

About the Grant

* indicates a required field

Grant Information

This funding program supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander NSW artists and acts to:

- create, record and promote new and original contemporary music
- undertake professional development opportunities
- purchase equipment essential to your music career.

Funding up to \$30,000 can support:

- producer and artist collaborator fees
- studio, recording, mixing and mastering costs
- pressing and manufacturing
- digital marketing, publicity services and content creation
- administration costs
- fees to attend or participate in workshops, camps, mentorships, residencies and other career development opportunities
- the purchase of equipment essential to your music career, including instruments, hardware and software (up to \$5,000).

Key dates:

- Applications Open: 20 August 2026
- Applications Close: 21 September 2026 at 2pm
- Activity Dates: The project cannot start before 7 December 2026 and must be completed by 31 March 2028.

Sound NSW Support

Find the answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

Sound NSW staff are here to help you and can be contacted between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) via:

- Telephone: Anna Healey, Music Investments and Partnerships (02) 9240 8508
- Email: info@sound.nsw.gov.au
- Schedule an online meeting to speak to Sound NSW staff using the link to [Microsoft Bookings](#)

Sound NSW Updates

Do you wish to receive updates about other grant opportunities, initiatives or events from Sound NSW?

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

Eligibility Requirements

This program is open to artists, acts and music businesses applying on behalf of an artist or act.

Funding recipients must:

- identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- be 18 years or older
- currently live in NSW (minimum 12 months)
- perform new and original contemporary music OR represent an artist or act creating and/or performing new and original contemporary music
- have publicly available releases.

Note: For the purpose of this program contemporary music refers to artists and acts performing new and original music.

Artforms not supported through this program are:

- experimental music and sound art
- contemporary classical, opera, choral and ensembles
- music theatre

These applicants should refer to [Create NSW's Arts and Cultural Funding Program \(ACFP\) guidelines](#).

What are you applying as? *

☐ Act

☐ Artist

Do you or the majority of the act identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

If successful, you may need to provide evidence of this before we issue a contract.

Are you/members of the act 18 years or older? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

This is at the time of application.

Have you or the majority of the act lived in NSW for at least 12 months? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

This is at the time of application.

Do you perform new and original contemporary music? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

This excludes contemporary classical, opera, choral, ensembles and sound art.

Do you have at least one previous release that is publicly available? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

This includes physical formats and online platforms like Spotify, Bandcamp, etc. Live videos published online do not count.

Unable to continue

Based on your response to the above Eligibility questions, you are unable to continue and apply. Refer to the guidelines for more details.

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- Telephone: Anna Healey, (02) 9240 8508
- Email: info@sound.nsw.gov.au

Eligibility Confirmation

Please declare that this application meets the eligibility criteria:

I confirm that I've read the guidelines and the information supporting my/our eligibility is accurate *

☐ Yes

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Does the applicant organisation have an Australian Business Number (ABN)? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you don't currently have an ABN you have two options:

- you can engage a Funds Administrator to administer the funding on your behalf; **OR**
- apply for an ABN now, and if successful you will need to let us know the ABN at the point of contracting.

Funds Administrator

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

A funds administrator is an external organisation that will manage the funding for you. This could be a manager or a record label.

You will need a Funds Administrator if:

- you don't currently have an ABN, OR
- you want us to make payment to another organisation (eg a manager or record label).

Do you need to engage a Funds Administrator to administer the grant on your behalf? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Applying with a Funds Administrator

We don't need the details of the Funds Administrator now, but if your application is successful, you will be required to provide their name, ABN, address and contact details prior to contracting and release of funds.

Please select 'No' to the question above - Does the applicant organisation have an Australian Business Number (ABN)?

In the Applicant Details section:

- select Individual
- enter the details of the applicant lead/contact:
 - Title, First name and Last name
 - address and contact details.

What is your entity type as per your ABN?

Please select the entity type as per the ABN you are applying with, and if successful, we will contract with *

- ☐ Individual / Sole Trader
- ☐ Partnership
- ☐ Trust
- ☐ Other Incorporated entity
- ☐ Australian Private Company (Pty Ltd)
- ☐ Australian Public Company (Ltd)

Applying as an individual/sole trader

You have selected you are applying with an individual/sole trader ABN. If successful, we will contract with this ABN name and pay the funds to a bank account in the same name.

