2027 Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) Program Open Competitive Grant Guidelines

Opening date:	**09:00 AEDT Thursday 29 October 2026**
Closing date:	**23:45 AEDT Thursday 26 November 2026**
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 AEDST Thursday 29 October 2026**
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).

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The IVAIS grant opportunity opens

We publish the grant guidelines on GrantConnect.

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You complete and submit an Open Competitive 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.

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We assess the eligibility of all grant applications

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

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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.

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We make grant recommendations

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

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Grant decisions are made

The decision maker determines which applications are successful.

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We notify you of the outcomes

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

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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.

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Delivery of grant

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

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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. The IVAIS program invests more than $32 million annually.

The IVAIS program supports a professional, viable and ethical First Nations visual arts industry by providing funding for ongoing sector sustainability and strategic growth opportunities. The program contributes to economic, cultural and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including through support for community-controlled organisations, Indigenous arts workers and visual arts production activities.

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 2026–27 Corporate Plan.

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

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

- 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

The IVAIS program uses a combination of Closed Non-Competitive (CNC) and Open Competitive (OC) grant opportunities to support a professional, viable and ethical Indigenous visual arts industry and achieve program outcomes.

The funding model balances targeted, multi-year investment in organisations with established capability and ongoing roles in supporting First Nations artists and communities with competitive funding for new activities, innovation and sector development.

Multi-year funding through the CNC grant opportunity supports the ongoing delivery of activities that contribute to IVAIS outcomes and sustains the organisational capability, workforce capacity and sector infrastructure required to support First Nations artists and communities. This approach provides continuity for organisations with demonstrated capability and established roles in the Indigenous visual arts industry, particularly in regional, remote and very remote Australia.

Funding through the OC grant opportunity supports new and emerging activities that contribute to IVAIS outcomes, including innovation, sector development initiatives and responses to emerging opportunities and challenges. It provides a merit-based pathway for both new and existing organisations to access funding and helps ensure the program remains accessible, responsive and capable of supporting the evolving needs of the sector.

Together, these complementary funding streams provide an appropriate balance between continuity, accessibility and innovation. They support the achievement of IVAIS outcomes, contribute to Closing the Gap priorities, reduce unnecessary administrative burden and help ensure public funding is directed to activities that represent value with relevant money.

IVAIS Closed Non-Competitive Grant Opportunity

The **Closed Non-Competitive** grant opportunity provides multi-year operational and Indigenous arts worker funding to eligible organisations that demonstrate an ongoing need for core funding and a proven record of delivering against IVAIS outcomes.

This approach recognises that many funded organisations operate in regional, remote and very remote communities, provide essential cultural and economic infrastructure, and require funding certainty to retain staff, maintain operations and undertake sustainable long-term planning.

The CNC process reduces administrative burden, supports continuity of service delivery and enables government investment to be directed towards organisations with demonstrated capability, performance and ongoing strategic significance to the Indigenous visual arts industry.

Key features of the CNC grant opportunity include:

- Invitation-only access for organisations currently funded under the IVAIS program, or other organisations invited by the department to deliver activities that support IVAIS outcomes.
- Multi-year funding of up to three years for eligible organisations.
- Multi-year funding of up to four years for recognised service organisations.

IVAIS Open Competitive Grant Opportunity

The **Open Competitive** grant opportunity ensures the program remains accessible to new entrants, emerging organisations and existing grantees seeking support for projects, innovation, sector development initiatives or emerging needs.

The competitive process promotes contestability, encourages innovation and enables funding to be allocated to activities that offer strong alignment with current program priorities and demonstrate value for money.

Key features of the OC grant opportunity include:

- An annual, application-based grant opportunity open to eligible organisations seeking funding to deliver activities that contribute to IVAIS outcomes
- Access for both new and existing organisations, including current IVAIS grantees
- Maximum funding of up to two years for eligible organisations.

Current IVAIS grantees may apply for additional funding through the OC grant opportunity to support time-limited activities that are outside the scope of their existing funding agreement. This may include responding to emerging challenges, delivering one-off projects, trialling innovative approaches or supporting temporary additional operational or Indigenous arts worker requirements.

