3

The demonstrated expertise and capacity of the organisation to undertake the grant activity (weighting: 20%)

At a minimum you should demonstrate:

- a capacity for managing government or other grant or project funding, whether through past projects or appropriate planning and/or frameworks
- financial stability
- an effective risk management approach that will minimise potential waste of grant funding
- evidence of suitably experienced or qualified people delivering the activity

Criterion 4

The demonstrated need for the grant (weighting: 20%)

At a minimum you should demonstrate:

- support for the activity from the community, the CEO and/or Board
- a balanced and realistic budget showing requested grant amount and projected expenses
- the scale and level of other funding and/or in-kind support proposed to support the activity.

Consideration will be given to whether the activity:

- adds value by achieving IVAIS program objectives that would not occur without the grant, and
- does not duplicate other visual art services in the community or region.

6.2. Value with relevant money

Your business case, activity work plan and indicative budget will be examined to assess 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 to be achieved in providing the grant.
- the relative value of the grant sought.
- the extent to which the geographic location of the application matches identified priorities.
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives (these are at section 2 above).
- how the grant activities will target groups or individuals.

7. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines.

These guidelines and other relevant documents may be found at GrantConnect. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information. Any alterations and addenda⁶ will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

To apply you must:

- review IVAIS program information available on GrantConnect at www.grants.gov.au or <https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-visual-arts-industry-support-program>.
- complete the online IVAIS application form on SmartyGrants at arts.smartygrants.com.au
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments, and
- submit your application via SmartyGrants by the published closing date and time.

One application per organisation will be assessed. If an applicant submits more than one application for the same activity, only the latest application will be considered.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the [Criminal Code Act 1995 \(Cth\)](#). We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at ivais@arts.gov.au or call 1800 006 992. We will not accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after 3 business days after the closing time.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents.

Application receipt will be acknowledged by a confirmation email and an application reference number.

⁶ 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.

If you need further guidance about the application process or if you are unable to submit an application online contact us at ivais@arts.gov.au or by calling 1800 006 992.

7.1. Attachments to the application

To support the application, you are required to provide the following information in the application or as an attached document:

- a business case
- an activity work plan.
- an indicative budget.
- evidence of funding strategy, e.g. financial statements, loan agreements, cash flow documents, or copy of latest audited financial statement.
- evidence of community and/or industry support.

To strengthen your application, you are encouraged to provide additional supporting information including:

- a risk management plan.
- evidence of support from your organisation's board, CEO or equivalent.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

The level of information provided should be commensurate with the level of funding you request.

7.2. Timing of grant opportunity process

You must submit an application between the published opening and closing dates listed on page 1 of this document.

If you are successful, we expect you will be able to commence your grant activity from April 2026.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	4-6 weeks [not including Christmas shut-down period]
Approval of outcomes of selection process	4 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	1-3 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	April 2026
End date of grant activity or agreement	30 June 2027 or 30 June 2028

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should contact the IVAIS team immediately by emailing ivais@arts.gov.au or by calling 1800 006 992.

We will only accept a late application where an applicant has contacted the department to request late submission, and we have agreed to this in writing.

Agreement can be made on the basis that the organisation is experiencing internet connectivity issues, community sorry business, extreme weather events, or other temporary extenuating administrative or governance issues.

Requests to re-submit an application, or to submit a late application, will not be considered after midnight 5 business days following the closing date of the grant.

7.3. Questions about or during the application process

If you have any questions, please contact the IVAIS team at ivais@arts.gov.au or by calling 1800 006 992. We aim to respond to emails within 3 business days.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

Eligibility

Your application will be first reviewed against the IVAIS program's eligibility criteria outlined in **Section 4**. Only eligible applications will move to the assessment stage.

Assessment

We will then assess your application against the IVAIS program's assessment criteria. All eligible applications will receive a preliminary score out of 100.

We consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria (see **section 6.1**)
- how it compares to other applications submitted in the grant opportunity round, and
- whether it provides value with relevant money (see **section 6.2**)

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in your application, you may be contacted to correct or explain the information.

Moderation

A moderation process to determine the final recommendation will then be undertaken to ensure consistency in the evaluation of all eligible applications and to seek consensus on the final criteria score out of 100, and determine overall rankings.

