

26/27 - First Nations Industry Development

Form Preview

About the grant

* indicates a required field

Grant Information

This funding program supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander NSW led music businesses and organisations with a track record of delivering significant outcomes for First Nations contemporary music. It offers grants to support industry-led programs and resources that build the capacity of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists, industry professionals and music businesses, address best practice and emerging trends, promote music in NSW and deliver research and advocacy.

Funding up to \$150,000 can support:

- paying salaries, wages and fees for staff, researchers, consultants, industry professionals and artists
- digital platforms, online infrastructure, software and AI tools
- venue hire, catering and production costs
- travel and accommodation costs
- marketing and promotion
- administrative costs
- buying equipment essential to your project, like instruments, hardware and software (up to \$20,000).

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 December 2027.

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: Alanah Scholes, Senior Manager First Nations Strategy and Engagement (02) 9240 8533
- 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?

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*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Eligibility

* indicates a required field

Eligibility Requirements

This program is open to music businesses or organisations.

Funding recipients must:

- have a governing body that is majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- be currently based in NSW or deliver a significant contribution to the NSW contemporary music sector
- be an incorporated entity or trust (including a trust with a corporate or individual trustee) and hold an Australian Business Number (ABN), Australian Company Number (ACN), or
- be registered with NSW Fair Trading under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 or the Co-operatives National Law (NSW) set out in the appendix to the Co-operatives (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012.

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

Business or organisations with a primary focus in the below artforms are not supported through this program:

- 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](#).

Do you have a governing body that is majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

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

Is your organisation based in NSW or delivers a significant contribution to the NSW contemporary music sector? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

This is at the time of application.

Does your organisation have an active ABN with the Entity Type as one of Australian Private Company, Australian Public Company, Other Incorporated entity, Co-operative or Trust? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

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This is at the time of application.

Unable to continue

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

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Eligibility Confirmation

Please declare that this application meets the eligibility criteria:

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

☐ Yes

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

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	

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Main Business Location

Must be an ABN.

Organisation Details

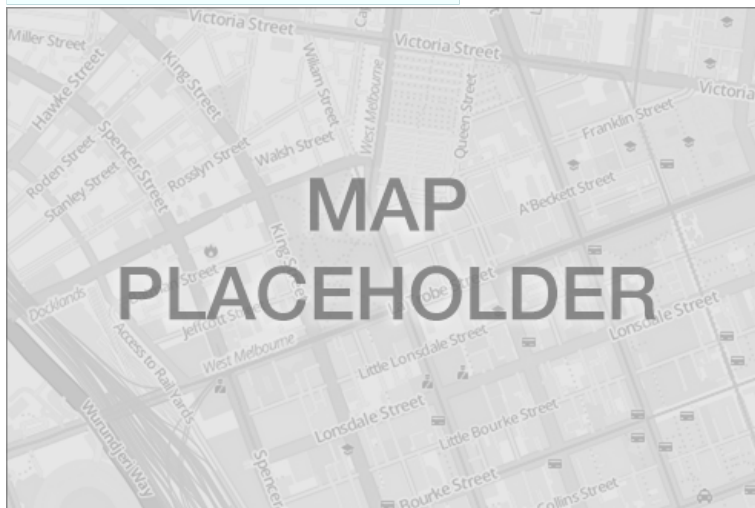
Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Please use the organisation's full name. Make sure you provide the same name that is listed in official documentation such as that with the ABR, ACNC or ATO.

Primary Address

Address



Postal Address

Address

Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.
Country code not required, area code for landlines is required.

Other Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

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

Email Address *

Must be an email address.

Website

Must be a URL.

Organisation Contact Person

Name *

Title First Name Last Name

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

Position *

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

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

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

Email *

Must be an email address.

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:

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.

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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 150 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 organisation. *

- ☐ We have a connection to a specific First Nations NSW community or land, or Torres Strait Islander community, and this connection influences our work.
- ☐ Our work reflects First Nations NSW and Torres Strait Islander community.
- ☐ Our knowledge of cultural heritage, traditions, and practices informs our work.
- ☐ Our work actively engages and contributes to cultural exchange and community development.
- ☐ Our work 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

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

About your organisation

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* indicates a required field

Tell us about your organisation, your role in the NSW contemporary music sector, and your experience relevant to the project *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Provide details of recent key achievements and how they have delivered significant benefit to the contemporary music sector in NSW *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Application Details

* indicates a required field

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.

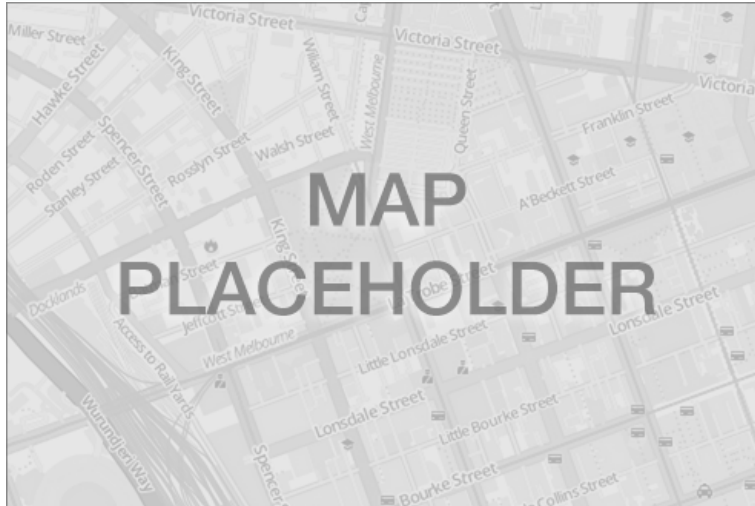
Anticipated start date *

Anticipated end date *

Primary location of your initiative

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Address



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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 December 2027. Please include only activity happening within these dates.

