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Australian Government

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

Visions of Australia

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2026

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Visions of Australia—frequently asked questions

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Avoid some common pitfalls

Make sure your application for touring is eligible

Ensure that your application for touring funding is eligible and will therefore be assessed. Check that you have:

1. **Included at least** three venues from outside your home state or territory, with consecutive exhibition dates, included in your tour.
2. **Included at least one** regional and/or remote venue. Tours to only metropolitan venues are not eligible for funding.
3. **Included** venue confirmation forms from each venue. Development applications **must** include expressions of interest from each venue.
4. Addressed the additional eligibility criteria in the Program Guidelines – e.g. type of organisation and primary purposes.

Funding and applications

How often can I apply?

There is no limit to the number of applications you can make to Visions of Australia either across rounds or within a single round.

When are the closing dates for applications?

Visions of Australia delivers two competitive funding rounds each year, usually opening in February and September. The closing dates for applications are advertised on the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts website: [Visions of Australia | Office for the Arts](#), and [GrantConnect](#).

Should I apply for annual or multi-year funding?

Visions of Australia offers both annual and multi-year funding for projects. If you are seeking multi-year funding you will be required to provide a strongly argued business case demonstrating the need for, and benefits of multi-year support, and additional budget information.

Multi-year funding applicants can choose to apply for funding to be delivered in a single block at the start of the agreement provided there is demonstrated need for funding to be allocated as a single payment. Annual progress reports may be required for all multi-year projects.

Can I apply outside of an advertised funding round?

Applications will not be accepted outside of a funding round.

How far in advance can I apply?

You may apply in any round in advance of your activity commencing, however priority will be given to proposals for activities that commence prior to the funding period for the following round. For example, if your activity commences in August you should apply in the February round of that year. You may apply in September of the previous year but your proposal will be assessed as a lower priority should there be strong demand in that round. If you are unsuccessful in a round, you may reapply for the same activity in a future round.

Eligibility—applicants

Can individuals apply?

Individuals can apply for funding only where their project is auspiced by an organisation that meets the eligibility criteria. This means that the auspicing organisation is taking on the legal and financial responsibility for the grant as the grant agreement will be made with the auspicing body if the application is successful. The department may choose not to consider applications from organisations that do not strongly demonstrate their principal purpose as arts or cultural heritage as required by the eligibility criteria listed at 5.1 of the Program Guidelines.

Ideally, an auspicing organisation will have similar aims to those of the individual or group seeking funding (for example, preservation of cultural heritage, promotion of visual arts etc).

Will my previous record with the department or other Australian Government agencies be taken into account during the assessment of my application?

Your history as a funding recipient may be considered, particularly your compliance with reporting and acquittal requirements. If you have a reasonable explanation for a delay in reporting you may explain this in your application for the assessor's consideration.

What types of organisations or entities are eligible for funding?

To be eligible, organisations must be registered under law or created by law. Examples include companies, incorporated associations and statutory authorities.

Individuals and unincorporated groups (three or more individuals who do not form a legally constituted organisation) with an arts or cultural heritage purpose are eligible for funding but **must** be auspiced by an organisation that meets the eligibility criteria.

Applicants may be required to provide a certificate of incorporation or evidence of their current legal status.

Can university art/design faculties apply under the program?

Generally no, as their principal purpose is education, but partnerships between arts and cultural organisations and university faculties would be eligible where the organisation applies on behalf of the partnership. However, a university may apply on behalf of an art gallery that is part of the university entity, where the gallery is not separately incorporated.

Can eligible applicants from Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island, and the Jervis Bay Territory apply for the Visions program?

Yes, eligible applicants from Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island, and in the Jervis Bay Territory are able to apply.

I currently receive or have applied for funding from Creative Australia. Can I apply for funding under this program?

Yes, as long as the funding you receive or have applied for from Creative Australia is not for the **same components** of the project as the one for which you are applying for funding through Visions of Australia. You will need to provide details of this in your application.

I currently receive or have applied for funding under another program from the department. Can I also apply for funding under this program?

Yes, as long as the funding you receive or have applied for is **not for the same components** of the project as the one for which you are applying for funding through Visions of Australia. You will need to provide details of this in your application.

Eligibility—activities

Does my project have to start by a specific date? For example, can I apply for a project a year or more ahead?

The department welcomes forward planning, and tour development applications can be received up to 24 months ahead of tour commencement. For touring applications, the only requirement is that your tour does not commence before the advertised commencement date i.e. 1 January for September rounds or 1 July for February rounds.