To support ethical practices and fair treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, and activities that provide social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, a prioritisation approach will be applied. Where a number of applications are found suitable for funding for the same activity, and/or have equal ranking, preference will be given to organisations that are Art Code Signatories or Supporter Members, and/or Indigenous organisations, followed by organisations with a demonstrated commitment to increasing Indigenous employment, supplier use and/or engagement.

The moderation process will include considering whether any risks involved in your activity are able to be suitably mitigated. Applications are then ranked in order of their overall score and recommendations made with consideration to available funding.

8.2. Who will assess applications

Eligibility

Each application is assessed for eligibility by a departmental officer.

Assessment

Each eligible application is independently assessed on its merit by departmental officers.

Departmental officers may seek additional information about you, your application, 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 entities.

They may do this from within the Commonwealth, even if the sources are not nominated by you.

An assessment committee made up of 2 departmental officers and chaired by an executive level APS employee will then compare it to other eligible applications, and provide a preliminary score out of 100 (per criteria outlined in **section 6.1**).

The assessment committee may also consider information about you or your application that is available through the normal course of business.

Moderation

A moderation panel is responsible for finalising recommendations to the Minister.

The panel will consider preliminary scores provided by the assessment committee, clarify with assessors where needed, rank applications according to priority (per **section 8.1**), and make recommendations considering the amount of funding available, and any identified risks.

The moderation panel includes IVAIS program executive level employee/s and is chaired by the Assistant Secretary, Creative Industries Branch, Office for the Arts.

We may ask external experts/advisors to inform the assessment and moderation process. Any expert/advisor who is not a Commonwealth Official, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles (CGRPs) and declare any conflict of interest (as per **section 13.2** of these rules and guidelines) and IVAIS probity requirements.

8.3. Who will approve grants

The Minister for the Arts decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the moderation panel and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Minister's decision, guided by recommendations, is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the amount of grant funding to be awarded.

There is no appeal mechanism for the decision to approve or not approve a grant application.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

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

9.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, you may request feedback within 2 weeks of being advised of the outcome, by emailing ivais@arts.gov.au.

9.2. Further grant opportunities

You can submit a new application for the same activity (or a similar activity) in any future grant opportunities under the IVAIS program. You should include new or more information to address any weaknesses that may have impacted your previous application from being successful.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, based on the Commonwealth Simple or Standard Grant Agreement depending on the complexity and risk level of your activity.

Sample Grant Agreement templates are available at: [Grants Toolkit | Department of Finance](#).

You are advised to review Department of Finance Grant Agreement templates prior to making an application to be aware of the terms and conditions your activity will be subject to if you are successful in receiving a grant under the program.

Each grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A schedule may be used to outline the specific grant requirements. Any additional conditions attached to the grant will be identified in the grant offer or during the grant agreement negotiations.

We must execute a grant agreement with you before we can make any payments. We are not responsible for any of your expenditure until a grant agreement is executed. If you choose to start your grant activities before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk.

Agreements are aimed to be negotiated with you within 30 days of the grant's announcement. If there are unreasonable delays by you in finalising a grant agreement, the grant offer may be withdrawn and the grant may be awarded to a different applicant.

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

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must provide a safe and fair workplace for people engaged with your project. This includes adhering to workplace health and safety standards and legally-binding industrial awards and employment agreements. Relevant guidance developed by Creative Workplaces (within Creative Australia) must be followed. Further information is available at: [Creative Workplaces](#).

The Indigenous Art Code

The Indigenous Art Code (the Code) is a voluntary industry-led code of conduct that guides ethical trade in the industry. The Code is a set of rules and guidelines that Code Signatory Members, including both Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses, commit to following to support fair, transparent, and ethical trade with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual artists. If you receive an IVAIS grant, you are expected to adhere to the Code's ethos and are strongly encouraged to become a signatory to or a member of the Code. Further information is available at: [Indigenous Art Code](#).

The Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design

The Australian Government has endorsed the voluntary Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design (the Code of Practice) under the [National Cultural Policy – Revive](#). The National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) developed and maintains the Code of Practice.

The Code of Practice covers good practice approaches to working relationships, ethical standards of access and inclusion, and payment rates for artists and arts workers. You are expected to abide by the Code of Practice where applicable.

The Code of Practice is available at [Code of Practice for Visual Arts, Craft and Design](#).

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)

ICIP refers to all aspects of Indigenous peoples' cultural heritage, including the tangible and intangible. The right of Indigenous people to own and control their cultural heritage is not always protected under copyright laws, therefore the use of Indigenous protocols is encouraged.

