



Office for Ageing Well **Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants** **2025–2026**

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

Guidelines

Apply online at: 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 or 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.

Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants

Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants enable community organisations across South Australia to apply for one-off grants of up to \$50,000 for capability building projects for up to 18 months

that will support older South Australians, including those from diverse communities and backgrounds, to age well and be recognised for their valued contributions across their lifetime.

The Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants program aligns to a Theory of Change (see Appendix), which defines the program's broad goal, outcomes and pathways of action and aligns with South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020–2025.

In addition, to achieve the greatest sustainable impact for older South Australians, the grant program is designed to support successful grant recipients to develop their own project specific Theory of Change via participation in the Fellowship and Mentoring program (described below in 'Fellowship and Mentoring Program').

A **Theory of Change** is a logical, clear story about what the change is that grant recipients wish to create, why this change is needed and how they intend to go about creating the change. The purpose of a Theory of Change is that there are clear chains of logic that describe the steps to the broad goal. This way grant recipients can challenge themselves and check that they are doing activities that actually lead to the impact and outcomes they are attempting to achieve.

Fellowship and Mentoring program

A requirement of the Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants program is for project teams to participate in all activities of the Fellowship and Mentoring program, facilitated by The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI).

Participation requires being open to adapt and change your solution, based on what you learn from people and through your project activities. Helping you do this is a key role of TACSI, who provide coaching, mentoring and support throughout the funding period. Successful recipients will be required to attend:

- An Expectations workshop.
- An Initiative Based Theory of Change workshop.
- Group coaching sessions with the broader fellowship group (other grant recipients) and
- Bespoke individual (1:1) mentoring sessions tailored to grant recipients' projects, skills and experience.

TACSI work in collaboration with grant recipients/project teams to develop and deliver an individual project Theory of Change, that clearly defines outcomes, pathways of action, assumptions to test and measures to track impact.

Sessions throughout the funding period will support and build grant recipients'/project teams capability in project planning, theory of change and project logic, assumptions testing and adapting, outcomes reporting and sustainability.

TACSI supports capability building to enable sustainable, longer-term outcomes to be achieved through grant-funded projects, supporting ageing well across the broader community.

Funding focus

The Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants will fund projects that align to the overall program Theory of Change (Appendix) including alignment with 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.

Important dates

Grant round opens:	Friday 29 August 2025, midday (ACST)
Online Information Session:	Wednesday 10 September 2025, 3.00-3.30pm (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 2027

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 auspicings arrangement. In this arrangement, the organisation that meets criteria 1-4 is known as the 'auspicings organisation' and the organisation that does not meet criteria 4 becomes the 'auspiced organisation'.

An auspicings 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.
- Equipment only projects - funding for equipment will be considered only as part of a project.
- 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.

Eligible items

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.

How to apply

To apply you must:

- be an authorised representative of the applicant organisation; and
- register online with [SmartyGrants](#) and complete the online application available on this webpage: dhs.sa.gov.au/ageingwellgrants.

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. The application form will encourage applicants to demonstrate alignment to the programs overall Theory of Change (Appendix). Applications will be assessed using the assessment criteria and weightings below.

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

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

Impact and benefits (25% weighting)

- To what extent will the proposal contribute to South Australians living in communities that value older people and contribute to ageing well?
- Are outcomes measurable and clearly linked to the project's aim?
- To what extent are outcomes sustainable?

Community need and empowerment (20% weighting)

- How clearly is the issue or opportunity articulated?
- 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 will older people be engaged to drive change?

Capacity to engage (15% weighting)

- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate collaboration and recognise multiple roles stakeholders, including older people, can play?
- To what extent does the proposal demonstrate potential for adaptive change through participation in the Fellowship and Mentoring program?

Value for money (15% weighting)

- Are the project costs reasonable and realistic?
- Does the proposal demonstrate efficient use of existing infrastructure, networks, and resources?
- Does the funding request reflect strong cost-effectiveness in delivering community impact?

Assessment process

The Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants program is highly competitive and only a small number of applications receive funding in any given year.

Applications will be assessed through a merit-based assessment process against the Assessment Criteria. Following this assessment, further consideration is given to a selection of recipients who can achieve the greatest collective impact.

