



Office for Ageing Well

# Grants for Seniors

## 2025–2026

Open date: Friday 29 August 2025  
Closing date: Friday 10 October 2025

## Guidelines

Apply online at: [dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants)

**INSPIRE. MOTIVATE. INNOVATE.**



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## About the Department of Human Services

The Department of Human Services' purpose is 'Making a Difference so South Australia Thrives', and has three priorities:

- Increasing inclusion, independence, and shared decision-making for all.
- Supporting our communities when it matters most.
- Delivering modern services for our communities.

## About Office for Ageing Well

Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services, strives towards the vision that 'South Australia is a healthy, connected, equitable and sustainable community, which takes a whole of life approach that fosters many years of living well, and supports us to die with dignity in line with our wishes' as outlined in [South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025](#).

Office for Ageing Well values consultation, advocacy and activities that are led by and include a diverse range of older South Australians. Whilst there is no universally agreed definition of older people, in general terms, Office for Ageing Well defines older people as people aged 50 years or older.

Projects funded by Office for Ageing Well:

- Contribute to realising the State Government and community's vision and priorities for ageing well for all South Australians set out in [South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025](#).
- Are outcomes driven, using the [Ageing Well Measuring Success Framework](#), which aims to build an understanding of the impact of South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025 and how we are supporting older South Australians to live and age well.
- Contribute to implementation of [Future Directions to Safeguard the Rights of Older South Australians 2023–2027](#), which sets the statewide direction, strategic priorities and conditions to raise awareness of, and prevent and respond to abuse and mistreatment of older people.
- Contribute to the South Australian Government's commitment under [Closing the Gap](#) - Priority Reform Two - Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

- Align to the [Department of Human Services' Social Impact Framework](#) objectives that underpin quality of life: Belonging, Connecting, Building, Aspiring and Creating.

## Priority groups of Office for Ageing Well

Projects that are inclusive of older South Australians of diverse backgrounds and experiences are encouraged, including those that support one (or more) of the following priority groups who may face additional barriers to ageing well:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Carers
- Forgotten Australians
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other sexually or gender diverse people
- People at risk of, or experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence
- People experiencing feelings of loneliness
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (including new and emerging communities)
- People living with disability with a focus on those not currently supported through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- People residing in communities identified as places where persistent and/or relative location-based disadvantage exists (including rural or remote)
- People who are financially disadvantaged (for example unemployed, housing and/or food insecurity, in receipt of government support payments/health care card)
- Single women
- Veterans.

## Grants for Seniors

Grants for Seniors aim to create or extend opportunities for older South Australians to be involved and active in their communities, contribute to an age friendly South Australia and support activities during [South Australia's Week of Ageing Well](#) (1-7 October).

Applicants can apply for funding either through the projects or goods grant rounds that support older South Australians, including those from diverse communities and backgrounds to age well and be recognised for their valued contributions across their lifetime.

- **Grants for Seniors Goods round** – up to \$5,000 for goods ONLY such as equipment and materials to support a new or existing program/activity. An example application may be for sporting equipment or exercise items, tools and equipment, furniture and portable storage, computer and audio equipment or cooking equipment.
- **Grants for Seniors Projects round** – up to \$10,000 for projects up to 6 months duration to support NEW programs/activities. An example application may be for projects that increase social connection, intergenerational initiatives, workshops to learn new skills and cultural activities.

Where a project is not supporting a new program/activity but can demonstrate that it is supporting an existing program/activity to grow/expand (for example have a different scope, reach, focus, or target group), these applications will be considered. If there are no changes to the program/activity from a previous year in which a grant was received or the program was running, then Office for Ageing Well cannot provide further funding.

Where funds are to be used solely to purchase goods or equipment, such applications need to be submitted to Grants for Seniors - Goods.

Where an application includes funding for both the purchase of goods and proposed project activities, applications need to be submitted to Grants for Seniors - Projects.

Applications for part funding of goods or equipment must clearly outline how the other portion of funding will be provided.

An eligible organisation may apply for both grant programs so long as the proposed project application is different to the proposed goods application. For example, the organisation might be planning a gardening project while also needing kitchenware for use by members, in which case the organisation can apply to the projects round and goods round respectively.