The Government respects the cultural and spiritual significance of First Nations Peoples' ICIP, and acknowledges that any ICIP belongs to the Traditional Custodians of the ICIP and ownership of the ICIP will remain with the Traditional Custodians.

You must agree to respect the cultural and spiritual significance of First Nations Peoples' ICIP. This includes: obtaining free, prior, informed and written consent; providing fair compensation payment; and providing acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians of any ICIP which has been used or incorporated into any project materials.

Further information regarding Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts is available from Creative Australia at: [Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#).

Copyright

Copyright is a type of intellectual property right that is founded on a person's creative skill and labour. Unlike physical property (sometimes called 'tangible' property), copyright is an intangible form of property that cannot be seen or touched, but is brought into existence by the law.

Under the *Copyright Act 1968* copyright gives its owners (often the creators of the material) exclusive economic rights to do certain acts with that material. These include the right to copy, publish, communicate and publicly perform the copyright material. Communication can include broadcasting or making it publicly available.

Further information is available at: [Copyright basics | Attorney-General's Department](#)

Resale Royalty Right for Visual Artists

Under the Resale Royalty Scheme, visual artists and other right-holders are entitled to 5% of the sale price of eligible artworks resold commercially for \$1,000 or more. Further information is available at [Resale Royalty Scheme | Office for the Arts](#),

National Principles for Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the need for organisations to adopt child safe practices including appropriate screening of staff, mandatory reporting and adoption of the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#). The Australian Government committed to a new Commonwealth-wide framework to protect children and young people it is responsible for – the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework \(CCSF\)](#).

A child safety clause is included IVAIS standard grant agreements.

The successful applicant will be required to comply with all child safety obligations included in the grant agreement published with this grant opportunity or notified to the successful applicant prior to execution of the grant agreement. Irrespective of the child safety obligations in the grant agreement you must always comply with your Commonwealth, State and Territory legislative requirements for working with children and mandatory reporting.

Research Ethics

If your activity or project involves research, you are expected to adhere to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023*, which sets the requirements for the ethical design, review and conduct of human research in Australia. Further information is available at: [National Health and Medical Research Council - National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023](#).

11. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- payment schedule

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

Payment, either partial or in full, will be made on execution of the agreement, with any subsequent payments subject to satisfactory progress on the grant activity or project.

Payments are made according to a schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the grant activity, as demonstrated through reporting requirements outlined in the grant agreement, and based on your actual eligible expenditure.

Unless otherwise agreed by us, we must receive and accept documents including, but not limited to, periodic reports, before subsequent milestone payments will be made.

Payments will not be made where the grantee is in breach of their grant agreement.

11.1. Grants payments and GST

Payments will be Goods and Services Tax (GST) inclusive, where applicable. Payments to state, territory and local government bodies do not attract GST.

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](#)⁷. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

12. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the Australian Government's GrantConnect website, no later than 21 calendar days after the grant agreement date of effect as required under Section 5.4 of the [CGRPs](#)⁸.

All successful grants will also be published on the Office for the Arts' website at: <http://www.arts.gov.au/>.

Your grant may be announced by the Minister for the Arts and/or by your local Member of the Australian Parliament.

⁷ <https://www.ato.gov.au/>

⁸ <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00854/latest/text>

13. How we monitor your grant activity

13.1. Keeping us informed

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

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to deliver on and complete your grant activity, 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
- business structure

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

You must also advise us in advance of an inability to meet timeframes for your grant activity or reporting, as agreed in your grant agreement.

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

13.2. Reporting

You must submit reports in line with the [grant agreement](#). You are required to submit your reports through online platform, SmartyGrants.

We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed grant activity milestones and outcomes
- expenditure of the grant.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits or request records 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.

Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include evidence of your progress towards completion of agreed activities and outcomes
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

Ad-hoc reports

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

Final acquittal report

When you complete the grant activity, you must submit a final acquittal report.

Final acquittal reports must:

- identify if and how outcomes have been achieved
- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred
- be submitted by the due date and in the format requested in the grant agreement.

Depending on the value of the grant, and/or the risk level and complexity of your activity, under the terms and conditions of your grant agreement, we may request you to provide:

- a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement, and if applicable, a report on any underspends of the grant money, or
- a financial acquittal report that verifies that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement, or
- an independently audited financial acquittal report.