Funding provided through the IVAIS grant opportunities must not duplicate funding already provided through another Commonwealth, state or territory government program, or support ongoing core operational activities already funded through an existing IVAIS agreement.

Where an exiting IVAIS grantee is successful in additional grant funding, a separate grant agreement will be established for the approved activity.

*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

The IVAIS program invests approximately $32 million is the First Nations visual arts sector annually.

Approximately $7.1 million[2] in uncommitted funding is available from 2027–28 to 2028–29 for allocation through this Open Competitive Grant Opportunity.

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

Grant periods generally range from one to two years.

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[2] Subject to annual parameter adjustments.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy **all** the eligibility criteria listed in this section.

4.1. Who is eligible for a grant?

To be eligible for consideration of an IVAIS Open Competitive grant, your organisation must, at a minimum:

- 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;

and

- 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 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 with overdue acquittals or in serious breach relating to Australian Government funding. A serious breach is one that has resulted in, or warrants, the termination of a grant agreement
- 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: https://nationalredress.gov.au.

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

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. General principles and requirements

Grant funds may only be used for expenditure that:

- contributes to achieving IVAIS program outcomes and objectives
- directly supports an eligible IVAIS activity
- is reasonable, necessary and proportionate to the scale of the funded activity
- is incurred during the approved grant period
- is consistent with the approved budget or otherwise approved in writing by the department
- is not funded through another grant or government funding source for the same purpose.

Requirements

- Recipients of Indigenous arts worker funding must expend at least 10% of approved arts worker funding on training and professional development for Indigenous arts workers.
- Administration costs must not exceed 10% of the approved grant amount (excluding GST), unless otherwise approved in writing by the department.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that proposed expenditure is reasonable, necessary, proportionate to the funded activity and represents value for money.
- Proposed expenditure must contribute to the achievement of the activity objectives, expected outputs and intended program outcomes.
- Applicants may be required to provide evidence supporting proposed expenditure, including quotations, estimates, salary calculations, procurement documentation or other information requested by the department. Such evidence may be requested at any stage of the grant lifecycle, including application, assessment, contracting, reporting or acquittal.
- Grant recipients must retain appropriate records, including invoices, payroll records, contracts, receipts and other supporting documentation, to demonstrate that grant funds have been used in accordance with the grant agreement and these Guidelines.
- The department may request evidence to verify expenditure and activity delivery at any time during the grant period and for a specified period after the activity has been completed.
- Grant recipients must promptly notify the department of any significant change to the funded activity, budget, timing or expected outcomes that may affect delivery of the approved grant activity.
- The department may determine whether any expenditure item is eligible, having regard to the objectives of the IVAIS program, the approved activity and the principles set out in this section.

5.2. 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 peoples, particularly in remote communities

- 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
- increase digital literacy and/or digital infrastructure*.

* All proposals for capital works must be discussed with IVAIS prior to submitting a request for funding. Major capital works cannot be funded through IVAIS, however may be approved in partnership arrangements (for example, with other government entities and/or philanthropists).

5.3. Eligible locations

Grant activities are to be based in Australia.

Activity funding may include Australian Indigenous art and artists to travel and exhibit overseas.

5.4. Eligible expenditure

Detailed guidance is set out in **Appendix A: Eligible and ineligible expenditure**.

Guidance on eligible expenditure is reviewed annually and may be updated. If you are awarded an IVAIS grant, the version of the guidelines in place when the application was assessed applies to your grant activity.

Not all expenditure related to your grant activity may be eligible for IVAIS grant funding. The department makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may provide additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

The Australian Government's National Cultural Policy - *Revive*: a place for every story, a story for every place 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: https://creative.gov.au/creative-workplaces/.

5.5. What the grant money cannot be used for

IVAIS provides funding for professional visual arts activities that have strong connections to the art market.

This means that IVAIS 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.

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Activities that are the primary responsibility of other Commonwealth, state or territory government programs.
- Activities whose primary purpose is the delivery of children's services or children's programs.
  - Incidental participation of children or young people in eligible IVAIS activities is accepted.
- Activities that are primarily focussed on community development, languages or cultural maintenance, archiving or art restoration.
- Expenditure that is funded through another grant or government funding source for the same purpose.

