

## TACKLING TOUGH TIMES TOGETHER PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) recognises that there are many areas significantly impacted by the immediate and longer-term effects of drought across Australia. The Tackling Tough Times Together (TTTT) rolling grants program supports these communities to sustain and strengthen their connectedness, skills, resources and leadership, and to facilitate strong and adaptable communities. Funds for the grants program are provided by the Australian Government, Tim Fairfax Family Foundation, ANZ, Paul Ramsay Foundation, Sidney Myer Fund, Pratt Foundation, Australia Post, Westpac Group, The Snow Foundation, Santos, Aussie Farmers' Foundation, Ronald Geoffrey Arnott Foundation, Qantas Foundation, NRMA, Rex Airlines, and individual donors from across the nation. The grants program is managed independently by FRRR.

### The objectives of the program are to:

1. **Reduce social isolation** by facilitating strong social cohesion and connection;
2. Support and engage the community in **leadership development and skills training**;
3. Support opportunities for **social and educational participation** and **address disadvantage** caused by the drought, for children and young people;
4. **Reduce volunteer fatigue** and **build the capacity**, capability and sustainability of local not-for-profit organisations to provide support to their communities, particularly where they are playing an increased role during the drought; and
5. Support **local economic recovery or renewal** through projects that stimulate economic activity and cash-flow within communities.

Grants are available for projects that directly benefit the immediate and medium-term needs of drought affected communities. Three streams of grants are available:

- Up to \$20,000;
- Up to \$60,000: Applicants must initially speak to the FRRR Program Manager before lodging an application; and
- Up to \$150,000: Applications for this stream are by Expression of Interest, and applicants must speak with the TTTT Program Manager before submitting an Expression of Interest. Multi-year projects are welcomed.

### Criteria for applications up to \$60,000 and \$150,000

- Provide broader, more medium term impact – multi-year grants will be considered;
- Offer activities that could be repeated over a period of time;
- Deliver larger scale activities that provide short term relief to alleviate the impact of drought;
- Support a coordinated approach with a regional focus;
- Enhance resourcing, stability and continuity of events and programs being delivered by local not-for-profit organisations; and
- Support the delivery of activities and services that cost more due to the remoteness of their location.

### Examples of projects that can be funded include, but are not limited to:

- Hosting events showcasing local talent or film nights showing movies for the community;
- Creating or enhancing community gardens and other meeting places;
- Art, drama and creative expression projects to assist people to creatively express their experiences, which are otherwise limited due to the drought;

- Experiences for school children such as camps that connect young people and provide an opportunity to have fun with other young people off-farm;
- Tools and equipment to boost community capacity to fundraise and provide local support including BBQs, trailers, water tanks and signage;
- Creating or enhancing tourism assets (events or infrastructure) to encourage visitors, and economic activity;
- Training local artists / creative people in developing and implementing creative workshops to assist people suffering from stress and anxiety;
- Small scale community infrastructure that enhances local meeting places;
- Equipment for local men's, women's and / or children's activities that encourage participation and reduce isolation, to ensure ongoing connection is sustained within their communities;
- Supporting continued economic and social activity for those in the towns, to sustain and retain businesses and residents;
- Providing training and support to potential and current community leaders to further build capacity, capability and to drive community led responses to the issues that matter to them. This may include forums and training workshops; and
- Salaries and wages will be supported where this relieves pressure on volunteers, assists in delivering grant projects, and creates short-term employment opportunities for local people.

Note: Examples of previously funded projects can be found at [www.frrr.org.au/cb\\_pages/tackling\\_tough\\_times\\_together.php#Case%20Studies](http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/tackling_tough_times_together.php#Case%20Studies).

### Who can apply?

- Community groups and not-for-profit organisations with a current ABN or Incorporation status.
- The program has a strong preference to support grassroots organisations based in drought affected regions across Australia over those delivering services to, but not based in drought affected regions.
- Projects led by local communities will be given strong preference.
- Please note no specific tax status is required.
- Groups with outstanding FRRR final reports are not eligible to apply unless a time extension has been granted.

### What cannot be funded?

- The **encouragement or advancement of sport**, recreation and social activities is not considered a charitable activity by the Australian Tax Office. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate benefits to the wider community beyond competitive sports-related activities (please contact FRRR if you wish to discuss);
- Commonwealth, State and Local **Government core business** and areas of responsibility;
- Projects that **do not directly support drought affected communities**;
- Projects that **benefit a single individual** rather than a community;
- The project **must not duplicate** an existing project or service;
- **Retrospective projects**, i.e. projects that have already occurred or which will have occurred by the time funds are received;
- Projects that are for **animal welfare**;
- Projects outside Australia and **overseas travel**; nor
- Projects that support private businesses and **commercial activities** (excepting not-for-profit social enterprise).

