

ABOUT THE GRANTS PROGRAM

The McGowan Government acknowledges the importance of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and their pivotal role in delivering culturally secure services to Aboriginal people.

The Department of Communities (Communities) has provided the Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) with \$275,000 (ex GST) in funding to administer the **Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Grants** program.

ACCOs and organisations specialising in the delivery of empowering programs for Aboriginal young people aged 10-25 years are eligible to apply for grants of between \$2,000 and \$25,000 (ex GST).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program aims to support initiatives that elevate the voice of Aboriginal young people aged 10-25 years through increased representation, engagement, and participation with decision-making. YACWA will provide support and guidance through the application process and acquittal requirements on completion of the project.

Empowerment involves young people making decisions about their own lives, and getting the support needed to make this happen. It begins with having strong and secure foundations that allow people, families, and communities to grow and develop, and build their own futures.¹

The grant round aligns with the Minister for Youth priorities of:

- leading the elevation of young people's participation and voices across government; and
- prioritising Aboriginal youth development and engagement.

The overall aim of the program is to support new initiatives that empower Aboriginal young people that align with the [Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan](#), aimed at assisting young people aged 10-25 years, and [Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy – Western Australia 2021-2029](#), National Agreement on Closing the Gap – Priority Reform area 2: Building the community-controlled sector - Sector Strengthening Strategy and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy 2022-2032.

Applications open: Monday 31 October 2022	Applications close: Friday 9 December 2022
Applicants notified of grant outcome: by 28 February 2023	Funding pool: \$275,000 Grants distributed within ten (10) business days of YACWA receiving the applicant's invoice.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations operating in Western Australia; and
- Organisations specialising in the delivery of empowerment programs for Aboriginal young people in Western Australia.

WHO CAN'T APPLY

- Organisations located outside of Western Australia;
- Commonwealth or State Government agencies;
- Individuals;
- Commercial, for-profit organisations; and
- Organisations located in the Indian Ocean Territories.

WHAT THIS GRANT WILL SUPPORT

Funding from this application can go towards any of the following expenses:

- Skill-building and professional development for Aboriginal young people;
- Public speaking programs for Aboriginal young people;
- Governance training for Aboriginal young people;
- Participation costs for Aboriginal Young People
- Programs that connect young people with local governments and youth advisory councils;
- Transport, including airfares and ground transport within Western Australia;
- Equipment and venue hire;
- Consumables (where imperative for the activity to take place, including catering);
- Wages related to the project/program staffing (must be for the project time only);
- Costs for marketing that cannot be delivered by the Department of Communities or YACWA;
- Grant administration costs (up to 10 per cent);
- New initiatives benefitting Aboriginal young people;
- Advocacy training; and
- Any other eligible projects that meet the grant program aims to elevate the voice of Aboriginal young people aged 10-25 years, and increase representation, engagement, and participation with decision-making.

WHAT THIS GRANT WON'T SUPPORT

- Activities with no benefit to Aboriginal young people in Western Australia;
- Projects that duplicate an existing or similar project or service within the community;
- Projects that are traditionally funded through other sources (e.g. disability access);
- Retrospective costs;
- Projects and activities that involve commercial ventures, charitable events or fundraising activities with the awarding of prizes as its focus;
- Gifts or payments for project participants;
- Operational staffing (e.g., ongoing maintenance or operational costs of existing programs or facilities including but not limited to rent, maintenance, service charges, administration, ongoing wages or salaries to maintain the organisation); and
- Purchase of capital items, infrastructure or equipment

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The project aligns with the [Beyond 2020 – WA Youth Action Plan](#) and one or more of the three pillars identified within the [Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy – Western Australia 2021-2029](#) and its key elements:
 - **Investing in foundations and futures**
Building strengths, prevention and earlier intervention as well as expanding economic opportunities.
 - **Walking together**
Truth-telling, eliminating racism and promoting respect for Aboriginal people, Aboriginal communities, and Aboriginal culture.
 - **Empowering Aboriginal young people**
Supporting Aboriginal-led solutions, partnerships, shared decision-making, and engagement.
- The project offers value for money.
- There is evidence of sound planning and ability to manage the project, including clearly defined project objectives, evaluation measures, and outcomes.
- The applicant has demonstrated through a culturally sensitive and respectful approach that there is a community need.
- The project increases representation, engagement, and participation with decision-making of Aboriginal young people aged 10-25 years.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This grant round will be assessed by a panel of Aboriginal young people and Aboriginal community representatives, alongside representatives from the Department of Communities and the Minister for Youth's office. YACWA will **not** be involved in the assessment of applications. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission via email by 28 February 2023.

ASSESSMENT PRIORITISATION

The Grant Assessment Panel will also prioritise applications that meet the above listed assessment criteria, on the following basis.

The proposed youth empowerment project will:

- Support Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations;
- Be delivered regionally, rurally and/or remotely; and
- Support organisations with no core funding.

HOW TO APPLY

- Carefully read the Guidelines.
- Contact the YACWA Grants Officer to discuss the project proposal and confirm eligibility of the application - there is no question too big or too small.

Mr Raj Soares (he/him)
Grants Officer
Youth Affairs Council WA
grants@yacwa.org.au
(08) 9227 5440

- Fill out the online application form via [SmartyGrants](#)
- Ensure the application is signed by the authorised delegate of the project.

All applications will be acknowledged via email within five (5) business days of receipt. Please contact the YACWA Grants Officer to confirm receipt if no acknowledgement is received by this time.

If you have any accessibility requirements in relation to your application that should be considered, please discuss with the Grants Officer.

KEY MILESTONES

The following information details the key administrative milestones applicable to proposals received for the **Aboriginal Youth Empowerment Grants** program supported by the Department of Communities:

- **MONDAY 31 October 2022**
Grants Open
- **FRIDAY 9 December 2022**
Grants Close
- **BEFORE 28 February 2023**
Applicants notified of grant outcome
Grants distributed within ten (10) business days of YACWA receiving the applicant's invoice.
- **SIX WEEKS FROM PROJECT COMPLETION DATE**
Applicants to complete project acquittal report within six (6) weeks of their project completion date and return of any unspent funds to YACWA.

SUPPORT

For further information about the grants program, or for assistance to complete the application form, please contact:

Mr Raj Soares (he/him)
Grants Officer
Youth Affairs Council WA

Telephone: (08) 9227 5440
Email: grants@yacwa.org.au
Website: www.yacwa.org.au

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – Tel: 13 14 50

REFERENCES

1. Department of Communities (2022). Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy 2022 to 2032.
<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-08/ACCO-Strategy-document-2022.pdf>
2. Australian Government. (2020). National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
<https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap>