November 2023

Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS) program

Open Competitive Grant Opportunity - Frequently Asked Questions

Please make sure you have read the *Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program Guidelines* and the *Indigenous Art Centre Framework* before submitting an application via https://arts.smartygrants.com.au/.

Can I discuss my proposed activity with an IVAIS representative prior to submitting my application?
Yes, you can email ivais@arts.gov.au to discuss your proposed activity prior to submitting an application. We aim to respond to emails within three working days.

Can I apply for IVAIS funding as an individual, or if my organisation is based overseas?
No. 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

See Section 4: Eligibility Criteria in the *Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program Guidelines* Further information is available at: https://arts.smartygrants.com.au/.

Do I need to be an existing IVAIS funded organisation to apply for a grant?
No. Any organisation that meets the IVAIS program's Eligibility Criteria can apply.

If applying for operational funding, is my art centre or arts hub expected to participate in exhibitions?
IVAIS funding is designed to support viable opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to produce, extend, market and generate income from their professional visual art practice. Accordingly, IVAIS funded art centres and arts hubs are expected to participate in exhibitions regionally and nationally, as well as internationally where possible. This should, where viable, include participation in at least one Indigenous art fair each year, with a focus on art sales.

Does the IVAIS program fund community arts development, language and cultural maintenance activities?
IVAIS provides funding for professional visual arts activities that have strong connections to the art market. It does not fund activities focussed on community arts development, Indigenous languages or cultural maintenance. This means that funding is not available to support cultural centres and keeping places, art therapy programs and cultural development programs **unless** strong connections to the art market can be demonstrated.

For project based arts activities with an Indigenous languages focus, you may wish to look at the Department's Indigenous Languages and Arts (ILA) program at: https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/indigenous-languages-and-arts-program.

How can I be considered for direct offer funding through the closed non-competitive grant process?
If you are successful in receiving operational support through an open competitive round, you may be considered for future grants through a closed non-competitive process, pending your organisation meeting the program outcomes to a consistently high level.

Does the IVAIS program fund infrastructure activities?
Yes, the IVAIS program can provide support for upgrades to and/or refurbishment of art centre facilities. However, due to budget limitations, the IVAIS program is not able to fund large-scale capital infrastructure activities, such as the construction of an art centre building or staff housing. That being the case, the IVAIS program can consider funding a contribution towards capital works in partnership with other government entities, philanthropists etc.

You may wish to talk with your local government, or state or territory government to see if other infrastructure funding opportunities exist. You may also wish to search for infrastructure grants on the Australian Government's grants and programs finder: https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs.

Does the IVAIS program fund International exhibiting opportunities?
Yes, the IVAIS program can provide support for activities that will increase access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to national and international markets. However, as outlined in the *Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program Guidelines,* IVAIS cannot fund an overseas resident/organisation, as the support of international activities would need to be delivered through an Australian based eligible entity. Support for international activities could be: production of a catalogue, insurance of works, freight and duty costs, assistance with travel to an event such as an exhibition or art fair.

What should I choose in the application form under 'what do you plan to deliver with this funding'?
Choose the most relevant outcomes to your activity. If your activity does not fit into the options listed, choose the most relevant and type in a more accurate description of your activity in the 'Other' field.

If my organisation already receives IVAIS funding, can I apply for additional funding or a one-off activity?
Yes, please ensure you clearly outline what the funding will be used for and how the additional funding or proposed one-off activity will achieve IVAIS program outcomes.

Can I apply for multi-year funding if my organisation is new to the IVAIS program?
Yes, you are able to apply for up to two years funding. For new organisations that are successful in receiving IVAIS funding, grant periods are generally one to two years' duration, with grants ranging from $5,000 to $80,000 per annum depending on the scale and scope of the proposed activity.

Can I include operational budget items, including Indigenous arts worker funding, in my budget if I am applying for one-off funding?
Yes, you are able to include operational budget items, including for arts workers, in your budget proposal for one-off / new activity funding.

Can I submit multiple activities in one application, or should I submit separate applications for individual activities?
The IVAIS program preference is to have one activity per application. This allows the application assessors to clearly identify and assess the individual activities and associated budgets.

When will I be notified if my application has been successful?
It is expected that organisations will be notified of funding outcomes for the open competitive round closing on 18 February 2024 in April to May 2024.

If successful in receiving IVAIS funding, when am I able to commence my activity?
Activities must not commence prior to execution of a Grant Agreement. IVAIS funding cannot fund any part of an activity or activities that have already occurred.