Aim of the Program

Westpac Foundation has partnered with FRRR to offer Westpac Foundation’s Community Grants to rural and regional communities. These grants provide support for community organisations creating opportunities through education, training and employment.

Funding Available

$500,000 is available through this program, in grants of $10,000 for community-driven organisations and initiatives in regional, rural and remote Australia that enhance, develop or provide education and training opportunities for those who are most vulnerable.

Applications will be accepted at any time from when the program opens on 15 April 2020 to the closing date of 5pm AEST, 13 May 2020.

Applicant Eligibility

Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit community organisations based in, or delivering programs, outside a major city as defined by the 2016 ABS Remoteness Index1;
- Organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate;
- Organisations with and without DGR endorsement;
- Organisations whose last financial year’s annual Revenue was at least $50,000 and under $5 million2;
- Organisations who primarily operate to support Australians belonging to one or more of the target groups:
  a. Indigenous Australians;
  b. Refugee & Asylum Seekers;
  c. Women at risk;
  d. Youth at risk (>12 years of age);
  e. People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
  f. People who have experienced family or domestic violence;
  g. People living with a disability (including carers);
  h. People living with a mental health issue (including carers).
- Organisations whose activities are primarily aimed at addressing disadvantage and improving social inclusion for individuals within the target groups in education and training opportunities (ages 12 and over) and/or employment pathways;
- An organisation is eligible to submit one application per grant round.

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1 Rural, Regional, Remote, is defined by the 2016 ABS Remoteness Index as RA2 or greater (RA1 is ineligible).
2 In the last financial year, the Organisation’s gross annual revenue figure in the most recent submitted or lodged financial statements with the Australian Charities Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) or another relevant regulatory body, was at least $50,000 and under $5 million.
All eligible applications are considered on their merit. Applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **PLEASE NOTE: FRRR is unable to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

Organisations that receive grants should expend the funds within a period of 12 months from receipt.

**Who can’t apply?**
- Individuals, private or commercial businesses are ineligible.
- Activities that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments are ineligible.
- Organisations proposing to deliver the benefit of the grant in the following major cities are ineligible (classified as RA1 in the 2016 ABS Remoteness Index):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>ACT / VIC / WA / SA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campbelltown</td>
<td>Beenleigh</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gosford</td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Canberra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>Caloundra</td>
<td>Geelong</td>
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<td>Penrith</td>
<td>Caboolture</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<td>Shell Harbour</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>Terrigal</td>
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<td>Tweed Heads</td>
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<td>Wollongong</td>
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<td>Woy Woy</td>
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<td>Wyong</td>
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<td>Strathpine</td>
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</table>

If you have any questions about your organisation’s eligibility, please call FRRR on 1800 170 020.

**Eligibility**

**What can be funded?**
Organisations that support education, training and employment and activities that help break the cycle for Australian’s experiencing disadvantage. There is a preference for grants initiated and delivered by local community groups. Applicants are encouraged to ensure grant applications suit their local community’s needs, priorities and interests, and are welcome to discuss their application with FRRR staff on the contact details below.

**What can’t be funded?**
- Purely **ongoing** core organisational operational costs (e.g. rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments);
- The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club;
- Overseas travel and overseas projects;
- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards;
- Activities that have already occurred or will occur before the grant is confirmed;
- Political lobbying;
- Religious or faith-based activities;
• Activities that are for private benefit or which are the core responsibility of Government;
• Animal welfare;
• Rescue services;
• Medical research;
• Sponsorship or fundraising activities;
• Contributions towards capital projects, major equipment and refurbishments that are reliant on other funding and approvals yet to be obtained in order to be completed.

It is important to note that applications will be considered ineligible if the:
• Application is submitted without required financial documentation;
• Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity;
• Final report/s from any FRRR or Westpac Foundation grant program from the previous seven years has not been acquitted;
• Application is not for charitable purposes, i.e. is for private benefit or is the core responsibility of Government;
• Application is for an activity that has already occurred / is occurring;
• Application is incomplete.

How to Apply

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.

If you have questions about your application, are unable to apply online, or experience any problems in using Grants Gateway, please contact us on freecall 1800 170 020 or email info@frrr.org.au.

Click here to apply.

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 that link, or the Return to your Applications link from the Westpac Foundation Rural Community Grants web page.

How are Applications assessed?
The Westpac Foundation Rural Community Grants program is administered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. The program lifecycle is summarised below:

Assess eligibility of application
Ineligible applicants notified
Eligible applications reviewed & assessed
Westpac Foundation Assessment Committee considers eligible applications and recommends to FRRR
FRRR Approval
Applicants notified of outcome by email
Successful grants announced
Acquittal
Successful grant recipients will be required to acquit to FRRR at the earlier of the completion of their grant activity, or 12 months after receiving a grant.

Contact Us
For information about this program please contact the FRRR team on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.au.