



Australian Government



TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Grant Guidelines

FIRST COMMON FUNDING ROUND FOR 2021 (CFR 2021-1)

Seeking applications for activities to be undertaken between
1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 for the following TSRA Programmes:

1. Culture, Art and Heritage
2. Healthy Communities
3. Safe Communities
4. Indigenous Broadcasting

THE TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY COMMON FUNDING ROUND

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is the leading Commonwealth representative body for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people living in the Torres Strait and is committed to achieving improved outcomes for Indigenous Australians in the Torres Strait Region, including the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of Cape York.

Through its programmes the TSRA contributes to provision of essential environmental, cultural and social services and infrastructure outlined in the [Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Regional Plan 2009-2029](#) and the [Torres Strait Development Plan 2019-2022](#).

The Common Funding Round (CFR) provides an opportunity for individuals and organisations located within the Torres Strait Region to apply for funding to deliver projects for the benefit of the community, in line with the objectives of TSRA's programmes.

The TSRA has other opportunities for economic activities through both the [Economic Development Programme](#).

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PART A – ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A1 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organisations and individual located in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area communities of Bamaga and Seisia can apply for grants through TSRA Common Funding Rounds, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined below:

1. Applicants must be residents of, or organisations located in the Torres Strait Region, which includes the Northern Peninsula Area Communities of Bamaga and Seisia.
2. The activity or project for which funding is sought must be delivered in the Torres Strait Region and it must directly benefit Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal people living in the region.
3. TSRA Board members and employees, or their immediate families (spouse and dependent children) are not eligible to apply for TSRA grant funding through the Common Funding Round, individually or on behalf of an organisation.

Where TSRA Board Members or staff hold positions within an organisation applying for TSRA grants, they must notify the TSRA of the potential conflict of interest and may not receive salary or wages (income) from TSRA grant funds.

4. Applicants may not have any grants currently in breach with the TSRA or any other State or Commonwealth Government Agency.
5. Unincorporated organisations and individuals will need to engage an incorporated organisation to auspice grant funding. The auspicings organisation must have the capacity to receive the grant funding, acquit expenditure, and prepare financial reports on behalf of the applicant. Written evidence that the auspicings organisation accepts this responsibility will need to be provided with the application.
6. If the applicant is an individual or an organisation that requires a financial auspicings partner, that they have completed any previous TSRA grants and those grants have been acquitted by the TSRA.
7. Applications to support income generation activities (for-profit) are not eligible for support through the Common Funding Round. The TSRA's Economic Development programme offers support for the development of businesses within the Torres Strait Region (<http://www.tsra.gov.au/the-tsra/programmes/economic-development>).
8. Activities or assets for religious organisations are not eligible for funding, except where linked to creative arts and cultural maintenance activities for the broader community.
9. Catering costs for events that exceed more than 10% of the total project budget are not eligible.
10. Activities that start or finish outside the period defined in the activity period defined in section C of these guidelines are not eligible.
11. Where applicants are seeking funding for activities involving vulnerable people or children, funding may not be provided until a successful applicant has provided evidence that project staff hold appropriate accreditation (e.g. Blue Card) for working with vulnerable people or children.

A2 - GENERAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Grant funding is limited for each round and applications are assessed competitively and are ranked against assessment criteria. Section A2 outlines general criteria against which common funding round grants are assessed, however, some TSRA programmes may have programme specific criteria (see Section B of these guidelines).

1. The project has a clear description and tangible outcomes for the community.

The outcomes of the project/activity are clearly described, will benefit the broader community and fit with aims of the relevant TSRA programme.

There is evidence of community support for the proposal or activity. *E.g. letters of support from community organisations, PBC's etc.*

Applications should demonstrate a direct contribution to the outcomes of the relevant TSRA funding programme. The TSRA may conduct an evaluation of the project after its completion to measure its contribution to the targeted benefits of the programme that provided the funding.

2. That the applicant has the demonstrated ability to deliver the proposed project.

The application demonstrates that the organisation or individual has capacity to successfully deliver the project. The TSRA may seek advice from other agencies that provide funding to your organisation.