Priority will be given to proposals for activities that commence prior to the funding period for the following round. For example, if your activity commences in August you should apply in the February round of that year. If you are unsuccessful in a round, you may reapply for the same activity in a future round.

Do I need to have confirmed venues or partners in order to apply?

Specific forms are required to be submitted with your application to confirm the interest of venues in participating for both development and touring projects.

For development applications, a minimum of **expressions of interest** are required for each proposed venue. For touring applications, a venue form **confirming dates must** be completed for each proposed venue.

If touring projects are unable to obtain venue confirmation for all their venues, particularly due to concerns about implications due to COVID or natural disasters, we ask that you seek, **at minimum**, an expression of interest form. These will indicate that there is a willingness by the venue to accept the exhibition. In these circumstances, the stronger the level of confirmation of venues and partners for your proposed itinerary, the more competitive your application will be.

Do I need to have at least three venues confirmed outside my state or territory?

Yes, in order to be eligible for touring funding you will need to have **at least** three venues from outside your state or territory, with consecutive exhibition dates, included in your tour. Greater priority will be given to proposals where tours are spread across a number of states.

Do I need to include regional and/or remote venues?

Yes, in order to be eligible your tour must include regional and/or remote venues. The Program Guidelines clearly state that tours to only metropolitan venues are not eligible for funding.

How do I know whether a venue is a regional or remote venue?

The Visions program uses the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2016 definition of Remoteness Areas to determine if a venue is in a regional or remote location. The Standard divides Australia into the following five classes of remoteness on the basis of their access to services: major city; inner regional; outer regional; remote; and very remote. A venue must be in one of the four categories outside of a 'major city' location, to be in a regional or remote location.

In completing your application in SmartyGrants, you will be prompted to add individual venues to your development or touring itinerary. This will automatically allocate a remoteness classification to your venue. This allows you to determine whether your venue is located outside of a 'major city' location.

If you would like to check if your project is taking place in an eligible location, visit the [Health Workforce Locator](#) and follow the directions below:

- Select the box with the latest date next to 'ASGS—Remoteness Areas'
- Enter your address into the 'Find address' box
- Hit the 'Search Location' box
- The location classification and code will appear at the bottom.

Eligible costs

Do you fund feature film, television or documentary?

While the program supports screen-based and multi-media art, it does not generally support activities associated with feature film, television or documentary. Funding for these activities can be sought from the Australian Government's primary agency for production of Australian screen activity, Screen Australia.

Do you fund organisational administration costs?

Visions of Australia does not fund core ongoing staff and administrative costs for organisations, or audit fees. However, staff and administrative costs directly associated with undertaking the specific project to be funded may be included as part of an application.

If an item in the proposed budget is deemed ineligible for funding, does that mean my entire project will be considered ineligible for funding?

If an item within the proposed project budget is deemed ineligible to receive funding or does not fully meet the selection criteria of value for money, this does not mean that your entire application is automatically considered ineligible. Assessors are able to recommend partial funding.

Are there any other items not listed in the guidelines that the program will consider funding?

Where a sufficient need is demonstrated in regard to the success of the project, consideration will be given to funding items such as:

- Artist fees in line with industry standards for delivering workshops and public programming
- Travel expenses. The department will usually only fund domestic economy airfares unless an acceptable case is made for a higher class
- Domestic living away from home allowance and per diems
- Marketing and advertising
- Photographic and documenting equipment
- Minor exhibition hardware e.g. display plinths.

Do you fund the purchase of assets?

Generally, assets are not supported by the program unless you can demonstrate they are a critical element of the exhibition material or to the artist's work of art.

Assessment Criteria

How are the assessment criteria weighted?

There are four assessment criteria and each criterion are weighted equally.

What does "scale of the tour" mean?

Scale of the tour refers to the size and reach of the tour, including how many participants are involved and how many regional and remote venues the tour will visit.

How do I describe what the “benefits” of my tour are?

Benefits are the advantages obtained by the arts and cultural sector, tour participants, artists that are participating as well as audiences and community as a consequence of the tour and through delivering the project activities.

What do you mean by financial and project partners, and co-contribution?

Financial and project partners provide, or help with obtaining, financial support for the project. This may include providing in-kind support.

Creative partners contribute to the organisation or execution of the project.

Co-contribution refers to cash or in-kind support. Assessment of applications will consider the level of support you can demonstrate you already have secured as well as the support you can realistically expect to receive.