Please enter your ABN in the space below.

In the Applicant Details section:

- select Individual
- enter your Title, First name and Last name
- enter your address and contact details.

Applying as a partnership

You have selected you are applying with a partnership ABN. If successful, we will contract with this ABN name and pay the funds to the bank account of the applicant lead (someone clearly listed in the partnership).

Please enter your ABN in the space below.

In the Applicant Details section:

- select Individual
- enter the details of the applicant lead - this person needs to be listed in the partnership:
 - Title, First name and Last name
 - address and contact details.

Applying as an organisation

You have selected you are applying with an organisation's ABN. If successful, we will contract with this ABN name and pay the funds to a bank account in the same name.

Please enter your ABN in the space below.

In the Applicant Details section:

- select Organisation
- enter the Organisation name (as per the entity name on your ABN)
- enter the address and contact details of the organisation.

In the Primary Contact Details section:

- enter the name and contact details of the primary contact for this application.

Applicant Organisation ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Main Business Location

Must be an ABN.

Applicant Details

Applicant *

☐ Individual ☐ Organisation

Organisation Name

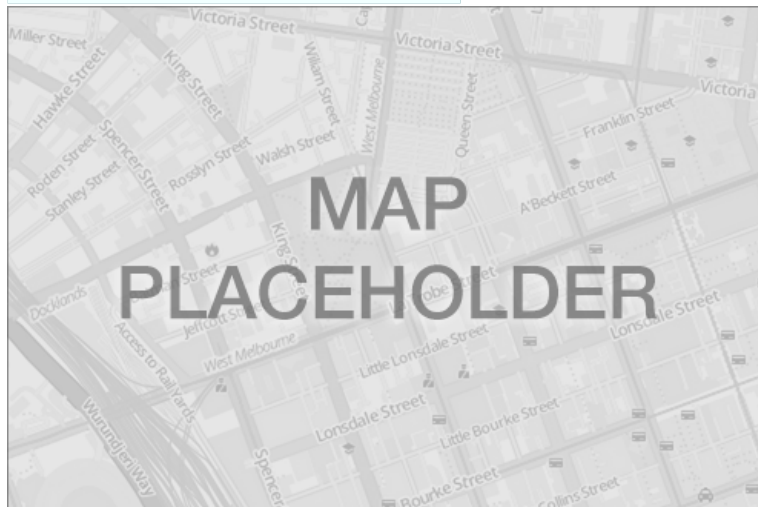
Title First Name Last Name

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For organisations: please use the organisations full name. Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as that with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

Applicant Primary Address

Address



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Applicant Postal Address

Address

Applicant Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Applicant Email Address *

Must be an email address.

Applicant Website

Must be a URL.

Primary Contact Details

Primary Contact *

Title First Name Last Name

This is the person we will correspond with about this grant.

Primary Contact Position *

e.g., Manager, Board Member or Fundraising Coordinator.

Primary Contact Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Primary Contact Other Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Primary Contact Email *

This is the address we will use to correspond with you about this grant.

First Nations Connection

* indicates a required field

On which First Nations Country/Countries is most of your project taking place?

Please select all that apply. *

Please select all that apply. If your activities do not take place within Australia, select the First Nations Country that you are located on.

Disclaimer and Respectful Notice:

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

This list serves as a general guide, indicating the locations of larger communities, which may encompass smaller subsets such as groups, dialects, or individual languages. The list of Nations and boundaries provided are not intended to be precise or definitive, but rather inclusive and respectful of First nations languages.

If you're uncertain about the First Nations community or Nation, explore the [AIATSIS map](#) of Indigenous Australia to find the First Nations region.

For more information please see the [glossary](#).

First Nations Cultural Elements

Are you adhering to the NSW Aboriginal Arts & Culture Protocols? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If successful, you may need to provide evidence of this at contracting stage. This may include: letters of support from communities, evidence of ICIP policies and procedures and acknowledgement of [NSW Aboriginal Arts & Culture protocols](#). For more information, please read the [Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property \(ICIP\)](#).

Provide a rationale for why you are not following the principles of the NSW Aboriginal Art and Culture protocols *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

First Nations NSW Confirmation & Connection

Visit [First Nations NSW Confirmation & Connection](#) for more information on cultural affirmations.