- Retrospective costs for activities that have already occurred.
- Major construction and/or capital works

Refer to **Appendix A: Eligible and ineligible expenditure** for detailed guidance.

6. The assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed on their merits against the weighted assessment criteria. Each criterion considers a different aspect of the proposed activity's contribution to the IVAIS program outcomes.

Applicants are not required to contribute equally to every IVAIS outcome but should identify the outcomes relevant to their activity and provide evidence proportionate to the nature, scale, location and risk of the proposal.

Following assessment against the weighted criteria, the department will undertake an overall assessment of whether the proposal represents value with relevant money and the proper use of public resources.

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.

6.1. Criteria

Your application needs to demonstrate the extent to which it satisfies the assessment criteria in contributing to meeting the program outcomes, as well as achieving value for 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.

Table 1: Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting
1. The degree to which the activity will contribute to achieving program outcomes.	**30%**
2. The degree to which the activity aligns with the strategies and actions outlined in the *Indigenous Art Centre Framework*.	**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 program outcomes (30%)

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

- 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* (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 (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 plan** or 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 (20%)

You must provide:

- 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.

You can demonstrate support for your activity by providing:

- **letters of support** from artists, the community, the CEO and/or Board, and other key activity stakeholders.

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

Following assessment against the weighted criteria, the department will consider whether funding the proposed activity would represent value with relevant money and the proper use of public resources.

We will consider the proposal as a whole, including:

- the extent to which the activity is expected to contribute to IVAIS program outcomes
- the need for Australian Government funding and the consequences if funding is not provided
- whether the proposed activities and costs are eligible, reasonable and sufficiently justified
- the scale of the requested funding relative to expected outputs, outcomes and benefits
- the organisation's capability to deliver the activity and manage public funding
- delivery, financial, governance and other material risks, including proposed mitigations
- other financial or in-kind contributions, where relevant
- potential duplication or overlap with other government or non-government funding
- the geographic, cultural, community and operating context of the activity
- whether an alternative funding amount, funding period, payment structure or grant condition would improve value with relevant money.

6.3. Overall assessment

The department will determine whether the proposal represents value with relevant money by considering the assessment findings as a whole, including expected contributions to IVAIS outcomes, need for funding, reasonable and eligible costs, financial and non-financial benefits, delivery confidence, material risks, duplication, other contributions and the applicant's operating context.

The department may recommend a different funding amount, term, payment structure or grant conditions where this would strengthen value with relevant money or manage identified risks.

7. Prioritisation framework

Grant selection will also take into consideration prioritisation based on whether the applicant:

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

8. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand these guidelines.

These guidelines and other relevant documents are available at GrantConnect. GrantConnect is the authoritative source for grants information. Any alterations and addenda[4] will be published on GrantConnect and by registering on this website, you will be automatically notified of any changes to these guidelines.

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

To apply you must:

- review IVAIS program information available on GrantConnect at https://grants.gov.au or https://arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-visual-arts-industry-support-program
- complete the online IVAIS application form on SmartyGrants at https://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.

Important: Submissions must disclose all funding sources received in the last 3 years, and any still pending an outcome.

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 (unless you have encountered extenuating circumstances as outlined in **section 7.2**).

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.

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.

8.1. 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

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

- a risk management plan
- evidence of support, such as letters of support, from artists, the community and/or industry, your organisation's board, CEO or equivalent, and other key activity stakeholders.

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form as per the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. We will only consider information in attachments that we consider relevant to your activity and application.

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

8.2. Timing of grant opportunity process

You must submit your application between the published opening and closing dates.

We cannot accept submissions after the closing date, except under unforeseen extraordinary circumstances (such as emergencies or extreme events).

The earliest start date of a grant activity is 01 July 2027.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Anticipated timeframe
Open on GrantConnect	29 October 2026
Closing date	26 November 2026
Assessment phase	November 2026 – January 2027
Approval of outcomes of selection process	February 2027
Notification of outcomes to applicants	March 2027
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	April – May 2027
Earliest start date of grant activity	**01 July 2027**

8.3. Questions

Contact the IVAIS team via email at ivais@arts.gov.au and responses will be provided in 3-5 business days.