## Funding focus

The Grants for Seniors Project and Goods programs will fund projects or goods for older South Australians aligned to one or more of the strategic priorities and/ or enabling factors set out in [South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025](#):

- Home and community – There is no place like home
  - Homes and communities enable flexibility and choice, and support us to live how we choose, no matter our age, needs, wants and desires.
- Meaningful connections – The key to a good life
  - A future where everyone has the opportunity, support and encouragement to maintain and develop meaningful connections.
- Navigating change – Building resilience
  - A future where we all have the capabilities and supports for remaining active participants throughout all of life's transitions.
- Tackle ageism
  - Creating an inclusive society, moving beyond ageist stereotypes.
- Grow diversity
  - Reflecting the diversity of needs, wants, experiences and aspirations of all older South Australians.
- Increase accessibility
  - Improving access to options, information and supports that enable ageing well.

## South Australia's Week of Ageing Well

Office for Ageing Well and Seniors Card coordinates [South Australia's Week of Ageing Well](#), held 1-7 October each year, in line with International Day of Older Persons.

Grants for Seniors Project applications that contribute to an event or activity held during South Australia's Week of Ageing Well are considered favourably, however it is not a requirement for your application to be considered.

Project applications may consider holding a 'Come and Try' event, a concert or showcasing an ageing well activity during or surrounding the Week of Ageing Well.

Grants for Seniors Goods applicants are welcome to host an event during the Week, however applications will not be assessed against involvement.

The Week is an opportunity for all South Australians to connect through events that support us to live happy and meaningful lives. The Week brings together ageing well initiatives within government, non-government, organisations, and communities, aiming to support a deeper understanding of ageing well and raise awareness about ageism, growing diversity, and increasing accessibility.

Office for Ageing Well will support applicants to promote South Australia's Week of Ageing Well, by providing promotional and communication materials.

## Important dates

Grant round opens: Friday 29 August 2025, midday (ACST)

Grant round closes: Friday 10 October 2025, 5.00pm (ACDT)

Applicants notified: February 2026

Project start date: Early June 2026

Project end date: December 2026

Goods must be purchased between early June 2026 and December 2026.

## Eligibility criteria

### Eligible organisations

To be eligible to apply, organisations must be:

- 1a. An Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation, or
- 1b. A non-government, not-for-profit, community organisation or registered charity;

And must be:

2. Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, or the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, or have evidence of a comparable legal status, such as Australian Public Company limited by guarantee; and
3. Currently operating within South Australia, with proposed recipients being residents of South Australia; and
4. Currently registered with a valid and eligible Australian Business Number (ABN).

Organisations that meet criteria 1-4 (above) can apply on behalf of an organisation that meets criteria 1-3 (above) but does not meet criteria 4 (above), through an auspicing arrangement. In this arrangement, the organisation that meets criteria 1-4 is known as the 'auspicing organisation' and the organisation that does not meet criteria 4 becomes the 'auspiced organisation'.

The auspicing organisation is responsible for submitting the application and entering into the grant agreement. If successful, it would receive the funding and be legally responsible for all aspects of the management of the grant including acquitting the funding and final reporting.

#### *Definitions:*

Not-for-profit organisation - provides services to the community and doesn't operate for the profit or personal gain of its individual members. All profits made must go back into the services the organisation provides. Profits must not be distributed to owners, members, or other private people.

Incorporated organisation - a group of people that come together in an organised way for many purposes. Incorporating an organisation separates the individual person (member) from the entity. Incorporation makes the group (body) a single entity with certain rights and legal protections as well as some additional obligations.

## **Ineligible organisations**

Applications will not be accepted from organisations (or auspiced organisations) that:

- Have gaming machines on their facilities or hold a gaming machine license;

Or are:



- Educational institutions or related representative bodies e.g. schools and/or their parent or student associations, universities, colleges etc; or
- Research foundations or trusts; or
- Individuals, sole traders, or organisations applying on behalf of an individual; or
- Organisations or private companies that operate for profit; or
- Professional associations or professional bodies, or
- Commonwealth or State Departments and agencies, or
- Local governments.

In addition, prior to entering into a funding agreement, the organisation (or auspiced organisation) must not:

- Have any outstanding contractual or financial obligations (including reports, acquittals, unpaid invoices) for any funded Department of Human Services project/program.