Please select at least three of the following cultural connections that apply to your artform or practice. *

- ☐ I have a connection to a specific First Nations NSW community or land, or Torres Strait Islander community, and this connection influences my artform or practice.
- ☐ My artform or practice reflects my First Nations NSW and Torres Strait Islander community.
- ☐ My knowledge of cultural heritage, traditions, and practices informs my artform or practice.
- ☐ My artform or practice actively engages and contributes to cultural exchange and community development.
- ☐ My artform or practice acknowledges the diversity of First Nations NSW and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the identities and experiences of other First Nations NSW and Torres Strait Islander communities.

At least 3 choices must be selected.

I can provide evidence of my selected cultural connections if requested by Sound NSW. *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

If successful, you may be required to provide this evidence at the contracting stage.

About You

* indicates a required field

Artist or Act Name

What is the name of the artist or act undertaking the activity? *

How many people in your act? *

Must be a number.

Music Genre

What genre best describes your music? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 5 words.

Select a genre from the list below that best describes your music *

Brief Bio

Tell us about you or your act, your music career to date, and previous achievements *

Word count:

Must be no more than 400 words.

A diverse contemporary music sector in NSW

Sound NSW is committed to a diverse contemporary music sector in NSW and encourages applications from First Nations people, people who identify as women and non-binary, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people from Western Sydney and regional and remote communities.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

The data will be used to help us understand the contemporary music industry and support future diversity initiatives. For more information, please refer to the Privacy Notice available [here](#).

Do you identify as: *

- ☐ Man or male ☐ Woman or female ☐ Non-Binary ☐ Prefer not to say ☐ Option not listed

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Living in Western Sydney *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

A person with disability and/or who is d/Deaf *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Living in regional and remote communities *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Culturally and linguistically diverse *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Under 25 years of age *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Enter 0 if not applicable.

How many people in the act identify as:

Woman or female *

Non-binary *

Option not listed *

Man or male *

Prefer not to say *

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander *

Living in Western Sydney *

A person with disability and/or who is d/Deaf *

Living in regional and remote communities *

Culturally and linguistically diverse *

Under 25 years of age *

Application Details

* indicates a required field

An example of a **Title** could be: *The recording and promotion of a new album by (artist/act name).*

An example of a **Brief description** could be: *To record and promote a new album by (artist/act name), with production by (producer name) and released on (label name).*

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

In the **Primary location of your initiative** field please enter the State or Country where the majority of the activity is happening.

Title *

Word count:

Must be no more than 25 words.

Provide a name for your initiative. Your title should be short but descriptive.

Brief description *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

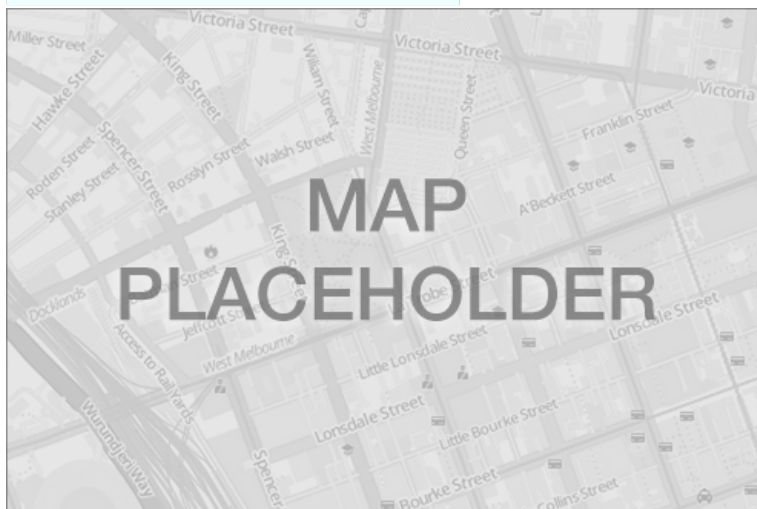
Include a brief summary of who will benefit from this initiative, what activities you will do and what outcomes you expect from your activities.

Anticipated start date *

Anticipated end date *

Primary location of your initiative

Address



Any, but at least one field is required.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Primary location does not need to be a specific address, and can be postcode, suburb, state, etc If delivered online, please specify the area of focus for delivery.