Do I need to be able to demonstrate confirmation (or in-principle commitment) of co-contributions from other sources when I submit my application? Will an estimate of anticipated co-contributions as part of a clear, realistic fundraising plan suffice?

Written evidence of support from others is highly desirable. As the budget will need to balance, commitments should be as accurate as possible.

Will co-contributions from state, territory and/or local governments meet the requirement to leverage funds from other sources?

Yes.

My organisation is an individual business unit of a local/state government. Will co-contributions from that local/state government meet the requirement to leverage funds from another source?

Yes.

I have applied for funding from a state/territory/local government and/or philanthropic foundation but have not yet heard back on whether my application was successful. Can the funding I have applied for count as co-contribution for the purposes of my application?

Yes. Your application to Visions of Australia will ask you to indicate the status of confirmation for that support. Financial partnerships are an important consideration under the assessment criteria and therefore you should include all other funding, even if not confirmed at the time of applying.

Can the support I leverage from other sources be entirely in-kind, or does some leveraged support need to be monetary (i.e. cash contributions)?

Support from other sources can be cash or in-kind. The inclusion of financial partnerships is strongly encouraged and will make your application more competitive. An application with no additional supports, either in-kind or cash from either financial partnerships or applicant co-contributions, would be considered less competitive.

What happens if my committed/budgeted co-contributions fall through during the activity period?

You will need to advise the department as soon as possible and we will renegotiate/update your funding agreement with you.

I have applied or intend to apply for funding from another program for this project, should I include this in my application?

You will need to include the details of the grant program you have applied to, or intend to apply to, for the project. Please provide the name of the grant program/s. If successful for funding under another program you must advise the department as soon as possible.

Application and Assessment Process

How do I submit an application?

You must submit your application online through the SmartyGrants system:
<https://arts.smartygrants.com.au/>

Who can I go to if I am an artist with disability and need more assistance with my application?

Departmental staff can discuss your project with you and answer any specific questions you have in relation to the assessment criteria and how to complete and submit your application. Please contact staff at visions@arts.gov.au or on 1800 590 577 (Option 1). If you need information on accessibility see [Arts Access Australia](#) or the arts and disability peak body in your state, or territory.

Who will assess my application?

Applications will be assessed and ranked by at least three assessors (generally five) including a combination of departmental staff and independent assessors. Assessors will consider quality, access, support and partnerships, and value for money as stated in the Program Guidelines under assessment criteria.

Who are the Independent Assessors?

The department selects Independent Assessors from sector and community representatives formed through Expressions of Interests from arts and culture professionals. Senior departmental staff will select assessors depending on the nature of applications received.

Do I get to know which Independent Assessor(s) assessed my application?

Independent Assessors' private contact details are kept confidential and held securely by the department. The department does **not** publish or provide the names of individual Independent Assessors selected for each funding round.

How long will it take for me to be notified of the decision on my application?

Applicants will usually be advised of the assessment outcome within three months of the closing date of each round. Applicants will be advised of the assessment outcome in writing.

What are the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs) and how are they relevant?

The CGRPs provide the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework for better practice grants administration. The document sets out a range of rules and requirements that apply to government officials and ministers involved in grant making. The rules are designed to ensure transparency and probity in the spending of public money. In 2013 the CGRPs were formally included in legislation as the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRGs), meaning that they are not just a guide to better practice; adhering to them is now a legislative requirement. On 1 October 2024, the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 replaced the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017. To find out more, please visit <https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/changes-commonwealth-grants-framework-2024>.

What is the grants register and why are my details published?

Under Commonwealth grants legislation, all Commonwealth entities must publish information on individual grants on the Commonwealth Government's whole-of-government grant information system [GrantConnect](#) no later than 21 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect (CGRP 5.4.). Further information on web-based reporting requirements can be found at the [Department of Finance](#) website.

Privacy

How will my personal information be handled?

Personal information collected by the department is protected by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). We use this information to carry out our functions properly and efficiently, including disclosing grant information on GrantConnect as required for reporting purposes and giving information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes, and providing the contact details of successful organisations to the Minister and other Members of Parliament. The department only uses personal information for the purposes for which it was given to the department and for directly related purposes (unless otherwise required by, or authorised under, law).

Complaints Mechanism

What if I am unhappy about how the department has handled my application?

All complaints about the grant process must be lodged in writing. The department has a complaints procedure. If you have a complaint, please lodge it by using the online 'Contact us' form available on the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts website](#), or via email or mail:

By mail: Director, Governance Section
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email: clientservice@infrastructure.gov.au

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