

OFFICIAL

**TELL  
SOMEONE!**

# **Tell Someone: Child Safety Small Grants Program 2026-27**

Supporting community-based organisations to build capability, raise awareness, and strengthen child-safe practices for lasting impact in their communities.

## **Grant Program Guidelines**

June 2026 | Version 2.0

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## Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Peoples and Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we acknowledge and pay our respects to Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the traditional owners of the land. We recognise Tasmanian Aboriginal people's continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

## Acknowledgement of Victim-Survivors

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges the trauma that continues to affect people with lived experience of child abuse. We are committed to being sensitive to this trauma as we use the learnings from past wrongs to protect the rights of current and future generations of children and young people and keep them safe from harm.

## Please read with care

Reading, learning, and talking about child sexual abuse, grooming, and harmful sexual behaviours can feel heavy, and it may bring up memories or feelings from past experiences or conversations. You don't have to sit with that alone.

The Tell Someone website has a list of support services you can reach out to, with options to connect by phone or online chat.

**Most are free, confidential and available 24/7.**

- Support for parents, carers and adults (including adult victim-survivors)
- Support for children and young people

# Introduction

The Department of Premier and Cabinet are responsible for these guidelines and are referred to as 'we', 'us', or 'our'.

All references to 'you', 'my', or 'I', may be an individual and/or a representative on behalf of an organisation.

## Definitions

The following definitions of harm are provided to help create a shared understanding for this Grant Program. Meanings can vary depending on legislation and the type of organisation or service. They are intended as guidance only and are not meant to be strict or limiting.

- **Child sexual abuse:** Any situation where a child or young person is involved in sexual activity that they do not understand, cannot consent to, or that is harmful, inappropriate or against the law. It includes behaviour that exploits or takes advantage of a child or young person and is always serious and never their fault.<sup>1</sup>
- **Grooming:** Behaviours used to build trust with and control a child or young person (and often those around them) to enable or hide sexual abuse. It can occur online or in person and may involve gaining access, trust, or silence. Grooming can occur even if abuse does not take place.<sup>2</sup>
- **Harmful sexual behaviour:** Sexual behaviours shown by children or young people that are outside what is expected for their age or development and may cause harm to themselves or others. Children and young people may not always understand their behaviour, and early support is important to help them make positive changes.<sup>3</sup>
- **Organisation:** A community-based group or entity that works directly with children and young people, including not-for-profit organisations, clubs, associations, or community groups.

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<sup>1</sup> National Office for Child Safety, *What is child sexual abuse?*, Child Safety website, accessed 1 June 2026, <https://www.childsafety.gov.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/what-child-sexual-abuse>

<sup>2</sup> National Office for Child Safety, *Grooming*, Child Safety website, accessed 1 June 2026, <https://www.childsafety.gov.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/grooming>

<sup>3</sup> Sexual Assault Support Service, *About Harmful Sexual Behaviour*, SASS website, accessed 1 June 2026, <https://www.sass.org.au/resources/problematic-or-harmful-sexual-behaviour>

## Key dates

Applications must be received by 2pm Tuesday 25 August 2026. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

| Description                                             | Date                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Program opens</b>                                    | 2pm, Tuesday, 30 June                 |
| <b>Program closes</b>                                   | 2pm, Tuesday, 25 August               |
| <b>Notification of Program Outcomes (estimate)</b>      | October 2026                          |
| <b>Funding provided</b>                                 | Upon execution of the Grant Agreement |
| <b>When your project must be completed by</b>           | 31 December 2027                      |
| <b>When your final report and acquittal will be due</b> | 30 days after completion of activity  |

## About Tell Someone

The Tasmanian Government is committed to strengthening prevention and early intervention responses to child sexual abuse, grooming and harmful sexual behaviours. We are working to create safer environments where children and young people are protected in our communities.