The start or end date you have entered makes this application ineligible

Activity for this program cannot start before 7 December 2026 and must be completed by 31 March 2028. Please include only activity happening within these dates.

Connection to country

How does this project connect with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, artists, and/or audiences? *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

About your project

Tell us about your project, why it's important now, and how the activity will benefit your music career *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Key People

How many people are involved in the project? *

Must be a number.
This includes the artists creating the work, as well as those involved in the recording or promotion process and professional development activity.

Key project personnel

Please provide details for each person involved in the project, including their name, role and where they are based (the state if in Australia or country if based overseas).

This includes the artists creating the work, as well as those involved in the recording or promotion process and professional development activity.

Include only one person per row. Add more rows if you want to list additional people.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Name	Role	Resident State	Confirmed

Where are the key personnel currently based?

Enter 0 (zero) for any that are not applicable.

NSW Artists *

An artist is any musician that is part of the activity.

Artists from outside NSW *

An artist is any musician that is part of the activity.

NSW music industry professionals *

A music industry professional refers to an individual working in contemporary music that is part of the activity. This includes (but is not limited to) professionals involved in the recording process (production, engineering, mixing, mastering), professional development activity, label staff, publishers, publicists, content creators.

Music industry professionals from outside NSW *

A music industry professional refers to an individual working in contemporary music that is part of the activity. This includes (but is not limited to) professionals involved in the recording process (production, engineering, mixing, mastering), professional development activity, label staff, publishers, publicists, content creators.

Activities and Events

* indicates a required field

Key Activities

Please detail the activities expected to be completed as a result of the funding, including the location and dates.

If you have one activity taking place in multiple places you should list each location as a separate activity (e.g. Recording in Dubbo; Recording in Tamworth; PR campaign in Sydney; music video in Wollongong; with a specific location attached to each).

Activity	Location	Expected start date	Expected end date	Explanatory notes
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26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Activity type, eg Mixing	Of the activity (suburb, state or country)	Activity start date	Activity end date	Add notes if you need to provide more context.

Activities per Region

How many activities are planned to take place in the following regions?

Enter 0 (zero) for any that are not applicable.

Sydney (excluding Western Sydney) *

Western Sydney *

Regional and remote NSW *

Outside NSW (excluding international) *

International *

Budget

* indicates a required field

Budget Information

Funding up to \$30,000 can support:

- producer and artist collaborator fees
- studio, recording, mixing and mastering costs
- pressing and manufacturing
- digital marketing, publicity services and content creation
- administrative costs
- fees to attend or participate in workshops, camps, mentorships, residencies and other career development opportunities
- the purchase of equipment essential to your music career, including instruments, hardware and software (up to \$5,000).

Please note: The 'Total Project Cost' entered below should match the auto calculated 'Total Project Expenditure' field at the bottom of the page.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Total Project Cost *

\$

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

Total Amount Requested

*

\$

What is the total financial support you are requesting under this grant?

Income

In the table below list all of the income associated with your application, including cash and in-kind.

Include the amount requested from this grant program, and ensure it matches the Total Amount Requested included above.

All amounts should be GST exclusive.

Income type	Income amount (ex GST)	Status	Notes
	\$		
	\$		

Total Income Amount (ex GST)

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Expenditure

In the table below list all costs associated with your proposed activity. Use the 'Funding Source' column to indicate whether the cost will be covered by the Sound NSW funding request.

All items should be GST exclusive.

Expenditure type	Expenditure amount (ex. GST)	Funding Source	Notes
	\$		
	\$		

Project Cost Calculations

Total Project Cost (ex. GST) *

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

Applicant Co-contribution *

\$

This number/amount is calculated.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Enter this amount into the Total Project Cost field above.

Project Quotes

Please attach, as a single document, quotes as relevant to the project (e.g. for the recording costs, promotional costs or equipment purchase) *

Attach a file:

Supporting Documentation

* indicates a required field

Support Material

As part of your application you will need to provide the following support material:

- links to examples of your music
- links to social media
- optional material such as letters of support from community, quotes, confirmations from key people involved in the project.

Please note all attachments must be provided at the time your application is submitted.