The Assessment Panel includes a mix of State Government officers, a representative from The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and a community member, 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.

Successful grant recipients will be assigned an Office for Ageing Well team member to support delivery of the project.

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:

- Submit to Office for Ageing Well, a project plan including a Theory of Change following your engagement with TACSI as part of the Fellowship and Mentoring program;

- Provide regular evidence in support of the progress of the project to Office for Ageing Well to enable the Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well to be satisfied that the grant is being used effectively and efficiently;
- Provide, on project completion, a completed grant financial acquittal form certifying expenditure of the allocated funds in accordance with the grant agreement terms; and
- Submit a final report including evaluation of the project outcomes and impact to Office for Ageing Well.

Grant recipients may be required to contribute to the implementation of the [Ageing Well Measuring Success Framework](#), which may include (but not be limited to) promotion of the Community Perception Survey, assistance with recruitment of participants for focus groups and/or interviews, and completion of the Close Out Survey for grant recipients.

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 Age Friendly SA Grants funded 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 must 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

Email: 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.

Vision for SA
(Broad Goal)

Appendix: Positive Ageing Fellowship Grants (PAFG) – Theory of Change (updated Oct 23)

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.

Outcomes

Homes and communities enable flexibility and choice, and support us to live how we choose, no matter our age, needs, wants and desires.

Everyone has the opportunity, support and encouragement to maintain and develop meaningful connections.

We all have the capabilities and supports for remaining active participants throughout all of life’s transitions.

An inclusive society that has moved beyond ageism.

The options and choices available to us reflect the diversity of our needs, wants, experiences and aspirations.

We all have access to the options, information and supports that enable us to age well.

Interim outcomes
(at end of PAFG Program)

PAFG Fellows make measurable progress towards outcomes in their theory of change.

PAFG Fellows build new capability and connections.

PAFG Fellows continue as partners of Office for Ageing Well.

Stories of impact of PAFG influence mindsets about ageing, engagement of older people and further investment in solutions.

PAFG Fellows prioritise impact and outcomes (over outputs) in decision making and reporting.

PAFG Fellows demonstrate systems thinking in how they act, collaborate and influence change.

Solutions funded through PAFGs continue beyond the granting period.

Influencing activities

PAFG Fellows are selected to create the mix for greatest impact.

PAFG Fellows establish a theory of change.

Group and 1:1 coaching sessions to build capability in co-design techniques the three lenses of desirability, feasibility and sustainability (in the social change context) and working within systems.

Group and 1:1 coaching sessions support teams to troubleshoot, iterate, stretch their potential.

PAFG Fellows use the [Measuring Success Framework](#) to understand what success looks like and develop tools to measure their impact.

PAFG Fellows are selected on alignment to outcomes in this Theory of Change.

PAFG projects are supported to kick-off well.

Group coaching sessions that foster opportunities to learn from one another, build new connections and identify potential collaborations.

What success for our Vision looks like:

- South Australians are living well in their later years.
- South Australians value older people, the contribution they make to our communities and the opportunities older people bring to our state.
- People exercise choice and control in a diverse range of options for living well in their later years.
- Communities shape the future of living well in our later years today.
- Our systems are creating conditions for living well in our later years.

What success for our Outcomes looks like:

- People are supported to live well throughout all life’s transitions
- People are leading the development and implementation of diverse options for living well in their later years.
- Communities are self-organising to shape living well in our later years alongside older people.
- Our systems are spreading a view of ageing that is diverse, busts myths and enables planning for transitions in ageing.
- Communities are building the capacity to develop diverse and better options for living well in our later years.
- Our systems support individuals and communities to be resilient in the face of change, enabling living well in our later years.
- Communities are learning from each other and building on what works.

Principles for Action

- Outcomes Driven: Learning through action, aligning around outcomes, driving change from older people’s lived experiences.
- Systems Perspective: Developing capability for systems thinking and influencing change for ageing well.
- Collaboration: Fostering conditions for collaboration, recognising the multiple roles stakeholders can play.

Learning and stories of impact are captured and shared to influence mindsets about ageing, engagement of older people and further investment in solutions.