



An Australian Government Initiative



Regional
Development
Australia

YORKE AND MID NORTH

Grant Writing Workshop

Presented by Muriel Scholz

August 2026 – Crystal Brook

Acknowledgement of Country



Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North and the Crystal Brook Community Association acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

RDA Yorke and Mid North

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North (RDAYMN) is a not-for-profit organisation funded by Federal, State and local government.

Our purpose

Facilitate growth in economic prosperity within our region and improve the liveability of our communities

Our vision

Leverage our regional advantages to deliver and grow a resilient, attractive and secure future

Our partners

- 11 local governments
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Businesses
- Community groups
- Individuals

Introduction from participants

- First name
- Location
- Organisation
- Have you applied for grants before?
- Do you have a particular project in mind?



What is a grant?

- Grants are funds given out by private, public and not-for-profit organisations for a range of purposes.
- Grants are always for discrete, stand-alone projects with a beginning, end and clear outcomes from the project.
- They are not for ongoing running costs of an organisation, such as permanent staff costs, rent and utilities. You can use grant funding for these costs but **ONLY** if they relate to the current project you are doing.
- Grants are not retrospective, which means that you cannot get grant funds to reimburse you for a project already completed or work already started.



What is the purpose of a grant?

To achieve government policy objectives

To implement election or government promises

To promote new ways of doing things

To improve public infrastructure

To preserve historical buildings

To recognise service

To help with research and development

To encourage new businesses

To stimulate economy

To create jobs

To assist or enrich the community

To support disadvantaged people

To alleviate adverse circumstances (drought, fire...)

To support the Arts, sports, multiculturalism...

Get your project ready before applying for a grant

What do you want to apply for?

Who will it benefit?

Can you fund your project any other way?

Do you have a project plan?

Do you have a budget?

Do you have realistic and up to date quotes?

Have you consulted with the landowner and local government?



What do you need

- Quotes
- Letters of Support
- Audited accounts
- Constitution if relevant
- ABN
- Bank Details
- Committee minutes
- Landowner consent
- Photos and newspaper articles



Am I the one for you?

What is a Deductible Gift Recipient?



Organisations that are endorsed as deductible gift recipients (DGRs) are entitled to receive donations that are deductible from the donor's income tax.

To get Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) endorsement from the Australian Taxation Office, an organisation must hold an active ABN, operate in Australia, function on a not-for-profit basis, and fit into one of the recognised DGR categories.

DGR Categories

- Health (Public Hospital)
- Research (CSIRO)
- Family Help (The Smith Family)
- Sport and Recreation (Australian Sport Foundation)
- Education (Flinders University)
- Welfare, Rights and Harm Prevention (RSPCA)
- Environment (GreenPeace)
- Cultural Organisations (Alliance Francaise)

[RDA Yorke and Mid North Grant Newsletter](#)

[Subscribe to Port Pirie Regional Council Facebook page](#)

[Grant Connect Community Grants Hub](#)

[South Australian Government Grants](#)

[Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#)

[Your local MP's website](#)



**SHOW
ME
THE
MONEY!**

Found a grant?



Read the guidelines and FAQs at least twice!!



Are you eligible? Grant writing is hard work. Do not apply if you are not eligible.



When does it close? Do not leave to the last minute, it will take longer to write than you think.



Most applications are online. Copy questions on a Word document to work out your answers.



If the application specifies 400 words, do not try for more.



Look at previously successful grants for inspiration and how to frame your project.

Golden rules

- Answer ALL the questions
- Read the questions carefully and answer accordingly
- Do not answer a question with “as previously stated or as above”
- Do not repeat the same thing twice
- Research and quote strategic plans
- Make sure your facts are right
- Do not pad your budget
- Whenever possible make a cash and in-kind contribution
- If successful, you need to implement the EXACT project you described in your application
- If you need to change project or timeline, negotiate with the granting body
- Complete contracts and acquittals on time
- Do not start works prior to signing the contract



What is a project plan?

- A **description** of your project
- How** your project will be undertaken
- A **budget** outlining all costs
- A timeline of when key **deliverables** will be achieved
- An **evaluation** of how you will measure the successful of your project



BUDGET TEMPLATE

Please detail the available and required resources to deliver the project.

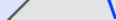
Quotes for equipment, facilities and/or services over \$500 must be attached to this application.

Hourly rates for salaries for the project, tuition and instructor's fees, etc. should be indicated.

Activity	Amount sought from Council \$	Organisation contribution \$	Income from other sources \$	Other \$	Total cost \$
Total Cost					

In Kind Contribution

Please detail any in kind contributions which will contribute to delivering the project e.g. free venue space, donated materials, professional expertise, other costs being absorbed, volunteer hours (valued at \$45.10 per hour).