Tell Someone is a Tasmanian Government initiative (the initiative) developed in response to national and state inquiries into child sexual abuse, including the Tasmanian Commission of Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

This inquiry found that children and young people were often not listened to, believed or supported when they told someone that something was wrong, they felt unsafe, or that someone was harming them.

The initiative addresses silence and harmful social attitudes by encouraging adults to recognise warning signs, have conversations about safety, and listen, believe, and act when children and young people raise concerns. It also supports children and young people to tell a trusted adult when something doesn't feel right.

## The Tell Someone Network

The Tell Someone Network brings organisations across Tasmania together to help keep children and young people safe. It supports organisations to raise awareness and take practical action so that adults know how to recognise and respond to concerns, children and young people feel safe to speak up, and communities play an active role in keeping children and young people safe.

The Network focuses on achievable actions, strengthens everyday child-safe practices, and complements the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework. Participation involves ongoing commitment to building a culture where children and young people are listened to, believed and supported.

# Tell Someone: Child Safety Small Grants Program 2026-27

The Tell Someone: Child Safety Small Grants Program 2026–27 (the Grant Program) builds on the Tell Someone Initiative and supports the Tasmanian Government's [Change for Children Strategy](#) by recognising the important role that community-based organisations play in keeping children and young people safe.

The Grant Program will contribute funding for community-based organisations that deliver projects that align with shared objectives and contribute to the following improved child safety outcomes:

- safer environments for children and young people,
- reduced risk of child sexual abuse, grooming and harmful sexual behaviours, and
- stronger organisational and community capacity to prevent, identify and respond to concerns.

Funded projects should go beyond organisations' minimum legal compliance requirements and align to one or more of these objectives:

1. **Organisational capability uplift**  
Strengthening the skills and knowledge needed to prevent, identify, and respond to concerns.
2. **Sustainable child-safe practice**  
Embedding lasting improvements in systems, policies, and behaviours that support safe environments.
3. **Community awareness and protective behaviours**  
Increasing awareness and encouraging proactive protective behaviours in organisations and communities.
4. **Leadership and collaboration**  
Supporting organisations to share learning and participate in the Tell Someone Network.
5. **Long-term harm reduction**  
Contributing to reduced risk and improved safety outcomes for children and young people over time.

# Keeping your project participants safe and supported

Activities that involve child safety topics, including child sexual abuse, grooming and harmful sexual behaviours, can be sensitive. They may also bring up people's own experiences.

It is important that your project is designed and delivered in a way that is safe, appropriate and trauma-informed.

Your application should demonstrate how you will:

- Provide access to support
  - Make support options visible and accessible (e.g. link to relevant support services or provide contact details for wellbeing or child safety officers).
- Use trauma-informed and child-safe approaches
  - Deliver your project in a way that is sensitive to people's experiences and appropriate for your audience (e.g. use age-appropriate language, seek parent or guardian consent, or provide content warnings where needed).
  - Create an environment where people feel safe, respected, and able to step away if they need to.
- Have clear processes for responding to concerns, disclosures or complaints
  - Provide clear pathways for children, young people and adults to raise a concern, disclosure or complaint.
  - Make sure staff and volunteers know how to respond if someone raises a concern, makes a disclosure, or submits a complaint.

For more information and guidance on responding to disclosures, please refer to the Tell Someone website:

- [Responding to a disclosure | Tell Someone](#)
- [Reporting a disclosure | Tell Someone](#)



# How much can I apply for?

The total funding pool available under the Grants Program is \$50,000 (GST exclusive).

## Funding tiers

Funding is available through two tiers to support organisations at different stages of their child safety journey.