Connection to community

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

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Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

About your project

Tell us about your project, the expected outcomes, and how it will provide significant benefit to the contemporary music sector in NSW *

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Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Outline the need for the project and any evidence you have to support this *

Word count:

Must be no more than 250 words.

Alignment with program objectives

Your project must align with at least one of the program objectives. From the list below select the objectives that best aligns with your project. You can select a maximum of three. *

- ☐ Prioritise and protect First Nations NSW music
- ☐ Develop skills and capacity for NSW Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists and acts
- ☐ Upskill NSW Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander industry professionals and music businesses in best practice and emerging trends
- ☐ Improve industry standards
- ☐ Support industry-led research and advocacy
- ☐ Strengthen NSW Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- ☐ Promote NSW music and increase engagement with local music through content creation, collaboration and partnerships
- ☐ Leverage technology solutions to enhance collaboration and innovation

Select a maximum of three

Tell us how your project delivers the program objectives you have selected *

Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

Diversity, access and inclusion

Sound NSW is committed to a diverse contemporary music sector in NSW and encourages projects to actively engage with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander 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.

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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](#).

Please indicate if your project will be targeted towards any of these groups:

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities *

☐ Yes

☐ No

LGBTIQA+ *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Women and non-binary *

☐ Yes

☐ No

People living in Western Sydney *

☐ Yes

☐ No

People with disability and/or who are d/Deaf *

☐ Yes

☐ No

People living in Regional NSW *

☐ Yes

☐ No

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds *

☐ Yes

☐ No

People under the age of 25 *

☐ Yes

☐ No

Sustainability

Outline how you are considering climate sustainability in the planning and delivery of the initiative

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Activities and Events

*** indicates a required field**

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 can either list each location as a separate activity (e.g. Workshops in Dubbo; Workshops in Tamworth, with a specific location attached to each), or you can list one activity with a generalised location (e.g. "Sydney CBD, Western Sydney, Regional NSW").

Activity	Location	Expected start date	Expected end date	Explanatory notes
Activity type, eg Workshops	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 or events are planned to take place in the following regions?

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

Sydney (excluding Western Sydney) *

Western Sydney *

Must be a number.

Regional and remote NSW *

Must be a number.

Outside NSW (excluding international) *

Must be a number.

International *

Must be a number.

Attendance at Activities

How many people do you expect to attend your activities and events?

Audience *

Must be a number.

Eg attendance at events, conferences, seminars

Participants *

Must be a number.

How many people actively participated in your project (eg participation in workshops, classes, mentorships, skills development programs, etc)

Artist Engagement

How many artists or music industry professionals will you engage with this project?

NSW Artists *

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

Artists from outside NSW *

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

NSW music industry professionals *

A music industry professional includes (but is not limited to) artist managers, producers, publicists, content creators, record label staff, facilitators, etc that are directly involved in this activity.

Music industry professionals from outside NSW *

A music industry professional includes (but is not limited to) artist managers, producers, publicists, content creators, record label staff, facilitators, etc that are directly involved in this activity.

Budget

* indicates a required field

Budget Information

Funding up to \$150,000 can support project costs relating to:

- paying salaries, wages and fees for staff, researchers, consultants, industry professionals and artists
- digital platforms, online infrastructure, software and AI tools
- venue hire, catering and production costs
- travel and accommodation costs
- marketing and promotion
- administrative costs
- buying equipment essential to your project, like instruments, hardware and software (up to \$20,000).

Total Amount Requested

*

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

Income

In the table below list all income items relevant to the project, 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
This Grant			
Government Grants			
Philanthropic Grants			

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Donations			
Earned Income			
Other Income			
Cash co-contribution			
In-kind contribution			
Other			

Total Income Amount ex GST

This number/amount is calculated.

Expenditure

In the table below list all expenditure items relevant to the project, including if 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
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Total Project Cost

This number/amount is calculated.
What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

Applicant Co-contribution

This number/amount is calculated.

Project Quotes

Please attach, as a single document, quotes as relevant to the project *

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:

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- examples of previous projects
- letters of support from community
- confirmation from key personnel and partners involved in the project.

You can provide additional material that helps support your application, including artistic support material, confirmation letters, letters of support, evaluations, reports and other material you feel is relevant to the project.

Support material can be provided as links or uploaded documents. Please note all attachments must be provided at the time your application is submitted.

Samples can be submitted as:

- Audio/visual - maximum 3 examples of 5 minutes each, sent as links
- Written material - maximum 10 pages (provided as one document)
- Still images - maximum 10 images (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.

Examples of previous relevant projects

As a link or attachment, provide examples of previous relevant projects. Please select how you will be submitting the material.

- ☐ Links/URLs
- ☐ Uploading files
- ☐ Both of the above

Provide links and passwords to any externally hosted examples of previous projects relevant to this application.

Note: Make sure the link/URL works and passwords are correct and remain accessible for the next 3 months during the assessment period. Assessors will only be able to spend a limited time looking through links, so please ensure you choose the most relevant and strongest examples.

Website	Password	Description
Must be a URL.		

Attach, as a single document, examples of previous projects relevant to this application. *

Attach a file:

Letters of support from community

Attach, as a single document, letters 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 a single document

Other relevant documents

Attach any letters of support from industry, documents, reports, images or samples that help support this application

Attach a file:

A maximum of 3 files may be attached.

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.
- 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

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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 Industry 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:

- 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.

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.

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- 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

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

Position *

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

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.