	\$	 <u>Value of volu</u>
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	

Value of volunteer hour

Support letters

Community

- Do not provide a proforma unless specifically requested or a template is given by the grant .
- Explain the project, if possible, face to face or via a phone call to convey how important it is.

Commonwealth, State, Local Government and RDA

- Provide a brief of the project including objectives, brief description and amount required.
- At least two weeks' notice.

Always contact the letter writer to let them know about the result of the grant and to thank them for their letter

The boring bits

- If you are registered for GST, your budget should NOT include GST. If you are not registered for GST, your project SHOULD include GST.
- Make sure your application is grammatically correct without spelling mistakes.
- Do not use acronyms unless you have defined them once: Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North (RDA Yorke and Mid North).
- “Business as usual” is ineligible expenditure.
- Do not assume the evaluation panel knows anything about your town, your club or your project. Spell it out in plain English.
- Check your internet references for correctness

To AI or not to AI

Writing a grant using AI can be dangerous. Write it in your own words first and you can ask AI to polish it if you wish. *(Source Muriel)*

Relying on AI to write a grant is risky. Draft it in your own words first, then use AI to polish if you like. (Source Copilot)

Double check anything AI generated.

If you are passionate about your project, your own words will convey it best.



Example of a good grant

We are seeking funds to install a new kitchen in our clubrooms.

Summarise your project

The Graceville Netball Club is an old club and a great club. Established in 1932, the club plays host to more than 200 competitors every weekend from the tiniest Net Set Go participant to former Vixens stars in our senior's ranks. We are a community club and we are growing as our community grows.

Give some context

Situated in coastal South Australia, Graceville has always been a destination for tourists and is now sought after by those looking for a tree change. Our Club wants to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for the new families in town, a community destination for all ages and genders and a catalyst for increased participation in sport.

What are you going to achieve?

A significant obstacle to our mission is our kitchen. Built in the 1980s, our kitchen is cramped, hot, potentially unsafe and in dire need of an upgrade. In addition to feeding the hungry hordes and increasing safety for our volunteers, an upgraded kitchen will also allow us to improve our facility hire revenue stream. A new kitchen will help us attract new players, volunteers and supporters.

How are you going to achieve it?

Homework

Please refer to the auDA
Public Benefit Program in
your folder





So, what do you think of me?

Why get feedback?

Understand where you went wrong

- Identify gaps or weaknesses in your application
- Learn which criteria weren't met or ranked low
- Clarify what was unclear or unconvincing to assessors

Improve future applications

- Strengthen your case for next round or other funding opportunities
- Tailor your approach based on real reviewer insights
- Avoid repeating the same mistakes

Build relationships and credibility

- Shows professionalism and commitment to improvement
- May open the door for constructive dialogue with funding bodies
- Helps funders remember your organisation for future rounds

Stay competitive

- Funding rounds are competitive—feedback gives you an edge
- Understanding trends and expectations can shape stronger proposals

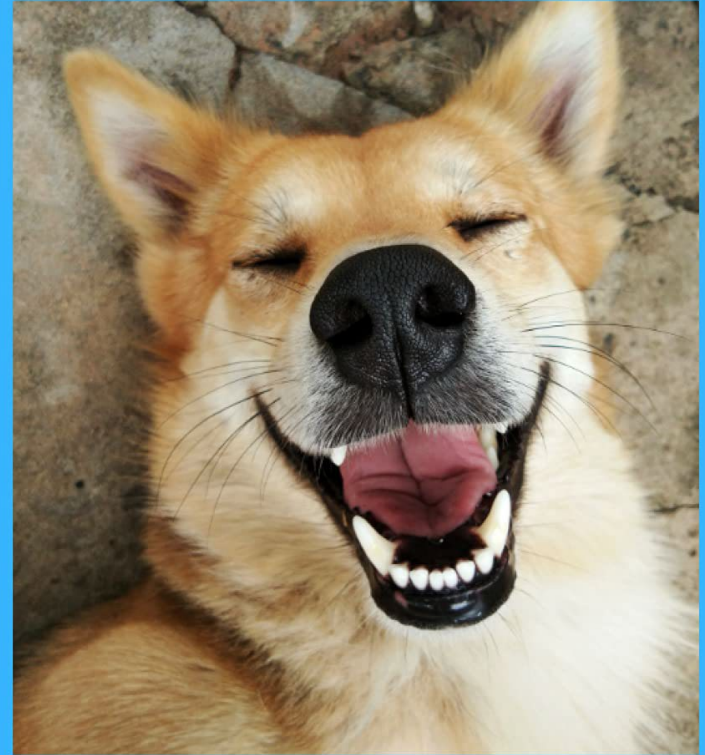


Questions?

In Conclusion

- Preparation wins grants
- Write carefully, truthfully and grammatically
- Complete on time and on budget

YOU'VE
GOT THIS



THANK YOU

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