Projects should align with one or more program objectives. Both tiers may contribute to any program objective; however, the scale, complexity and maturity of projects are expected to differ between tiers.

| Tier 1                                                                                      | Tier 2                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Funding from \$500 to \$2,000 (GST exclusive) is available.                                 | Funding from \$2,001 to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) is available.                                       |
| Apply to this tier if you're in the earlier stages of your child-safety capability journey. | Apply to this tier if you're more established and aiming to embed and strengthen existing practices. |

## Examples of potential project and activities by Tier

| Tier 1                                                                                                                                                                              | Tier 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Projects that support organisations or communities to start or deepen conversations about child safety, culture, and prevention.                                                    | Training for staff or volunteers that goes beyond the basics, such as more detailed, specialised, or practical training using real-life scenarios.                                                                       |
| Working with, or taking part in activities with Tell Someone Network organisations to deliver small-scale child safety events, community awareness activities, forums or campaigns. | Medium-scale projects that create long term improvements in how organisations and communities keep children and young people safe, including positive changes in culture, attitudes, behaviours or child safe practices. |
| Early-stage projects that explore or pilot approaches to strengthening child-safe cultures, going beyond minimum policy requirements.                                               | Development of new or sector-leading approaches to child safety that can be shared or scaled.                                                                                                                            |

# When must the project be delivered?

The project must be delivered by **31 December 2027**.

# What can't the Grant be used for?

Grant funding must only be used for the Approved Purpose, and unless we agree in writing, the below are examples of what grant funds must not be used for:

- To pay for activities that organisations are already required to do under law, including their obligations under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*, such as mandatory policies, screening checks or compliance training.
- Projects delivered outside of Tasmania.
- Regulatory or enforcement activities.
- One-off activities that do not show how they will lead to ongoing improvements or lasting change.
- Projects that are not directly related to preventing, identifying or responding to child sexual abuse, grooming or harmful sexual behaviours.
- Major equipment or asset purchases, such as but not limited to; buildings, vehicles, laptops or projectors.
- General operating costs that are not directly related to delivering the project, such as rent, utilities or routine marketing.
- Commercial or profit-making activities.
- Activities that have already started or been completed before funding is approved.
- Costs that are not directly related to planning, delivering or managing the funded project.
- Contingency costs.
- Expenditure already funded by the Tasmania Government or other organisation/donation.
- Paying for legal advice, insurances, governance, fees or fines.
- Business as usual costs or normal staff wages.

## Please Note:

- Applications must show how the proposed project will strengthen organisational capability and lead to lasting improvements in child safety practices.
- Funding must deliver a benefit to children, young people, organisations or the broader community, rather than an individual.

- In exceptional circumstances, we may consider funding costs that are not usually eligible. You will need to explain in your application why these costs are necessary, and may be asked to provide additional information.
- Applicants must demonstrate they have the skills, resources and capacity to deliver the project and manage any ongoing costs after the grant funding ends.

## Who can apply?

### Eligible applicants

#### Eligible organisations include:

- Community-based organisations that work directly with children and/or young people
- Incorporated not-for-profit organisations
- Not-for-profit companies registered under company law
- Aboriginal organisations
- Unincorporated organisations (must be auspiced by an incorporated organisation)

#### Applicants must have:

- A Tasmanian presence as a community-based organisation (including sporting, recreation, arts, cultural and youth organisations) and the ability to deliver activities in Tasmania
- Direct, regular engagement with children and/or young people
- Be a current member of the Tell Someone Network
- Employees and/or volunteers engaged who have:
  - Undertaken appropriate screening and background checks
  - Current Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) where required
- Appropriate policies, procedures or practices in place to support child safety
- No perceived or actual conflicts of interest that would impact the delivery of the project
- Public liability insurance (a copy of your current public liability insurance cover must be included with the application)
- Hold a currently active Australian Business Number (ABN) or, if eligible, provide a Statement by Supplier Form from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).
- A completed Project Plan provided as part of the submitted application form (see How do I apply section below).

**Please Note:** Applicants may be asked to supply documentation to support their organisations eligibility as part of the application process, or as part of an audit process to confirm claims were true and correct.

## About Auspicing

Unincorporated community organisations or groups may be considered for funding if they are auspiced by an organisation that meets the above eligibility criteria.

Auspicing is often used to help unincorporated community organisations access funding for their activities. An auspice agreement is a legally binding contract.