9. The grant selection process

9.1. Assessment of applications

Eligibility

To be eligible for the open competitive grant opportunity, applications must:

- Satisfy all the eligibility criteria, and
- Submit an application before the closing date.

Only eligible applications move to the Assessment phase.

Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed against the published assessment criteria (section 6) and will receive a preliminary score out of 100.

Moderation

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

The moderation process will include considering whether any risks involved in your activity are suitably mitigated. Funding recommendations will be formed based on the overall assessment.

IVAIS activities are expected 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. Priority 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.

9.2. Who will assess applications

Eligibility

Eligibility will be determined by departmental officers according to the stated eligibility criteria at section 4.

Assessment

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

Assessors will consider information about past performance that is available through the normal course of IVAIS grant administration and assessment of reports.

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.

Departmental officers will liaise with other funding bodies (e.g. Creative Australia; Arts NT) or programs (e.g. Indigenous Languages and Arts) as required, to ensure that the same activity, or parts thereof, is not already receiving funding from other sources (i.e. double-dipping).

An assessment committee made up of 2 departmental officers and chaired by an executive level APS employee will finalise preliminary scores and overall assessments.

Moderation

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

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

The panel will consider preliminary scores provided by the assessment committee, clarify with assessors where needed, and make recommendations considering the amount of funding available, and any identified risks.

The panel may ask external advisors or industry experts to inform the 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), IVAIS probity requirements (section 14) and declare any conflict of interest required.

9.3. Who will approve grants

The Minister for the Arts is the Program Delegate determining grant outcomes are considers the recommendations provided by the moderation panel and the availability of funds for the purposes of the grant program.

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

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

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

10. Notification of Open Competitive grant round outcomes

The **primary contact** provided by the organisation will receive an email notification on the outcome. If successful, the primary contact will be advised of any specific conditions associated with the grant.

Some organisations may receive partial funding for their activity and the department will work with you to determine whether the activity can still progress, and revise project objectives, deliverables and budget before finalising funding agreements.

If you are unsuccessful, we offer an opportunity to seek feedback.

10.1. 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.

11. Successful grant applications

11.1. 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.

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.

A grant agreement must be executed (signed by both parties) before payments can be made. The Commonwealth is 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.

The grant agreement development process commences within 2 weeks of your organisation being notified that it was successful. Successful organisations must be prepared and available to promptly engage with departmental staff to ensure grant agreements are signed within 30 days of notification of a successful outcome. The department reserves the right to withdrawn funding offers.

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

Grant agreements include Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) relating to your activity. A sample of KPIs are outlined in Appendix B of these guidelines.

11.2. 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 owners (often the creators of the material) have 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 Rights for Visual Artists Act 2009,* 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 in 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.

12. How we pay the grant

Payments are made according to a schedule set out in the grant agreement, and are linked to the submission and acceptance of reports that demonstrate satisfactory progress of the grant activity.

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount to be paid
- payment schedule and milestones.

For most Grantees, annual payments are scheduled across 2 instalments per year. Payment amounts are determined by the size of the grant and the risk profile (as determined by the department).

The first grant payment may be made on execution of the agreement to support meeting up-front costs with delivering the Activity, with any subsequent payments subject to satisfactory progress of the grant activity.

Performance and financial reports due under the grant agreement must be submitted by the Grantee, and assessed and accepted by the department, before milestone payments will be made.

Payments will not be made where the grantee is in breach of their grant agreement, including overdue or inadequate reporting.

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

12.1. Grant 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[5]. We do not provide advice on your particular taxation circumstances.

13. 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 by Section 5.4 of the CGRPs.

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.

14. How we monitor your grant activity

14.1. Keeping us informed

You must let us know as soon as possible if anything is likely to adversely 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 activity and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

14.2. Reporting

Grantees must submit performance and financial reports according to the executed Grant Agreement

Reports are submitted via SmartyGrants and we will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. You are expected to liaise with your Grant Manager if requiring assistance.

Where a template is provided for a report required under the Grant Agreement, the Grantee must use that template.

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

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[5] https://www.ato.gov.au/

We will monitor progress by assessing reports you submit and may conduct a site visit 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.

You will need to demonstrate delivery of your activity in accordance with the Key Performance Indicators in your grant agreement. See Appendix B.