That appropriate professional skills are applied to the delivery of the project – for example where professional services are being provided, that services are delivered by appropriately trained and accredited staff.

Applicants should outline the skills required for any positions that will be recruited with grant funds. The role of any existing personnel that will contribute to the management or administration management of the project should be provided with the submission, along with a copy of their resumes.

The applicant's previous performance in delivering and reporting on previous State or Commonwealth Government Grants will be considered in determining their ability to deliver the proposed activity.

3. The application demonstrates value for public funds, including:

A demonstrated need for Commonwealth Government funding via the TSRA, i.e., evidence the activity could not occur without TSRA funding and is not the responsibility of another government agency or program. i.e., Queensland Government or Commonwealth Government programs.

Evidence that the proposed project does not overlap the activities of another community organisation in the same region. For example, a description of how your proposal complements, rather than duplicates the activities of similar organisations in your region.

Where staff are to be recruited to deliver a TSRA funded project activity, a publicly advertised, merit-based recruitment process must be utilised and salaries and qualifications for staff must be consistent with relevant industry or government awards. ***Note that the TSRA may specify the number of personnel, working hours, skills, qualifications, salaries and recruitment process in a funding agreement.***

While not essential, evidence of any financial or in-kind contributions from individuals or partner organisations that reduce reliance on TSRA grant funding, may improve the competitiveness of your application.

3.1 Budget:

The budget proposal should demonstrate the applicant understands the costs of the project.

The applicant will need to complete a budget proposal in the application form and provide a clear indication of the amount being requested from the TSRA and what it will be used for.

Where funding is sought for the purchase goods or equipment to deliver an activity, quotes must be provided.

The budget will also identify any other funds that have been requested from other sources and if these funds are confirmed or not.

An in-kind contribution is considered a valid contribution, for example where labour or use of venue or facilities is valued but no money is used in the exchange. Please indicate the proper commercial values for these 'in-kind' amounts.

A3 - PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND EVALUATION

If your application is successful, in addition to financial reporting the TSRA will ask you to evaluate and report on the success of your project. Reporting requirements will be outlined in a funding agreement and specific reporting templates may be provided.

Grant applicants may be asked to provide both qualitative and quantitative evidence to measure the success of their project

Example: Qualitative information – descriptions of what occurred from community members or participants who were involved in the project outcomes, including photographs.

Example: Quantitative information – detailing the number of people or specific events that occurred (e.g., dates and locations of meetings or events, numbers and names of participants).

PART B - TSRA PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

The TSRA delivers eight programmes that contribute to the targets outlined in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009-2029) for which the TSRA has a regional policy or service delivery role.

The second Common Funding Round for 2021 invites grant applications against the following TSRA programmes:

1. **Culture Arts and Heritage**
2. **Health Communities**
3. **Safe Communities**
4. **Indigenous Broadcasting**

B1 - CULTURE, ART AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME

Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal cultural traditions are central to the lives of the people in the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Adequate focus on preserving our culture, history and heritage through art, dance, language and craft skills is imperative. Torres Strait art is unique, recognised nationally and internationally, and contributes to the preservation of our culture. Protecting our art and culture, including our copyright and intellectual property rights, is an integral element in growing our artists and art centres in the region.

The aims of the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme are to:

- protect culturally significant sites and artefacts to ensure longevity
- revitalise and maintain traditional cultural practices (art, dance, language, storytelling and songs) among communities
- advocate agreed protocols around the protection of traditional knowledge, intellectual property and copyright (in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- promote Ailan Kastom to ensure that services and management practices are underpinned by cultural values and protocols.

Initiatives

Culture, Art and Heritage grants will be offered for projects between \$5,000 and \$25,000 that cover (but are not limited to) the following themes:

- Arts Development - including visual arts, contemporary performance arts, and contemporary music.
- Cultural Maintenance grants - including support for language projects, storytelling, cultural practice, celebrations, festivals, ceremonies and traditional dance and music.
- Heritage – including support for family histories, preservation of historical materials e.g. photographs, community histories; and restoration or conservation of artefacts.
- Significant Events/Milestone Events – including events that are considered significant and relevant to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula region. Before you begin your application, you **MUST** confirm that your event is eligible by contacting the **TSRA Culture Arts and Heritage Programme** on **07 40690 700** or via email CAHTeam@tsra.gov.au.