Support material can be submitted as:

- audio/visual - maximum 1 example, up to 5 minutes, sent as a link
- written material - maximum 10 pages (provided as one document).

Restrictions on Attachments

- files must not exceed 25MB
- please provide attachments in .pdf format where possible.
- zip files cannot be accepted.

Note: Assessors will not view or consider support materials that exceed the above limits.

An example of your music

Provide a link to a recent example of your music.

Note: Make sure the link/URL works and the password is correct and remains accessible for the next month during the assessment period. Assessors will only be able to spend a limited time listening to music, so please ensure you choose the most relevant and strongest example.

Website	Password	Description
Must be a URL.		

Social media

Provide a link to any of your social media platforms.

Note: Make sure the link/URL works and remains accessible for the next month during the assessment period.

Social media	Description

Letters of support from community

Attach, as a single document, any letters you have from community that show support for your project or work. *

Attach a file:

Provide as one document

Confirmation from key people

Attach, as a single document, the confirmations from key people involved in the project. *

Attach a file:

Provide as one document

Other relevant documents

Attach, as a single document, any other material you feel is relevant to the project, eg confirmation or invitation to attend or participate in the career development opportunity, press or media coverage.

Attach a file:

Declaration and Authorisation

* indicates a required field

Disclaimer

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

- Changes to the application and any additional materials cannot be submitted after the advertised closing date and time.

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development

Form Preview

- Sound NSW has the right to investigate any information provided in this application and/or to request additional information where Sound NSW deems it necessary for the purpose of assessing your application or administering the Program.
- Sound NSW may re-open an application after the closing date, provided it doesn't give the applicant an advantage over other applicants.
- Sound NSW staff are not able to provide advice on content or choices required within an application.

Privacy Notice

Sound NSW (part of the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport) is collecting your personal information. Personal information collected is managed in accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act*.

Sound NSW collect your personal information for the purpose of:

- Assessing your application against the eligibility criteria for the Contemporary Music Development Grants - First Nations Creative and Professional Development (**Program**) and contacting you to discuss your application;
- If your application is deemed eligible, to manage and administer the Program;
- To monitor and evaluate the Program.

Providing us with your personal information is not required by law. However, if you choose not to provide us with the requested information, Sound NSW will be unable to assess your eligibility for the Program.

Your personal information may be disclosed by Sound NSW:

- In accordance with the requirements of the NSW Government's Grants Administration Guide;
- To comply with our obligations under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act*;
- To comply with an order for the production of documents to Parliament under Standing Order 52.

Otherwise, your personal information will not be provided to a third party without your consent or unless it is authorised by law.

To access or seek amendment of your personal information, or for more information on our privacy obligations, contact the Department's Privacy Officer at information@dciths.nsw.gov.au. For more information about how DCITHS complies with its privacy obligations visit its [website](#).

Use of Information

The applicant acknowledges and agrees that:

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26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development Form Preview

Subject to privacy legislation, if Sound NSW assesses your application as successful, the information contained in this application form may be used for media and communication purposes by Sound NSW and/or the NSW Government.

Do you agree that subject to privacy legislation and if Sound NSW assesses your application as successful, the information provided in the application will be used for media and communication purposes by Sound NSW and/or the NSW Government? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Declaration

Before you can complete and submit this application, you must accept the following conditions by declaring:

- If an entity is the applicant, I have the authority to complete and submit this application on the entity's behalf.
- All information supplied as part of this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- All activities proposed by this application will be conducted in accordance with applicable law, including but not limited to, complying with Working with Children legislation.
- I acknowledge:
 - funding will not be granted or released if the applicant has outstanding acquittals for this or other projects/programs across Sound NSW or the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport (DCITHS);
 - Sound NSW may withdraw any offer of funding or demand the return of funds already paid if this declaration is found to be incorrect or misleading; and
 - Sound NSW and DCITHS may disclose any information in this application as described in the NSW Government's *Grants Administration Guide*, or according to applicable law.

Authorisation

I agree *

☐ Yes

Name of authorised person *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Must be a senior staff member, board member or appropriately authorised volunteer

Position *

Position held in applicant organisation (e.g. CEO, Treasurer)

26/27 - First Nations Creative and Professional Development

Form Preview

Phone number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
We may contact you to verify that this application is authorised
by the applicant organisation

Email *

Must be an email address.