Mid-Year Performance Report

Each Mid-Year Performance Report and Annual Grant Report must include information relating to the progress and achievement of the Activity giving reasons for any inability to achieve outcomes against the criteria.

Each Mid-Year Performance Report and Annual Grant Report must report income and expenditure relating to the Grant provided under the Grant Agreement. The report must show expenditure in accordance with the approved Budget and show to our satisfaction major items or areas of expense.

Final Acquittal Report and Financial Statements

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 financial statement that the grant money has been received and spent in accordance with the grant agreement, and if applicable, a report on any underspends of the grant money, or
- an independent financial audit report.

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.

14.3. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect Activity delivery. In these circumstances, you can request approval for changes, including:

- adjusting the activity description or activity milestones, or
- extending the timeframe, for a reasonable period of time, to allow completion of the activity

You must contact ivais@arts.gov.au before the grant agreement end date before making a change.

In some circumstances a Deed of Variation may be required. 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
- the performance of your organisation and activity to date and your ability to meet grant requirements, such as timely and accurate reporting
- whether it is consistent with IVAIS outcomes, and any relevant Australian Government policies
- changes to the timing of grant payments.

14.4. Compliance visits

We may visit you during or at the completion of your grant activity to review your compliance with the grant agreement. Compliance visits may be conducted either in person or virtually. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

14.5. Record keeping

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

14.6. Evaluation

We will regularly evaluate the IVAIS program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives are being 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 your organisation and to evaluate how effective the program has been 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.

14.7. 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 the IVAIS website logo page

15. Probity

The Australian Government will ensure that the grant opportunity assessment 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 and the Probity Plan.

These guidelines will be updated annually and *may* change once published (by the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts). In this circumstance, the revised grant opportunity guidelines will be published on GrantConnect and you can register to be 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].

15.1. 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's 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

15.2. 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 the 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)).

15.3. Artificial intelligence

The department may utilise artificial intelligence (AI) tools for limited functions, including:

- administrative processes
- supporting the efficient processing of applications
- data analysis or the identification of common themes and issues.

AI **will not** be used for decision-making and every AI-led process will be verified and validated by department staff.

All information provided through the application process will be handled consistent with Australian Government and departmental policies, guidelines and principles, both on the use of AI and privacy and protection of data.

16. 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 that 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.

16.1. 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 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.

16.2. 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).

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.

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

17. Glossary

Term	Definition
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person (or Indigenous person)	someone who: • 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, organisations, and activities are 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.
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 –	
commencement date	expected start date for the grant activity and grant agreement.
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.
completion/activity end date	the expected date by which the grant activity must be completed and the grant expended in full.
contract end date	the expected date that all reporting associated with the activity has been completed and accepted by the department.
eligibility criteria	refers to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Eligibility criteria is developed to enable objective validation and are either 'met' or 'not met'. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.

Term	Definition
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 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 definition above).
funding component – (see Appendix A)	
Operational	means the day-to-day costs incurred by an Indigenous art centre or service organisation to maintain its ongoing operations and deliver approved IVAIS-funded activities. These are costs that support the organisation's core functions, governance, administration, facilities, systems, and workforce, and are necessary for the effective management, sustainability, and delivery of services to artists and communities.
Indigenous Arts Worker	designed to provide stable employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly those in regional and remote locations. Arts workers typically support the day-to-day operations of an art centre including but not limited to artist and art studio support, marketing and promotion, and administrative assistance.
Project	provided for a specific, time-bound activity or initiative with defined objectives, deliverables, and outcomes. Project funding supports activities that advance the aims of the IVAIS program and is distinct from the costs of an organisation's ongoing operations.
grant	for the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[6] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money[7] 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.