Program Specific Assessment Criteria (Culture Arts and Heritage)

Projects will be assessed against its contribution to the aims of the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme, specifically the objectives of supporting the continuation of ‘Strong, supported and respected Ailan Kastom’ and the development an ‘Active and sustainable arts and crafts industry’.

Applicants will need to outline in detail how the outcomes and benefits of the proposed project align with the goals of the Culture, Art and Heritage programme.

Activities that will be considered for funding

- Projects locally managed that benefit the whole community e.g. festivals and events, language projects, recording local stories and songs.
- Production costs to develop traditional and contemporary art forms e.g. art and craft, song, dance.
- Local artists travelling to workshops or key cultural and arts events e.g. dance festival, or arts skills development in any art form or cultural learning.
- Costs of hosting a visiting artist to build local skills e.g. professional fees, training fees, accommodation, travel and living costs.
- Production costs for projects and events such as lighting, sound, rental of equipment, hire of venues, costuming, design fees, and promotional brochures.
- Purchasing of materials that are part of the project e.g. wood form-making for instruments/carvings, paint, canvas, framing, crates for transporting art.
- Training for artists and project managers e.g. marketing or management skills.
- Cost for touring of artwork to exhibitions.
- Advertising costs for the promotion of an exhibition or event.
- Small capital items that are a necessary part of an artistic or cultural project.
- The conservation or restoration of artefacts, photographs, written histories of significance, display of historical material, archiving of heritage materials, family histories or similar.

(Please discuss your project idea with a TSRA Project Officer)

What is not funded?

1. Activities that are run as part of a school curriculum or within school hours and which would normally be part of usual school activities (i.e. which should be supported by Education Queensland or similar).
2. Wages or salaries for project staff.
3. Operational funding for an organisation.
4. Activities which are unable to demonstrate a contribution to the Culture, Art and Heritage Programme's aims and targeted benefits.
5. The purchase or lease of capital items e.g. buildings, vehicles or machinery.
6. Projects under \$5,000 or over \$25,000.
7. Activities that may create an ongoing dependency on TSRA Grant funding, i.e. funding over multiple years.

B2 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

It is recognised that basic living standards must be maintained and contribute to healthy people and communities. The region experiences lower than average health and life expectancy outcomes as well as a higher prevalence of chronic diseases. In addition to this, families and communities face a high cost of living.

Through its initiatives, the Healthy Communities Programme will focus on a proactive role in contributing to, funding, advocating and monitoring health for improved outcomes for the people of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.

The promotion of healthy and active people in our communities will continue through supporting and monitoring educational initiatives, including initiatives on physical education and nutrition. Monitoring and advocating for healthy and affordable food options, including the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables, is required to support healthy outcomes for people in the region. The Healthy Communities Programme will provide strategic policy advice to alleviate the lack of suitable housing, overcrowding, and low levels of home ownership by Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal people.

The aims of the Healthy Communities Programme are to:

- Seek to influence policy for all health programmes across all tiers of government.
- Monitor health services and health initiatives across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and provide strategic policy advice, under the broad umbrella of Integrated Service Delivery.
- Provide direct support targeting healthy lifestyles, including improving availability of fresh produce and healthy food options, and encouraging people to undertake healthy activities.
- Provide some direct support for home ownership.

What activities may be considered for funding?

- Initiatives that provide direct support for healthy lifestyles, including improving availability of fresh produce and healthy food options and encouraging people to undertake healthy activities.

NOTE: A separate grant process is administered outside of the Common Funding Round for minor infrastructure projects. Only Queensland local government authorities (councils) are eligible for minor infrastructure funding.

What is not funded?

- Activities which are unable to demonstrate a contribution to the Programme's aims and targeted benefits.
- Proposals that duplicate the role of an existing service provider in the same region.
- Funding to subsidise the cost of sporting events.
- Projects under \$5,000.
- Travel costs for individuals or teams to attend sporting events / training.