## Ineligible applications

Applications will not be considered for funding if they are:

- Unable to meet the eligibility criteria, as described in 'eligible organisations' above.
- Requesting capital works: construction costs, building repairs or alterations e.g. installation of physical resources such as air conditioning systems, fences or toilets.
- Requesting motor vehicle purchase, maintenance and running costs.
- Requesting food or beverages (unless required for the program/project e.g. ingredients for cooking classes are eligible but a lunch outing for participants is not).
- Requesting start-up costs for new organisations.
- Intending to use the funding primarily to promote the organisation.
- Research projects.
- For projects that duplicate existing services or programs.
- For projects that are intended to result in financial gain for the applicant/organisation.
- For core social and club activities for which members' payments/subscriptions provide a more appropriate source of revenue.
- For ongoing cost of communications, such as newsletters, magazines and radio stations.
- For participation in interstate or international events.
- For reimbursement for purchases made prior to the funding period.
- For medical or disability equipment for individual, personal use. If the equipment will be used by more than one person and provides a unique benefit to the community, these

may be considered. If your organisation is required to provide such equipment, Office for Ageing Well will unfortunately not be able to fund these on your behalf.

## **Eligible items - Grants for Seniors - Projects**

Items that can be funded include:

- One-off salaries for project staff or labour.
- Instructor fees.
- Venue hire or rent.
- Transport or travel.
- Project administration costs, for example: phone, postage, stationery, photocopying, rental or leasing of office equipment or computers.
- Costs associated with the delivery of the project, such as equipment purchases/hire and event advertising.

## **Eligible items - Grants for Seniors - Goods**

Goods that can be funded include such items as:

- Sporting or fitness equipment e.g. bowls mats.
- Gardening or kitchen equipment.
- Craft materials or art supplies.
- Furniture, storage and other items for communal use.
- Public address systems.

## **How to apply**

To apply you must:

- be an authorised representative of the applicant organisation;

- register online with [SmartyGrants](https://smartygrants.sa.gov.au/) and complete the online application available here: [dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants); and
- provide a complete budget outlining the expected grant expenditure and all other sources of financial and in-kind support.

Further information, including a sample copy of the application form, is available at the [Ageing well community and research grants webpage](#).

Applications must be submitted no later than 5.00pm (ACDT) on the close date. Written or emailed applications will not be accepted.

## Assessment criteria

Applications must be clearly defined and supported by adequate detail. Applications will be assessed using the assessment criteria and weightings below:

### Grants for Seniors – Projects

#### **Link to funding focus and inclusion (25% weighting)**

- How well does the proposal demonstrate alignment with the funding focus? Including, does the proposal support an activity during South Australia's Week of Ageing Well?
- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate inclusion?

#### **Impact and benefits (40% weighting)**

- To what extent will the proposal actively involve and directly benefit older South Australians?
- Does the proposal demonstrate capacity to continue to have benefits for older South Australians beyond the funding period?

#### **Community need and empowerment (20% weighting)**

- How clearly is the need for the project explained?
- Does the proposal respond to older peoples' lived experience, expressed needs and/or aspirations?

- Does the proposal demonstrate how demographic, geographic, socioeconomic and/or cultural factors have been considered if relevant?
- How well does the proposal demonstrate empowerment of older people (e.g. through involvement, design, delivery or participation within the project)?

**Value for money (15% weighting)**

- Are the project costs reasonable and realistic?
- Does the proposal demonstrate efficient use of existing infrastructure, networks, resources and / or collaboration with other community groups or organisations?

## Grants for Seniors – Goods

**Link to funding focus and inclusion (25% weighting)**

- How well does the proposal demonstrate alignment with the funding focus?
- To what extent does the proposed good/s demonstrate inclusion?

**Impact and benefits (40% weighting)**

- To what extent will the proposed goods benefit older South Australians?

**Community need (20% weighting)**

- How clearly is the need for the goods explained?

**Value for money (15% weighting)**

- Are the goods costs reasonable and realistic?
- Does the proposal demonstrate consideration of existing infrastructure, networks, and resources?

## Assessment process

The Grants for Seniors program is highly competitive. Due to the limited amount of funding available not every application that meets the eligibility and assessment criteria will be recommended for funding.



Applications will be assessed by a merit-based assessment process against the Assessment Criteria. The Assessment Panel includes a mix of State Government officers who have a broad spectrum of experience and knowledge relating to ageing well policy and programs.