13.3. Grant agreement variations

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

- adjusting activity milestones
- extending the timeframe, for a reasonable period of time, to allow completion of the activity
- changing allocations across budget items.

You can request a variation by advising ivais@arts.gov.au before the grant agreement end date.

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

- how it affects the activity outcome
- whether it is consistent with IVAIS outcomes, and any relevant Australian Government policies
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of the IVAIS budget.

13.4. Compliance visits

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

13.5. Record keeping

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

13.6. Evaluation

We will evaluate the IVAIS program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and 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 one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

IVAIS grant agreements require you to provide information to assist us with this evaluation including, but not limited to:

- number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander:
 - artists provided with professional visual art services
 - people employed
- value of art sales
- demonstrated participation in exhibitions and other industry events
- demonstrated provision of professional development and training opportunities for artists, staff, arts workers and board directors
- demonstrated financial viability and administrative stability.

13.7. Acknowledgement

The program logo should be used on all materials related to grants under the program. Whenever the logo is used, the publication must also acknowledge the Commonwealth as follows:

‘Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program– an Australian Government initiative’.

The IVAIS grant opportunity should also be acknowledged in speeches at any public events, such as exhibition openings and symposiums. If you make a public statement about a grant activity funded under the program, we require you to acknowledge the grant by using the following:

‘This [name of grant activity or project/services] received grant funding from the Australian Government.’

The IVAIS logo is available from <https://www.arts.gov.au/>.

14. Probity

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

These guidelines may be changed from time-to-time by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts. When this happens, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published on [GrantConnect](#). By registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

You should be aware of your obligations under the [National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022](#), noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered ‘contracted service providers’ [see <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

14.1. Enquiries and feedback

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to ivais@arts.gov.au.

All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing. You can provide to ivais@arts.gov.au or the Department website [Online Enquiry Form](#). If you do not agree with the way the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts has handled your complaint, you may complain to the [Commonwealth Ombudsman](#). The Ombudsman will not usually look into a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072
Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

14.2. Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant. There may be a [conflict of interest](#), or perceived conflict of interest, if Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts employees and/or you, or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer
- has a relationship with, or in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicant from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest, or that one might arise in relation to a grant, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government employees will be handled as set out in the [Public Service Act 1999](#), and [Public Service Code of Conduct \(Section 13\(7\)\)](#).

15. Privacy

We treat your personal information according to the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the [Australian Privacy Principles](#).

This includes letting you know:

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

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

The Australian Government may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the [Privacy Act 1988](#) and the Australian Privacy Principles and 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 the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

15.1. 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 keep any information in connection with the grant agreement confidential to the extent that it meets all of the 3 conditions below:

1. you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
2. the information is commercially sensitive
3. revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

We will not be in breach of any confidentiality agreement if the information is disclosed to:

- other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively
- employees and contractors of our department so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary, and
- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The grant agreement may also include any specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held under the grant agreement.

15.2. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (FOI Act)⁹.

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.

Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the FOI Coordinator in writing.

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>

The Freedom of Information Coordinator can be contacted by:

Mail: Freedom of Information Coordinator
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
Communications, Sport and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: FOI@infrastructure.gov.au

16. Consultation

IVAIS stakeholders, including First Nations people, have been consulted in the grant opportunity guidelines development process.

17. Glossary

Term	Definition
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (or Indigenous person)	<p>someone who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; and • identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person; and • is accepted as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person by the community in which they live.
Australia	Australia includes Norfolk Island, the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
accountable authority	see subsection 12(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013
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
assessment criteria	are 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 rankings.
commencement date	the expected start date for the grant activity
completion date	the expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by
contracted service provider	A contracted service provider is a person who is a party to a Commonwealth contract or is a party to a subcontract with a contracted service provider and is responsible for the provision of goods or services under contract, either directly or indirectly.
co-sponsoring entity	when two or more entities are responsible for the policy and the appropriation for outcomes associated with it
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.
decision maker	the person who makes a decision to award a grant
eligibility criteria	refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria should be developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
Commonwealth entity	a Department of State, or a Parliamentary Department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs)	establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under