Note that the TSRA provides funding to the Torres Strait Youth and Recreational Sporting Association (TSYRSA), who offer grants to the community for sporting events and travel costs for athletes and teams. Please contact the TSYRSA on 07 4069 2484.

B3 - SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

It is recognised that, for communities to grow and implement initiatives towards their growth, people need to be safe in their homes and communities. This includes their access to public spaces in their communities. While the TSRA is not responsible for community services and services such as law and order, the TSRA will support and monitor the delivery of services to contribute to safety in our communities.

Through the Safe Communities Programme, the TSRA will support the delivery of non-mainstream community capacity building for ongoing, funded non-government organisations. Community initiatives on economic development and improving healthy lifestyles that incorporate our traditional ways must be able to be implemented and continued. Targeted initiatives that contribute to improving the standard of services such as emergency responses, safe and accessible community infrastructure and land and sea systems will be supported.

The aims of the Safe Communities Programme are to:

- Contributing to the development of standards for the provision of all mainstream social services and facilities including emergency response services, through engagement with responsible agencies.
- Undertaking a policy advocacy, monitoring and support role with respect to mainstream services, advocating and acting as solution broker on behalf of communities and the region, using Integrated Service Delivery forums.

- Providing direct funding and resource support for community services and facilities that contribute to the improved safety of communities (the TSRA is not a provider of mainstream social and community services).

What activities may be considered for funding?

Activities that directly support the following Safe Communities Projects and Initiatives:

- Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal women, men and children social development and support programmes; child and family safety programmes.
- Safe and accessible community infrastructure; land and sea communications systems; community capacity building.
- Participation in interagency and Integrated Service Delivery meetings/forums to discuss issues of community and domestic safety and to contribute to shaping planning and service delivery in the region.

What is not funded?

- Proposals that duplicate the role of an existing service provider in the same region.
- Activities which are unable to demonstrate a contribution to the Programme's aims and targeted benefits.
- Projects under \$5,000.

B5 – INDIGENOUS BROADCASTING PROGRAMME

The Indigenous broadcasting sector plays a key role in the Torres Strait in information sharing and promotion of Indigenous culture and language. The remote location and geographical challenges of the region means radio broadcasts have an important role in keeping our communities informed about local, regional, state, national and international issues. Indigenous broadcasting is a key resource for our region for the promotion and sharing of the unique cultures, languages and traditions of Indigenous people.

A review of the TSRA's media and communications programme in 2010 identified the need for continued support for a regional Indigenous broadcasting network, connecting all communities in the Torres Strait. The TSRA's Indigenous Broadcasting Programme aims to address this need.

The aim of the Indigenous Broadcasting Programme is to support the provision of an effective Indigenous broadcasting network throughout the Torres Strait region, including the communities of Bamaga and Seisia in the Northern Peninsula Area of Cape York.

The TSRA recognises the importance of Indigenous broadcasting and its role in the realisation of programme outcomes and regional objectives under the Torres Strait Development Plan (2019-2022) and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan (2009 – 2029).

What will be considered for funding?

The focus of the TSRA's Indigenous Broadcasting Programme is to support the operational costs of Indigenous broadcasters in the Torres Strait region. In determining priorities for the allocation of Indigenous broadcasting funding, the key consideration will be the extent to which the funding is critical to the effective delivery of Indigenous broadcasting services.

Funds available through the TSRA's appropriations are limited and applications often exceed the level of funds available. The TSRA will attempt to manage a fair distribution of grant funds to applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

Items that may be considered for grant funding are shown below. This list is non-exhaustive and a grant application may be submitted for additional items specific to the provision of Indigenous broadcasting, however, the TSRA will determine the eligibility of those items.

- Operational costs (including salaries) for the administration and delivery of Indigenous broadcasting services in the Torres Strait;
- Training for Indigenous broadcasters through accredited training providers;
- Broadcasting infrastructure and equipment specific to the delivery of Indigenous broadcasting services in the Torres Strait region.

What is not funded?

The following activities are not eligible for Indigenous broadcasting funding:

- Activities that are the responsibility of other Government departments.
- Music, Video or TV Production.
- Purchase of motor vehicles or other capital items that are not specific to the provision of Indigenous broadcasting services.
- Commercial Film production.
- Development of business plans or other strategic plans.
- Repayment of existing debt.