## Accountability and obligations

The online application form must be submitted by an authorised representative of the applicant organisation – an 'Office Bearer'. The First Office Bearer should be authorised to enter into legal contracts on behalf of the applicant organisation and must be identified in the application.

The First Office Bearer will be informed of the outcome of the grant application, and for successful applications, will be required to sign the contract electronically via DocuSign AU, an electronic contract management system.

In addition, a Second Office Bearer is required to be identified within the application, to confirm the organisational bank details, and if successful sign the contract via DocuSign AU.

All organisations approved for funding will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well that will outline the agreed Terms and Conditions. You must use the funds in line with the grant agreement.

Grant recipients are paid through electronic funds transfer (EFT) into their nominated financial institution's account for the total amount funded, plus GST if the grant is deemed eligible.

If the project cannot be completed, grant funding will need to be returned to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services. In some circumstances, changes to the project may be negotiated.

## Reporting requirements

Grant recipients will be required to:

- provide, on project completion, a completed grant financial acquittal form certifying expenditure of the allocated funds in accordance with the grant agreement terms; and
- complete a short evaluation/impact survey via email to Office for Ageing Well.

Grant funding amounts remitted may be reported to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in a tax payments annual report on behalf of the Department of Human Services. For further information, refer to the [ATO website](#).

## Acknowledgement and publicity

Grant recipients must acknowledge Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services as a funding body in promotion, media, communication, marketing or dissemination of project resources or publications arising from the project to the media or the public. Office for Ageing Well can provide grant recipients with its branding and acknowledgement guidelines.

It is a condition of funding that the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well may promote or publicly refer to any Grants for Seniors funded goods or project. This may be done directly or through the communication mechanisms of Office for Ageing Well and the South Australian Government. Funded organisations will be required, if requested, to provide project-related information for the purpose of promotion by the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well.

Grant recipients may provide an article for inclusion in [WeekendPlus](#), the Seniors Card digital magazine, emailed fortnightly to over 110,000 Seniors Card members. This opportunity is free to grant recipients (valued at \$1500) to promote the project or raise community awareness of opportunities for older people to participate in or benefit from project activities.

## Outcome notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email. Unsuccessful and ineligible applicants are given the opportunity to seek feedback.

## Declaration

It is a condition of making a grant application that the authorised representative submitting the application declares that:

- All information supplied in the application form is complete and accurate and is not false or misleading, as at the date it is submitted to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services;
- The parties listed in the application, and/or the applicant organisation (including the auspiced organisation) have not committed, are not currently being investigated for, and will not partake in any fraud or dishonesty offences;
- All information in the application is capable of substantiation for the amount and purposes of expenses;
- They have made all necessary inquiries to ensure that expenses in the application meet the eligibility requirements;
- All documents that may be relevant to the application will be made available (upon request) to Office for Ageing Well, Department of Human Services;
- The project is not intended to result in financial gain for the applicant/applicant organisation;
- The applicant organisation does not owe any reports or money to Office for Ageing Well or Department of Human Services as a result of previous funding or grants;
- The applicant organisation has the appropriate insurance including Public Liability Insurance not less than \$1,000,000, for the activities that are the subject of the grant; and
- They are authorised to submit the grant application and to agree to the declaration on behalf of the applicant organisation.

The authorised representative understands that:

- Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. It is a criminal offence to attempt to obtain a grant or increase the amount of a grant through deceit, false or misleading representation or other unlawful means;
- The submission of an application does not guarantee funding and if successful does not involve any ongoing government funding commitment;
- If successful in obtaining a grant, the applicant organisation will enter into a binding agreement that includes grant terms and conditions relating to the approved expenditure of grant funds and specific reporting and compliance requirements;

- Office for Ageing Well must be notified immediately if funding for the same items budgeted in the application has been approved by another funding body, including another part of Department of Human Services; and
- The Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well may promote or publicly refer to any Office for Ageing Well grants. This may be done directly or through the communication mechanisms of Office for Ageing Well and the South Australian Government. Funded organisations will be required, if requested, to provide project related information for the purpose of promotion by the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well.

## Enquiries and feedback

Applicants are encouraged to visit Office for Ageing Well grants webpage or contact the office via email for any grant related queries.

Website: [dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants)

Email: [ageingwellgrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ageingwellgrants@sa.gov.au)

Office for Ageing Well welcomes applicant feedback. Following submission of your application, you will be sent a confirmation email with a link to an anonymous feedback form for your optional participation.