The 'auspicee' will be carrying out the project, event or activity 'under the auspices of' the incorporated organisation – the 'auspicator'.

The 'auspicator' enters into the Grant Agreement and receives the project funding for the auspicee. The auspicator can do this for multiple organisations under this Grants Program, as well as being an applicant in their own right, if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

If an eligible organisation applies and also auspices another organisation(s) for this Grants Program, then the auspicee applies under their legal name, and the application must include formal written confirmation from the auspicing organisation that it will accept the relevant administration, legal and financial responsibilities for the grant.

## Who can't apply?

### Ineligible Applicants

The following entities are not eligible to apply for funding under the Grants Program:

- Australian Government agencies
- Tasmanian Government agencies
- Schools or colleges (government or non-government/private)
- Individuals and sole traders
- Political parties
- Organisations that do not work directly with children and/or young people
- Organisations already receiving funding from the Tasmanian Government for the project or activity.

## How do I apply?

Visit DPAC's [Community Grants Page](#) and follow the link through to the online application form via our grants portal [SmartyGrants](#).

A project plan template will be provided within the application form for you to prepare and upload back into the form for submission. If you do not supply a project plan, your application won't be eligible for assessment.

If you are having difficulty accessing the application form, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact us before the Grants Program closes at [tell.someone@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:tell.someone@dpac.tas.gov.au) or 1300 135 513.

## Can I use Generative AI tools for my application?

Yes, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of many tools you can use to prepare your application.

If you use AI, or other external sources, in your application, you should identify the type of assistance provided and the source within your application or supporting documentation.

Common ways AI may be used in preparing a grant application include:

1. Generating ideas and planning (brainstorming)
2. Content development (drafting and structuring)
3. Language editing (proofreading and readability)

Examples of referencing AI use include:

- 'Generative AI (*source/s*) was used to assist with drafting and editing. All responses were reviewed and verified by the authors.'
- '(*source*) was used to assist with language editing only'.

We recommend that you carefully review the content you create and include within your application, as you remain responsible for the accuracy, completeness and originality of all information submitted.

We may also contact you to discuss and validate the details included within your application.

The information you provide in your application will be assessed and, if successful, used to monitor your performance in delivering the approved purpose and outcomes.

Find out more about [using AI from the National Artificial Intelligence Centre](#).

## I'm new to applying to grants – where can I get help?

We strongly encourage using SmartyGrants [Help Guide for Applicants](#) and [Applicant FAQ's](#) to manage your application.

You may also like to view the Tasmanian Government's Digital Ready for Daily Life basics [video series](#).

## Can I apply more than once?

Funding available for this grant program is limited and we recommend that, if eligible, you carefully prepare and submit an application that best represents your project or activity aligned with this programs objectives.

You may choose to submit multiple applications, each application will be assessed on its own merits against the eligibility and assessment criteria.

If you submit multiple applications, you may be asked to prioritise the applications you have submitted.

## How do I account for Goods and Services Tax (GST) in my application?

You must indicate whether you are registered for GST in the grant application.

To help with understanding GST, you can visit the [Community Grants website](#).

[Contact the Australian Taxation Office](#) (ATO) on 13 28 66 or [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) for any further advice or clarification on GST.

# How will my application be assessed?

## Assessment criteria

If you're eligible, your application will be scored against these criteria:

| What we're looking for                                       | What that means                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Weighting |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>A clear and achievable project plan</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You clearly explain what you will deliver, how you will deliver it, and what difference it will make.</li> <li>Your activities are practical, suitable for the funding amount or tier, and show a clear connection between your actions and the outcomes you expect.</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | 30%       |
| <b>Organisational alignment with Program objectives</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You clearly describe how your project strengthens your organisation's capability to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse, grooming, and harmful sexual behaviours, or raise awareness within the broader community.</li> <li>Your project goes beyond basic compliance and contributes to creating safer environments for children and young people.</li> </ul>   | 35%       |
| <b>Impact, value for money and sustainability</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You show that your project responds to a clear need in your organisation or community.</li> <li>You demonstrate how your project will create lasting improvements for your organisation or community that continue beyond the grant period.</li> <li>This includes putting in place practices or ways of working that will continue over time.</li> </ul>                        | 20%       |
| <b>Organisational capability, readiness and safeguarding</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your application demonstrates your organisation's capacity to deliver the project, including relevant experience, resources, and understanding of your current stage of child-safety capability.</li> <li>You show how your organisation will deliver the project in a safe and appropriate way, including consideration of child safety, wellbeing and safeguarding.</li> </ul> | 15%       |