Indigenous Broadcasting Programme Specific Assessment Criteria

To be eligible for TSRA's Indigenous Broadcasting Programme applicants must submit a copy of their Community Broadcasting Licence, or a Temporary Community Broadcasting Licence obtained from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

PART C – ADMINISTRATION

Activity Period

Eligible activities for the first Common Funding Round for 2021 must occur between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

Making an application

Applications for the first Common Funding Round 2021 (CFR 2021-1) must be received by **4pm on Thursday 22 April 2021**.

Applications must be made online via SmartyGrants through the TSRA website and submitted before the due dates specified in the TSRA Common Funding Round notices and at Section C of these guidelines. The application dates are also advertised on the TSRA website, Radio 4MW, Community Notice Boards, the TSRA Ranger Offices and other local media outlets.

Where individuals have difficulty accessing the internet, approval may be sought from the relevant TSRA programme area to submit a hardcopy grant application by contacting the TSRA office on (07) 4069 0700 or TOLL FREE on 1800 079 093.

Late applications

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered by the TSRA unless an extension to the submission date was granted. The approval for submission of a late application (maximum of 24 hours extension) must be sought through the TSRA Grants Officer before the close of applications **at 4pm on Thursday 22 April 2021**, by phone on (07) 4069 0700 or via email to grantapplications@tsra.gov.au.

Funding Allocation

The TSRA may approve less funding than requested in an application or approve an application in part. If this occurs, the TSRA will work with you to revise your project's objectives, activities and budget.

Funding Agreements

Successful applicants will receive a letter of offer, outlining a funding agreement with the TSRA.

Payments

All funding will be subject to the terms and conditions set out in a TSRA funding agreement, particularly conditions relating to the deposit of funds, auditing and unspent programme monies.

All payments will be made in line with the schedule and milestones set out in the agreement.

Conflict of Interest

Successful applicants need to undertake their activities in a way that avoids conflicts of interest, whether pecuniary or perceived. This applies particularly to the selection of employees and providers of goods or services for the delivery of the project activities. Employees and suppliers must be selected and engaged in an open and competitive process and in a way that maximises value for money for public funds.

From time to time, conflicts of interests may arise in relation to the TSRA's assessment of funding applications. The TSRA has established a Grants Assessment Panel to manage the assessment process in a transparent manner. The mechanism by which grant funding decisions can be appealed and reviewed is outlined below.

Legal Advice

Please note that the TSRA does not provide legal advice to applicants. You should seek your own independent professional advice on all financial and legal matters, including compliance with any statutory obligations.

Tax and Government funding

There may be taxation consequences of obtaining funding from the TSRA depending on individual circumstances. Applicants should make their own enquiries about the taxation consequences (including income tax and goods and services tax) of obtaining funding by consulting their financial adviser or the Australian Taxation Office Business Call Centre on 13 28 66.

Background Checks

The TSRA may at any time in the evaluation and selection process, examine the financial records of the applicant and undertake background checks, including criminal records, to determine the good character and business reputation of the applicant and/or funding recipient.

Where applicants are seeking funding for activities involving vulnerable people or children, funding may not be provided until the applicant has provided evidence that project staff hold appropriate accreditation for working with vulnerable people and children (e.g. a Queensland Government Blue Card).

Privacy

The TSRA is accountable to Parliament and to the public in respect of all aspects of its programmes. Treatment of submissions is subject to special obligations placed on Australian Public Service employees by the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Public Service Act 1999*, which govern the TSRA's use of the information provided. In this context, the TSRA is generally unable to accept grant submissions on a confidential basis.

Decision

The TSRA will endeavour to consider applications for funding and advise the applicant of the decision within 40 business days from the closing date of the funding round or from the receipt of any additional information requested under these guidelines.

Review Procedure

Applicants have the right to the review and appeal of any decision made by the TSRA. For grant funding, a request for an appeal of decision together with any supporting evidence must be lodged in writing with the TSRA Grants Officer within 60 days of the date on which the applicant was notified of the decision.