## What information should be provided in grant applications?

FRRR considers all eligible applications on their merit. However, we are only able to make a proper assessment of funding requests when we have adequate information about the applicant organisation and the project that funds will support.

The following are important requirements to be aware of and FRRR suggests attending to these early in the preparation of grant applications:

- The most recent organisational financial statement that shows 12 months of activity. This is preferably a profit & loss statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement.
- Letters of support and quotes can significantly strengthen your application, as does the inclusion of in-kind support, e.g. volunteer hours, and other sources of funding in your project budget. We highly recommend that you include letters of support, in-kind support and quotes with your application.
- We suggest costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$25/hr.
- All supporting material **MUST** be submitted with the application.

If you need assistance with any of the above, please contact our office on 1800 170 020.

## What makes a stronger application?

- **Demonstrable partnerships** between local organisations, with defined project plans and relevant evaluation of impact and outcomes.
- **Letters of support** from organisations directly involved in the project, clearly stating their contribution towards the project, are highly desirable.
- **Quotes** (where applicable) supporting the funding request are highly regarded and should be provided for items over \$500.
- Financial or in-kind **contribution towards the project** from the applicant organisation is desirable.
- **We encourage applicants to contact FRRR to discuss their application.**

## How to Apply

### Up to \$20,000

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, [Grants Gateway](#).



### Up to \$60,000

Applicants are asked to phone the Program Manager on 1800 170 020 to discuss their project idea in order to obtain the Grants Gateway application link for this tier of funding.

### Up to \$150,000

Applicants are asked to complete a two-stage application process. Applicants should contact the TTTT Program Manager on 1800 170 020 to discuss their project idea, before submitting a formal Expression of Interest (EOI). Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to submit a full application.

## Using the online Grants Gateway

If you have questions about your project, are unable to apply online, or experience any problems in using Grants Gateway, please contact us on free call 1800 170 020 or email [info@frrr.org.au](mailto:info@frrr.org.au).

If you have previously applied using FRRR's Grants Gateway, login using your user account and start a new application.

### First time applicants

If you have not previously applied for a grant with FRRR via this system, you need to set up an account to start your first application.

Applicants to the small grants stream (up to \$20,000) should click on the Apply Now button on the [Tackling Tough Times Together program page](#) and then follow the link to 'Set up an account'. You will be prompted to create an online account to access the application form, using an email address and password. Applicants to the larger grant streams will be emailed separate links to the Grants Gateway after speaking to the Program staff.

**Please use an email address associated with your organisation or group (rather than a personal email address) to create the account.** This ensures that any member of your organisation or committee will be able to access the account even if the person managing the application changes. It will also ensure your history is there for future applications, and for reporting.

Once the account has been established, you will be able to start the application, save your progress and finally submit via the online portal. We recommend that you print a copy of the form (top right of the online application screen), so you can see all the information required and begin drafting your answers and collating the required information.

**Tips for using the Grants Gateway:** We strongly recommend preparing your application content in a Microsoft Word document and then transferring your final application content to the Grants Gateway form. This will assist in managing versions and will reduce the risk of losing work if an internet connection times out – although continual saving is also recommended. Working offline also makes it easier for multiple people to work on an application before entering your application into Grants Gateway for submission.

**To return to your application once started,** you will need to use the application link that is automatically generated by the system and emailed to your nominated Grants Gateway user email account – you will only be able to access your application by using this link.

We have developed various tools to help you navigate the application process. We strongly suggest you read the [How-To Guide](#) and [FAQs](#), and watch our helpful tips on [How to Navigate the Activity Tree](#) before you start your application.

### Application and outcome notification

Applications are accepted at any time and are reviewed by FRRR on a quarterly basis. The schedule below indicates the review timeframes, which should be considered in light of when project funding is required.

Round	Outcomes advised
Round 11	Late January 2019 for applications received by 27 November 2018.
Round 12	Early May 2019 for applications received by 5 February 2019.
Round 13	Late July 2019 for applications received by 30 April 2019.
Round 14	Late October 2019 for applications received by 30 August 2019.

Successful applicants may be contacted by program donors and invited to participate in announcement activities including media releases, social media, and profiling of projects in newsletters and websites.

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