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[6] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.
[7] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
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.
Indigenous organisation	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): • 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)	a member of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation is someone who: • 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.
Organisation Classification –	

Term	Definition
Art Centre	an organisation primarily supporting the production and marketing of Indigenous art and the intergenerational transmission of stories of law and culture, as well as providing vocational training, economic development, leadership and employment opportunities for First Nation peoples. Art Centres are typically remote or very remote located community organisations owned and governed by Indigenous people.
Regional Hub	an organisation which provides a similar function to Art Centres, however, are typically urban or rural located community organisations.
Industry Service	a representative non-government organisation that provides information dissemination services, membership support, coordination, advocacy and representation, relevant research, policy and sector development services for its members and other interested parties.
Industry Event	an organisation with the primary function of organising, managing or delivering events in support of the Indigenous visual arts industry. This may include art fairs and exhibitions, which include Indigenous visual art, craft and design.
Project	an organisation that does not fit the description of the other IVAIS Organisation Classifications, and is typically involved in delivering a one-off activities.
PBS Program	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.
program delegate	the person authorised to make the decision to award a grant.
selection criteria	comprise eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
selection process	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.

Term	Definition
value with money	value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: • the quality of the project proposal and activities; • fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; • that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and • the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A – Guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure

A1. Eligible Expenditure

Eligible expenditure varies according to the funding component awarded under the IVAIS program:

- Operational funding
- Indigenous arts worker funding
- Project funding

Following execution of a grant agreement, written approval must be secured if a grantee proposes to move funds between categories.

Operational funding

Operational expenditure means the day-to-day costs incurred by an Indigenous art centre or service organisation to maintain its ongoing operations and deliver approved IVAIS-funded activities. These are costs that support the organisation's core functions, governance, administration, facilities, systems, and workforce, and are necessary for the effective management, sustainability, and delivery of services to artists and communities.

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Employment costs	Salaries and wages for Art Centre Managers, Assistant Managers, Studio Coordinators, Administration Officers, Gallery Staff and other staff supporting eligible IVAIS activities
Employment on-costs	Superannuation, leave entitlements, workers compensation insurance, recruitment costs and other mandatory employment-related costs
Training and professional development	Governance training, financial management training, board development, staff workshops, conference attendance, sector training programs
Art production costs	Cultural practices and production such as collection on Country for artwork supplies and production Canvases, paints, brushes, printmaking materials, sculpture materials, framing materials
Artist fees	Payment for delivering training, workshops or skills development. *Artist fees are eligible in limited circumstances only. Please discuss with IVAIS before inclusion.*
Exhibition and market participation	Art fair registration fees, exhibition venue hire, freight of artworks, packing materials, installation costs, promotional material
Travel and accommodation	Staff travel, artist travel to approved exhibitions, accommodation, flights, vehicle hire associated with eligible activities
Occupancy costs	Premises rent, studio hire, storage costs, utility charges, facility operating costs, insurance

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Vehicle operating costs	Costs directly related to organisational operations, including vehicle leasing, registration, fuel, servicing, maintenance, insurance
Marketing and promotion	Advertising, catalogues, promotional materials, photography, website maintenance, social media promotion
Information and communications technology (ICT)	Computers, tablets, printers, software licences, digital business systems and digital capability support systems including Stories Art Money (SAM).
Professional services	Fees for external professional advisers, consultants, or specialist service providers engaged to provide expert advice or services. Examples: Accounting and audit services, independent bookkeeping services, legal advice and legal services, strategic planning and business development consultants, governance reviews and advisory services, specialist compliance, taxation or risk management advice
Administration costs (maximum 10% of total grant)	Office administration, telecommunications, financial administration, human resource administration, governance and compliance, information management *See below for detailed guidance.*

Administration costs (maximum 10% of total grant funding)

Reasonable administrative and operational costs directly associated with managing the organisation and delivering funded activities. These costs relate to routine organisational functions and day-to-day administration.

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Office administration	Office supplies, postage, stationery, printing
Telecommunications	Telephone, internet, telecommunications services, video conferencing
Financial administration	Payroll processing, invoicing, accounts administration
Human resource administration	Recruitment administration, onboarding, HR systems
Governance and compliance	Board meeting administration, routine reporting
Information management	Data management or record keeping systems

Indigenous arts worker funding

IVAIS Indigenous arts worker funding is designed to provide stable employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly those in regional and remote locations.

Arts workers typically support the day-to-day operations of an art centre including but not limited to artist and art studio support, marketing and promotion, and administrative assistance.

The IVAIS Arts Worker Employment Information provides further guidance in relation to Indigenous arts worker funding.

To support the professional development of arts workers and a strong sector there is a requirement that training and professional development costs must be a minimum of 10% of the total approved Indigenous arts worker funding, unless otherwise approved in writing by the department.

