

2024 Inspire Grant Application Guidelines

Inclusive Education

Education is one of the most powerful ways to create positive change and lasting impact. It's an important predictor of future employment, welfare and health prospects – improving a person's ability to contribute socially and economically in the community.

However, equal opportunities and quality outcomes are not available for all children and young people, especially those experiencing disadvantage.

The Inspire Grant was created to uplift the education outcomes of children and young people (0-24 years) facing the greatest barriers to reaching their potential.

The grant awards up to \$300,000 over three years to support innovative approaches to access, participation, learning, and transition to further study or employment.

Key impact areas

Participation	Supports school attendance, retention, participation in further study or training, access to education.
Engagement	Supports engagement or re-engagement with education/learning, motivation, confidence, wellbeing, cultural identity.
Achievement	Supports completion of school or further study, transition to next level education or employment, improved learning outcomes.
Capacity building	Supports parent/carer engagement in their child's learning. Improves teaching and learning practice, addresses learning gaps, builds school capacity, supports educators, knowledge sharing, resource and practice development.

Priority groups

Our focus is on addressing the needs of those facing the greatest barriers to receiving the educational opportunities and support needed to reach their potential. These are children and young people (0-24 years):

- From Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- From culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including children of refugee and asylum seeker families.
- With disability.
- Who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse.
- Living in out of home care.
- Who are incarcerated or have had contact with the criminal justice system.
- Experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Living in regional and remote communities.

Eligibility

1. Your organisation is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR-1 status) and registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).
2. Your organisation can provide recent, audited financial statements, signed by the auditor (those with annual revenue less than \$500,000 are exempt).
3. Your organisation has an annual gross revenue of less than \$5 million.
4. Your organisation receives less than 60% of its annual revenue from federal, state or local government funding, where income is above \$1million per annum.
5. Your proposed initiative is located within NSW, ACT, QLD or WA.

Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrating organisational alignment and robustness

- An inspiring vision, goals, programs and services that align with building a fairer, more inclusive community.
- Experienced working with children and young people experiencing disadvantage and discrimination to improve education participation and outcomes.
- Strong governance, with appropriate systems, risk and compliance processes, and child protection policies and practices.
- Sound financial management practices.

2. Initiative demonstrates an innovative, collaborative approach to addressing educational disadvantage

- Initiative directly involves children/young people from one or more of our priority groups, and/or builds the capability of parents, caregivers, families, and educators.
- Initiative addresses clear a community need with strengths-based and child/youth centred approaches.
- Initiative reflects an evidence-based approach, with clear rationale.

3. Demonstrating commitment to social impact, creating effective opportunities to uplift education outcomes for children and young people in our priority groups

- Clarity on intended initiative outcomes.
- Committed to measurement and outcome evaluation.
- Compelling link between the initiative and its contribution to long term social impact.

Applications are open to all eligible organisations, regardless of whether you have applied previously.

Previous Inspire grants from St.George Foundation, Bank of Melbourne Foundation or BankSA Foundation must be acquitted prior to submitting a new application.

What we will fund

Our priority is to support pilots and trials of new approaches, or growth or extension of an existing, proven approach. This includes initiatives that help children and young people (0-24 years) experiencing disadvantage to:

- Access and participate in formal education.
- Access learning via alternative pathways.
- Stay engaged or re-engage with school/education/learning.
- Complete school or further education.
- Address learning gaps.
- Progress learning where there are complex needs.
- Improve learning outcomes.
- Transition to further education, training or employment.
- Address underachievement/underserved.
- Provide pathways to employment.

What we won't fund

- Charity works outside Australia.
- Initiatives outside of NSW, ACT, QLD, or WA.
- Sponsorship or fundraising activities.
- Residential camps, except where that is the core purpose of the applicant organisation.
- Research.
- Individuals.

Auspiced applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

How to apply

You can apply by completing the online application form on stgeorgefoundation.com.au

Applications will be assessed against the criteria and three to six applicants will be shortlisted by the Foundation team.

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed and assessed by an Expert Panel comprising Foundation team members, Westpac Group risk and finance experts, and specialists in children and young people, education or community/social impact.

Incomplete applications and those that do not meet the grant eligibility criteria will not be assessed.

For enquiries or assistance please contact stgeorgefoundation.com.au or call 1300 726 023.

Key dates

- Applications open on 11 March 2024.
- Applications close on 14 April 2024.
- Shortlisting will occur from 15 April to 13 May 2024.
- Unsuccessful applicants and shortlisted applicants will be notified on 13 May 2024.
- Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by Assessment Panel from 13 May 2024
- Funding recommendations to Board – 12 June 2024
- Shortlisted applicant/s will be notified of funding decisions by 14 June 2024.
- Funding for successful applicant(s) will be provided in early July 2024.