Term	Definition
	this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
First Nations	a person, organisation or community who identity as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (see above).
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. under which relevant money¹⁰ or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money¹¹ 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	sets out the relationship between the parties to the agreement and specifies the details of the grant.
GrantConnect	is the Australian Government’s whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
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 [entity] Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
grantee	the individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant.
Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)	means Indigenous peoples’ cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression.
Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) rights	refers to the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain, control, protect and develop their ICIP, as recognised by Article 31 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
Indigenous business	Any business that is more than 50% owned by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

¹⁰ Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

¹¹ Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
Indigenous organisation	<p>An organisation is Indigenous if it satisfies the Indigeneity requirement under Section 29-5 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the corporation has five (5) or more members – at least 51 per cent of the members are Indigenous Australians. • If the corporation has fewer than five (5) members but more than one (1) member – all of the members, or all but one of the members are Indigenous Australians. • If the corporation has only one (1) member – that member is an Indigenous Australian. • While not all organisations will be incorporated under the CATSI Act, the above membership ratios need to be met for an organisation to be deemed to be an Indigenous organisation.
Member (of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation)	<p>A member of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation is someone who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is a member of the corporation on its registration database; or • after registration, agrees to become a member and their name is entered on the register of members. They are not a member until this is completed.
PBS Program	<p>described within the entity's Portfolio Budget Statement, PBS programs each link to a single outcome and provide transparency for funding decisions. These high-level PBS programs often comprise a number of lower level, more publicly recognised programs, some of which will be Grant Programs. A PBS Program may have more than one Grant Program associated with it, and each of these may have one or more grant opportunities.</p>
selection criteria	<p>comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.</p>
selection process	<p>the method used to select potential grantees. This process may involve comparative assessment of applications or the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.</p>
value with money	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the potential grantee’s relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Guidance on eligible expenditure

Operational funding

- Employment costs, including
 - Wages, superannuation and on-costs for Art Centre Manager, Assistant Manager, Studio Co-ordinator and arts workers not supported through IVAIS arts worker funding.
 - Workers compensation insurance
 - Staff and artist training and professional development
- Art supplies and materials (including for on Country collection)
- Art fair and exhibition costs, including venue hire, freight and packing costs.
- Administration costs (no more than 10% of total funding)
- Allowances, such as
 - travel to and from art centre locations for consultants
 - travel allowances to attend art fairs and exhibitions
 - meals at the art centre (some remote art centres provide food to their artists, due to the distance required for them to attend the art centre)
- Vehicle costs, including leasing, registration, and vehicle on-costs (such as maintenance)
- Other professional costs, such as
 - bookkeeping and accounting costs, and auditor's fees
 - advertising and promotion
 - subscriptions

Indigenous arts worker funding

Arts worker funding aims to support the Grantee employ, train, and manage the administration costs of employing Indigenous arts workers. Eligible expenses include:

- Employment costs, including
 - Wages, superannuation and on-costs for Art Centre Manager, Assistant Manager, Studio Co-ordinator and arts workers not supported through IVAIS arts worker funding.
 - Workers compensation insurance
 - Staff and artist training and professional development
- Administration fee up to 10% per IVAIS-funded Indigenous art worker. The higher the number of arts workers, the lower the fee is expected to be.
- Training and professional development (expected to be 8-10% minimum of arts worker budget).

Project funding

Project funding generally supports one-off activities. Expenses may include:

- Minor infrastructure upgrades, such as refurbishing art centre facilities, or making work, health and safety improvements.
- Art centre equipment and IT, such as security cameras, website development, computers, software, telephone and internet services, and new studio equipment or furniture.
- Supporting the creation and expansion of art fairs and art markets in new locations.
- Increasing access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to national and international markets.
- Facilitating skills development programs in particular art forms.

Other budget items

Additional budget items may be considered by emailing the IVAIS team (ivais@arts.gov.au), however written approval must be provided before any expenditure.

Expenditure should be proportionate to the grant amount requested.

Ineligible expenses

Section 5.4 of these Guidelines outlines what the grant money **cannot** be used for. Examples of ineligible expenses include:

- Costs associated with preparing grant application
- Artists fees for **making art** (artists fees for creative projects/ workshops/ events may be eligible – refer to the [NAVA Code of Practice](#))
- Artists living expenses (artists fees for residencies may be eligible in consultation with IVAIS)
- Purchase or commission of art works
- Payment of loans
- Re-granting to other organisations
- Purchase of a motor vehicle (co-contribution may be eligible in consultation with IVAIS)