If the Grant Program is oversubscribed, the assessment panel may apply moderation to ensure equitable distribution of funds.

In making final recommendations, the panel may consider the overall mix of projects to ensure a balanced range of outcomes and approaches, a balance across grant tiers, representation across diverse communities, and appropriate regional spread.

## What do I need to do while it's being assessed?

Please make sure you (or your representative listed in the application) is available during this time, as we may contact you via phone or through SmartyGrants for more information.

If you can't provide this information within 3 business days, your application may not be considered further.

## What happens if my application is successful?

If successful, you will receive a notification of the decision, so please make sure your organisation's contact details in SmartyGrants are current.

Please note that your organisation name, the title of your project and the amount of funding received will be available on the Community Grants webpage.

Successful applicants will also have their project publicly showcased on the [Tell Someone website](#). You will be required to provide information about your project, including activities, outcomes and learnings, for this purpose.

If you are successful you will need to enter into an agreement with us. The type and complexity of this agreement will depend on the activity you are being funded for.

The agreement will include terms and conditions of the funding being offered and your obligations including reporting requirements.

Your report/s must include:

- a detailed explanation of how the funds were used against the approved purpose,
- a financial acquittal (breakdown of expenses), and
- evidence from your project or activity, including outcomes and learnings, to be shown on the Tell Someone website. This information may be used to share examples of good practice and promote the impact of the Program.

For more information for successful grant recipients you can visit our website, [Tools and Resources | Service Tasmania](#)



## What happens if I'm offered less than what was requested?

Successful applicants may be offered partial funding.

Please consider this when completing the application form and clearly identify how partial funding may be used.

## What if my organisation already has a grant with DPAC?

You can have more than one grant with DPAC.

However, if you have one or more overdue reports or acquittals, then the organisation must complete these before the invoice for this Grants Program can be approved for payment.

Please note that your organisation will not be eligible for the Grants Program if the project you are applying for already receives Tasmanian Government funding.

## How will the information I provide be used?

Your report can be used, reproduced, modified and adapted by DPAC.

Make sure anything you provide complies with the *Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth)* and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

## What if my application is not successful?

Organisations will receive an email about the Grants Program's assessment decision, and who to contact if you would like to seek feedback on your application.

## What if I want to appeal the decision?

You can ask for a review if you have reason to believe that:

- the persons making the decision had a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome of the application
- the preparation of the application was affected by incorrect advice provided by DPAC
- the persons making the recommendations discriminated against the applicant on irrelevant grounds, such as cultural, religious or linguistic background, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.

To seek a review, organisations must write to the Manager, Community Grants and Programs by email to [grants@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants@dpac.tas.gov.au). A request must be received within 28

days from the date that DPAC provides notification of the decision of the grant application.

## How will my information be kept safe?

Any information provided to or received by Department of Premier and Cabinet is managed under the conditions of the following Acts:

- Archives Act 1983 (Tas)
- Personal Information Protection Act 2004
- Right to Information Act 2009

Any worker in the Tasmanian State Service must also follow the rules of the State Service Principles and the State Service Act 2000.

## Who do I contact about this grants program?

For further information or support, please contact [tell.someone@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:tell.someone@dpac.tas.gov.au) or 1300 135 513 (during business hours) for:

- Further information or advice on the Grants Program
- Assistance in making an application
- Feedback on the outcome of your application.