

AH&MRC Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Small Grants Guidelines

Grants Program Overview

The Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Small Grants Program will provide rapid, targeted investment in short-term, high-impact, community-designed suicide prevention and social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) initiatives across NSW. With grants from \$10,000 - \$100,000 available, the program aims to strengthen culturally safe, place-based responses in communities identified as having unmet need through analysis of the NSW Suicide Monitoring System (SuMS) data.



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Program Objectives:

This round of small grants aims to increase access to culturally safe, community-led suicide prevention and SEWB supports in priority communities by Dec 2026. The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW ('AH&MRC') recognises that our member services are best placed to design and deliver initiatives that are grounded in culture informed by local knowledge and are responsive to emerging community needs.

Grants will be prioritised Using SuMS (NSW Suicide Monitoring Systems) data to identify communities experiencing higher levels of suicide risk, suspected suicide, or related distress. This data informed approach paired with community knowledges and insight will ensure funding supports areas of greatest need while maintaining flexibility for place-based responses.

Funding will support ACCHOs to strengthen local suicide prevention and SEWB initiatives that:

- Increase access to culturally safe mental health and wellbeing supports
- Strengthen early intervention and suicide prevention activities
- Support aftercare and postvention responses following suicide or critical incidents
- Promote healing through culture connection to Country, and community-led approaches
- Build resilience and protective factors across our communities
- Increase engagement with priority target groups including youth, men, women and Elders

A key focus of this grants round is to build local workforce capability and capacity within community-controlled settings. This may include developing peer support roles, strengthening SEWB teams, supporting cultural healers and community facilitators and enhancing skills in suicide prevention, aftercare and community response. Overall empowering ACCHOs to lead solutions that strengthen community wellbeing, reduce suicide risk, and support healing at an individual, family and community level.

Available Funding:

A total funding pool of \$1,000,000 (GST inclusive) is available under this grants round. Eligible organisations may apply for Small Grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000 to support the delivery of culturally safe, community-led suicide prevention and Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) initiatives.

3 x \$100,000
8 x \$50,000
8 x \$25,000
10 x \$10,000

The number of grants awarded will depend on the range of funding amounts approved and the quality of applications received. There is no guarantee that all available funds will be allocated.

Funding will be provided on a one-off, subject to the execution of a funding agreement and achievement of agreed milestones.





AH&MRC reserves the right to:

- Fund applications for less than the amount requested.
- Partially allocate funding across priority areas.
- Not fund any application or allocate the full funding pool.

Funding must be used for eligible activities outlined in these Guidelines and expended within the approved funding period.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding under this grants round, applicants must:

- Be an eligible Ordinary Member of AH&MRC at the time of application.
- Deliver programs or services that are aligned with the objectives of this grant round, focussing on suicide prevention and/or social and emotional well-being supports.
- Demonstrate organisational capacity, governance and workforce capability to deliver proposed activities within the approved funding period.

Successful Applicants will be required to:

- Enter in to and comply with a funding agreement with the AH&MRC;
- Meet reporting and accountability requirements, including progress and financial reporting.

Note: the AH&MRC may seek additional information to confirm eligibility.

Priority Areas

SuMS-Identified Need and Under-Served Communities

Funding under this grants round will be prioritised for ACCHOs operating in communities identified through the NSW Suicide Monitoring System (SuMS) as experiencing higher levels of suicide risk, suspected suicide, or suicide-related distress.

SuMS data will be used as a key mechanism to identify geographic areas and population groups that are currently under-served or experiencing disproportionate levels of need. This evidence-based approach will support targeted investment in communities where access to culturally safe suicide prevention and Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) supports is limited or inadequate.

This data-informed prioritisation will be complemented by local community knowledge, cultural authority and lived experience to ensure responses remain locally driven, culturally grounded and responsive to emerging needs. Together, this approach ensures funding reaches areas of greatest need while retaining flexibility for place-based, community-determined solutions.





Eligible Activities

Examples include but are not limited to:

- On country healing camps or cultural programs
- Community yarning circles or healing groups
- Mental health awareness and education workshops
- Peer support initiatives
- Elder led knowledge sharing and/or mentoring
- Community events promoting wellbeing
- Development of locally tailored resources
- Short-term workforce support or training
- School based or holiday programs for young people

Exclusions/ Ineligible activities

Funding will not support:

- Core Business or ongoing operational costs
- Clinical service delivery or programs already funded elsewhere
- Infrastructure or capital expenditure
- Activities that are not Aboriginal led or driven and don't align culturally
- Retrospective funding for completed projects

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against:

- Community need and Benefit
 - Clear understanding of local need
 - Demonstrated benefit to community
- Community Leadership
 - Evidence of how your service will ensure community input
 - Engagement with elders and community
- Cultural Strengths
 - Incorporation of cultural knowledges, practice and connection to country
- Feasibility
 - Clear, SMART goals and timelines
 - Appropriate budget
- Impact
 - Potential to improve social and emotional wellbeing outcomes, connection to country or culture and build resilience
 - Sustainability beyond the funding period (where possible)





Application Process:

Applicants are required to submit:

- Completed EOI form
- Budget Breakdown
- Timeline
- Brief description of community consultation

Applications can be submitted by completing [THIS FORM](#) and sending a detailed budget through to the email address below. If you require any support to complete forms please contact project lead Lachlan Madden at lmadden@ahmrc.org.au

Application Process:

Applications /EOI opens	1st July 2026
Applications Close COB	20 July
Internal Review	23 rd July
Panel Selection	27 th July
Approval Process	3 rd August
Applicants notified of outcome	TBC

Reporting Requirements:

- Mid-point check in
- Final Report – Template will be sent with grant agreement
- Financial acquittal

Mid point check in	Feb 2027
Final Report Due	July 30 2027
Financial Acquittal Due	July 30 2027