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Employment costs	Salaries and wages for Indigenous Arts Workers employed to support artists, art centre operations, exhibitions, marketing and administration *Senior level roles (e.g. Art Centre Managers, CEOs) and one-off contracts are to be funded through operational funding.*
Employment on-costs	Superannuation, leave entitlements, workers compensation insurance, recruitment costs and other mandatory employment-related costs
Training and professional development (minimum 10% of arts worker funding) *	Training and skills development in art centre operations, collections management, marketing, exhibitions, business systems, management or curatorial training Accredited courses, mentoring programs, leadership training, governance training, administration training Conference and art fair attendance, workshops, professional networking events, industry forums

Project funding

Funding provided for a specific, time-bound activity or initiative with defined objectives, deliverables, and outcomes. Project funding supports activities that advance the aims of the IVAIS program and is distinct from the costs of an organisation's ongoing operations.

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Minor infrastructure improvements	Refurbishing studio spaces, WHS improvements, accessibility improvements, security upgrades, storage improvements
Studio equipment	Kilns, printing equipment, photography equipment, workshop tools, display systems, artist workstations
Furniture and fit-out	Office furniture, display furniture, shelving, collection storage systems
Information and communications technology (ICT)	Computers, tablets, printers, software licences, Wi-Fi upgrades, website development, digital capability and business development projects.
Exhibition, marketing and audience development	New art fair participation, exhibition development, export initiatives, online sales platforms, audience development activities Travel, freight, accommodation, exhibition costs associated with approved market development activities
Promotion and marketing	Photography, videography, catalogues, market campaigns, digital marketing activities
Skills development programs	Artist workshops, specialist artistic training, governance workshops, board training, business capability programs

Eligible Cost Category	Examples
Sector development projects	Research projects, feasibility studies, strategic development initiatives, collaborative industry projects and partnerships Strategic planning and organisational improvement initiatives
Artist fees	Payment for delivering training, workshops or skills development. *Artist fees are eligible in limited circumstances only. Please discuss with IVAIS before inclusion.*

A2. Ineligible costs (applicable across all funding components)

Ineligible Cost Category	Examples
Major capital works	New building construction, major building extensions, large-scale redevelopment projects
Retrospective expenditure	Costs incurred before the approved grant period
Artist fees / payments	Wages, or direct financial payments to artists for the purpose of creating artworks Artists' personal living expenses such as rental costs, groceries, personal bills, personal travel Commissioning art works
Purchase of artworks	Acquisition of artworks for collections, stock or investment purposes
Governance	Sitting fees or travel by Board Directors.
Vehicle purchases	Purchase of cars, trucks or other motor vehicles (co-contributions may be considered – discuss with IVAIS prior to inclusion)
Debt and finance costs	Loan repayments, interest charges, refinancing costs
Grant preparation costs	Preparing funding applications, business cases or grant submissions
Prizes and awards	Competition prize money, cash awards
Re-granting	Passing grant funds to another organisation for unrestricted use
Activities funded elsewhere	Costs already funded by another government grant or program
Activities outside IVAIS scope	Cultural maintenance, archiving, community development, or art restoration activities without a clear professional visual arts and market development outcome

A3. Clarifying common expenditure items

Item	Eligible?	Notes
Art centre manager salary	Yes	Operational funding
Indigenous arts worker salary	Yes	Arts Worker funding
Artist travel to exhibition	Yes	Where directly related to approved activity
Artist fee to deliver training	Yes	Where directly related to approved activity
Art materials and supplies	Yes	To support professional artistic production
Website development	Yes	Project funding
Studio equipment	Yes	Project or operational, depending on purpose
Work health and safety upgrades	Yes	Minor infrastructure only
Administration costs	Yes	Must not exceed 10% of the total grant amount, unless otherwise approved in writing by the department.
Purchase of artworks	No	Except where approved in writing as part of an authorised activity
Artist living costs	No	Ineligible
Motor vehicle purchase	No	Co-contributions may be considered and must be approved in writing by the department.
Loan repayments	No	Ineligible
Retrospective expenditure	No	Ineligible
Major building works	No	Ineligible

Appendix B – Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Sample extract of KPIs from IVAIS grant agreement template.

