



NAIDOC Local Grants 2026

Grant Opportunity Overview

What are the NAIDOC Local Grants?

- NAIDOC Local Grants support a wide range of small-scale NAIDOC activities at the grassroots and community levels across Australia.
- The grants support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations across Australia to celebrate the histories, cultures and achievements of First Nations peoples.
- In 2026, NAIDOC Week will run from 5 – 12 July.

When do applications open and close?

- Applications will open in early 2026 and will be open for approximately 4 weeks.
- Register for email notifications on [GrantConnect](#) to be notified when applications open
- The grants will also be advertised in the Koori Mail, National Indigenous Times and on the NIAA and Indigenous.gov websites and social media platforms, when applications open.

Funding available

- **\$3.0 million** (GST exclusive) is available nationally for grants in 2026
- Funding is available in **three** streams:
 1. Stream One - Educational Institutions*: Up to \$1,500
 2. Stream Two - Small Scale Grants: Up to \$10,000
 3. Stream Three - Large Scale Grants: More than \$10,000 and up to \$25,000.

* Including early learning/childcare centres, primary-elementary schools, secondary-high schools, TAFE and universities, parents and community (P&C) associations and school holiday programs.

Grant Selection

- Funding under Streams One and Two are demand driven and are assessed on eligibility criteria only and awarded according to funding available in each NIAA region.
- Funding awarded under Stream Three is competitive and your response to the selection criterion will be scored and assessed against other applications in this stream.
- Indigenous Organisations with at least 51% First Nations ownership and control will be given funding preference – this may impact the number of grants awarded in Stream 1.
- It is expected that most applications will be awarded for \$10,000 or less.
- Consideration will also be given to the spread of funding across each NIAA region.



Co-contributions

- NAIDOC Local Grants funding is not intended to cover the full cost of running your activity.
- You should have other sources of financial or non-financial (in-kind) co-contributions for your activity.
- You should provide details of co-contributions in your application. For Stream Three applications, this may assist with our assessment of value of money.

What types of activities can be funded?

- Any activity that aligns with the objectives of the NAIDOC Local Grants Opportunity, to:
 - support the expression, engagement and re-vitalisation of First Nations cultures
 - celebrate the history, culture and achievements of First Nations people
 - increase First Nations peoples' participation in the social and economic life of Australia
 - promote broader understanding and acceptance of the unique place of First Nations cultures in Australian society.

What can I use the funding for?

Examples include:

- arts based activities, including design work, painting, dancing, crafts and storytelling
- family fun days
- cultural activities, including Welcome to Country
- Elders activities
- bush tucker and other community cooking activities
- NAIDOC-themed sporting activities or competitions.

What can't I use the funding for?

Examples include:

- Costs associated with preparing your application
- Advertising, marketing, or branded promotional materials
- T-shirts, clothing or merchandise (including NAIDOC-themed items)
- Awards, gifts, or vouchers
- Sporting uniforms, equipment, or referee/coach payments
- Corporate hospitality, staff cultural immersion days, training courses.

More information

More detailed information about the opportunity will be available on GrantConnect when applications open, including:

- 2026 NAIDOC Local Grants Opportunity - Grant Opportunity Guidelines
- Applicants Guide (*with application tips and answers to many Frequently Asked Questions*)
- Bank Account Verification Document
- Indigenous Location (ILOC) Tip Sheet

Contact us: NAIDOCgrants@niaa.gov.au

