

Annual Grassroots Grants Funding Guidelines

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About us

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation was established in 2003 as a legacy gift from Newcastle Permanent Building Society to its communities. Through our funding, the Foundation aims to empower charities to create meaningful impact and help our communities thrive. The Foundation is a gift that's here for good.

Our partnerships are grounded in mutual respect, and we seek to partner with impact-focused charities to create positive, lasting change in our regional communities.

Where we fund

Our Foundation provides grants that serve communities in the Hunter, Central Coast, Central West, Mid North Coast, New England and Northern Rivers regions of NSW.



Our areas of impact

We seek to partner with charities that harness genuine local connections and, where possible, the potential of social enterprise to create sustainable impact for our communities in need in the following areas:

Health – with a focus on

- **Access to services:** initiatives that aim to reduce barriers that prevent regional communities from seeking, reaching, and obtaining timely access to health and related services designed to improve health outcomes.
- **Chronic diseases:** initiatives focused on enabling better understanding, management, and outcomes for underserved regional communities impacted by chronic health conditions.
- **Preventative healthcare:** initiatives designed to educate and encourage participation in preventative healthcare measures amongst regional communities.

Social wellbeing – through initiatives that foster

- **Safer communities:** initiatives aimed at facilitating respectful relationships and social connection for safer, more inclusive, and resilient regional communities.
- **Digital inclusion[^]:** initiatives designed to enable equitable access to and effective engagement with digital technologies and services for underserved regional communities.
- **Relief from the impacts of poverty:** initiatives that provide material support to, and create economic opportunities for, communities experiencing poverty.

[^] Digital inclusion relates to programs that support outcomes re access, affordability, digital skill building, and online safety.

Our funding principles

Impact-focused

We support initiatives that deliver meaningful, measurable outcomes that help people and communities thrive.

Innovative

We value creative thinking and fresh approaches aimed at driving positive and lasting change.

Collaborative

We believe greater impact is achieved through collaboration between partners and communities, and when those closest to the challenges help shape the solutions.

Evidence-informed

We favour initiatives that are grounded in community insight, lived experience, research, or a clear theory of change to benefit those most in need in our communities.

Sustainable

We support work that shows potential for lasting benefit beyond our funding and helps build long-term resilience.

Our annual Grassroots Grants round

Through our annual Grassroots Grants round we aim to distribute approximately \$500,000 annually to support eligible charities delivering meaningful outcomes in our local communities. These grants are designed to support small-scale initiatives that can be delivered within 12 months to create meaningful impact.

Applicants may request funding between \$25,000 and \$50,000 (including GST).

A standalone Grassroots Volunteer Grant for \$25,000 (including GST) is available to an organisation that relies on volunteers. The recipient will be required to allocate funds towards the volunteer experience through capacity building including training or mentoring, volunteer program development and recruitment, or relevant system enhancements.

Applications for Grassroots Grants must be submitted online. Eligible charities may apply for the two categories however only one grant will be awarded per charity. Visit our website to learn more.

Grant round timeline

Open 1 October	Apply 1-31 October	Close 31 October
Assess November- January	Approve & notify March	Pay June

Organisation eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant, your organisation must:

- Deliver the initiative/s within our funding footprint
- Be registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) or Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC)
- Be registered and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office for:
 - Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status, and,
 - Deductible Gift Recipient status covered under Item 1 (DGR1).
- Be prepared to submit an application through our online Grants Portal.

Funding eligibility*

The Foundation favours initiatives that align to our funding principles and can be delivered within 12 months. To ensure our funding creates the greatest impact and remains aligned to our purpose, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation is unable to consider funding for the following:

- General sponsorship, fundraising activities, and disaster appeals
- Unsolicited emergency relief and material aid requests
- Individual support, including personal travel, study, or medical expenses
- Commercial activities not aimed at advancing charitable purpose and impact
- One-time events, festivals, or community activities that are not intended for continuation or directly linked to delivering lasting impact
- Activities outside our specified regional footprint
- Projects considered the responsibility of government or local authorities
- Applications from organisations with unmet responsibilities under past funding agreements
- Retrospective funding requests
- Requests for initiatives delivered under auspicing arrangements
- Endowments, memorials, or named academic chairs
- Political or religious projects, including lobbying and litigation
- Organisations that are a current partner of Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and/or have not formally acquitted their project
- Large scale capital appeals or projects, although we may consider funding infrastructure or portions of capital costs deemed essential to the long-term sustainability of the organisation's services and/or integral to delivering on the program's objectives/ meaningful impact. This may include vehicles.

**This list is not exhaustive; contact the Foundation regarding your initiative if not specified.*

Before you begin

- Have you confirmed your organisation's eligibility?
- Does your charity and proposed initiative align with the Charitable Foundation's areas of impact and funding principles?
- How will the proposed initiative lead to positive change for beneficiaries? Do you have data that helps illustrate the need for that change?
- Does your charity hold the knowledge, resources, and capacity to deliver what is proposed?
- Is the funding request realistic and well defined? Can you prepare a detailed budget?
- Can your organisation show evidence of risk identification and program design, along with appropriate measurement and evaluation?
- Have you previewed the application questions?
- Do you have any unanswered questions? Check our online FAQs.

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