Ref.	Key performance indicator	Measure/s
1. Activity delivered		
1.1	**Core activities listed in the Work Plan (at Item C.3 of this Grant Agreement and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed at Item E) meets or exceeds expectations.** **Observed by:** Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement	**Measures:** • Majority of deliverables are completed on time • Deliverables exceed or meets requirements **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
1.2	**Performance and financial reports listed in Item E of this Grant Agreement are provided on time and to satisfactory quality.** **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Grantee communications with IVAIS Contract Officer.	**Measures:** • 100% of reports are submitted on time and are fully compliant • Risks or issues disclosed in a timely manner • Expenditure aligns with approved budget **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
2. Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in professional visual art practice		
2.1	**Artists access creative spaces, art materials, equipment, advice and technical support.** [Art centres] [Regional hubs] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Publicly available information including social media and websites. • Annual virtual site visit	**Measures:** The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G.2): • Visual art materials and equipment supplied • Number of Indigenous artists and/or arts workers participating in or accessing Activity. • Sales, exhibition and/or event data. **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting

Ref.	Key performance indicator	Measure/s
2.2	**Artist and arts worker access to curatorial, critique and/or exhibition opportunities.** [Where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Publicly available information including social media and websites. • Annual virtual site visit	**Measures:** The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G.2): • Sales, exhibition and/or event data. **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
2.3	**Sector advocacy and/or support services for industry priorities or issues.** [Industry Service Organisations] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Annual virtual site visit	**Measures:** • Engagement and/or provision of advice on industry issues **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
2.4	**Deliver sector-wide or member-based initiatives and/or support services.** [Industry Service Organisations] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Annual virtual site visit	**Measures:** The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G.2): • Services provided to sector and/or members Support service provided • Number of art centres/members supported **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting

Ref.	Key performance indicator	Measure/s
2.5	**Deliver infrastructure improvements** [Where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Annual virtual site visit	**Measures:** • Milestone completion, according to Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G.2). **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and arts workers have opportunities to generate income and professional recognition		
3.1	**Provide access to markets, including through art centre sales (in-situ or online), delivery of or access to exhibitions, art fairs and/or art prizes.** [Art centres] [Regional hubs] [Art fairs] [Others, where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement. • Publicly available information and events including exhibitions, art fairs, and online.	**Measures:** The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G2): • Exhibitions, fairs and/or market opportunities accessed and/or delivered • Visitation and/or audience reach • Participation • Total income generated from art sales • Amount paid to artists from art sales • Number of artworks sold **Frequency:** 6-monthly reporting
3.2	**Employment of Indigenous arts workers** [All grantees in receipt of Indigenous arts worker funding] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement	**Measures:** The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G2): • Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people employed • Number of IVIAS funded arts workers employed • Expenditure **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting

Ref.	Key performance indicator	Measure/s
3.3	**Support professional and culturally informed presentation of artworks.** [All, where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement • Publicly available information and events including exhibitions, art fairs, and online	**Measures:** • Evidence of appropriate labelling, cataloguing and attribution of art works. **Frequency:** • Annual reporting
3.4	**Support artists and/or art centres with the commercial aspects of art practice such as terms of sale, resale royalty and licencing opportunities**. [Art centres] [Regional hubs] [Others, where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement	**Measures:** • Transparent pricing, commission structures and written agreements with artists • Access to information such as licensing and resale royalty payments. **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
3.5	**Raise awareness of Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property, where appropriate.** [Where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement	Milestones delivered according to the accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G2). **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting
4. Support professional development within the Indigenous visual arts industry		
4.1	Broker, support and/or deliver professional development activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, arts workers, Board members and/or art centre managers. [Art centres] [Regional hubs] [Others, where relevant to Activity] **Observed by:** • Evaluation of the activities delivered in reports specified at Item E of this Grant Agreement	The following align with accepted Work Plans (at Item C and updates provided through Annual Grant Reports listed in Item E) and/or Activity Budget (Item G2): • Professional development activities delivered and/or accessed • Number of participants • Minimum of 10% of Arts Worker budget expended on training and professional development for Indigenous Arts Workers. **Frequency:** • 6-monthly reporting