DREAM IT FORWARD PROGRAM

2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

Alike WA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. Overview
4. Eligibility
5. Assessment Criteria
6. What Will Not Be Considered
7. Considerations
8. Assessment
9. Funding Agreements / Payments
10. Recognising Alike WA / Acquittals
11. FAQs

OVERVIEW

The Dream it Forward program (DIF) is an Alike WA small grants program focused on strengthening, sustaining, or adding value to grassroots, community-led projects that:

- Positively impact the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities in Western Australia.
- Strengthen cultural identity and apply culturally-informed ways of healing to improve social and emotional wellbeing.
- Reduce risk factors and operate a range of activities to increase community protection against psychological distress.

ELIGIBILITY

- Funding is open to community groups or leaders, Elders, ACCOs (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations), or any community member with a healing focused initiative meeting the intent of the program.

- Programs and services must take place in Western Australia and directly benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in WA.

- Applicants must not be in receipt of funding and/or under a Service Agreement from the WA Mental Health Commission.

- Applicants may request up to $7,000 (ex GST) to be used for (but not limited to):
  - On-country camps/trips, healing workshops, art therapy, cultural transmission
  - Opportunities that connect people to culture, country and community, and strengthen cultural identity
  - Men's Groups or Women's Groups
  - Identifying an opportunity to engage with at-risk groups
  - Partnering between community and ACCOs to have wider impact

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Grants will be assessed based on their alignment with the project's social and emotional well-being outcomes, with a focus on the positive impacts on participants and the community in the following areas:

- Connection to body
- Connection to mind and emotions
- Connection to family and kinship
- Connection to community
- Connection to culture
- Connection to country
- Connection to spirit, spirituality, and ancestors

Additional components considered include:

- Whether the project is Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander led and/or has involvement of Elders
- The ongoing outcomes of the project beyond the life of the grant

WHAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

- Items or funding, including but not limited to Salaries and Wages, that benefit an individual, rather than the organisation or community
- Projects or activities taking place outside of Western Australia
- Past grantees who have an open, active grant or have not met their reporting obligations for previous projects
- Projects that do not meet the grant eligibility and/or that fail to demonstrate how they will meet the assessment criteria
- Incomplete applications. All quotes and supporting documentation must be provided before the close of the grant round
- Project management costs
- Requests for cash/money deposits
- Projects with timeframes that cannot be completed within the advised grant timeframes
- Purchases or activities that have taken place prior to funding approval
- Facebook advertising unless through an approved supplier (eg marketing agency)

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

TIME FRAMES

- There is one Dream it Forward round each year
- Please check the website for opening and closing application dates

BUDGET AND QUOTES

- Applicants must provide quotes from an external supplier detailing the items, their cost and the GST component (if applicable)
- The amount requested in the application must match the quote and exclude the GST component
- If purchasing from online sites, we will accept screenshots that clearly display the items, their cost and the GST component
- Items that have fluctuating costs (eg flights, hotel accommodation) will be assessed on the supplied quote. If the item is approved, any variance in cost will be required to be covered by the applicant

ASSESSMENT

All applications are considered by an Assessment Panel made up of representatives from:

- Alike WA
- Mental Health Commission of WA
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives

Alike WA reserves the right to request further information in considering any application as well as the right to reject any application.

Applicants should be aware that funding is limited, and while applications may be approved for partial funding, not all grant applications can always be supported.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 6 weeks of the application close date.

The decision made by the panel is final.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful applicants must enter into a written funding agreement with Alike WA before any payment is provided. Please ensure that the authorised person from your group or organisation signs the agreement.

If Alike WA do not receive a signed grant agreement from you within two weeks of distribution, the letter of offer will be withdrawn and the funds will be returned to the general grant funding pool for the next round.

PAYMENTS

Alike WA will be responsible for ALL payments to vendors and suppliers providing goods and services for grant recipients. This allows grant recipients to focus on the outcomes of their project.

THERE IS NO DIRECT EXCHANGE OR REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS between Alike WA and grant recipients. This means Alike WA can only pay invoices directly from the supplier.

****Please note, all online subscriptions will require a credit card provided from the group to use post-payment by Alike WA.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your funding agreement outlines some of the ways you can acknowledge Alike WA's financial support.

'PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY ALIKE WA' LOGO

Where practical please display a 'supported by' logo on your marketing materials. You will be provided with a colour version and a transparent version (for use on coloured backgrounds). You cannot use this logo for any other purpose.

COMMUNICATION

In social media and other communications, please acknowledge Alike WA's support and tag Alike WA in any social media posts relating to your Dream it Forward project.

ACQUITTALS

Acquittals are a necessary component of your grant application. You will be required to complete a final report at the close of your project.

You will receive notification when the report is due. Please do not hesitate to contact Alike WA if you would like to complete your report earlier, require more time, or need some assistance.

FAQS

How many applications can I submit?
You can apply for one grant per funding round. This allows a fair and equitable distribution of funds between organisations. Applicants cannot apply if they have an open, active grant from a previous round.

Does the program support payments to Elders and Traditional Owners?
Yes, Elders and Traditional Owners can be compensated for providing cultural knowledge and support to a project. They will be supported to complete the required ATO Statement by a Supplier form where needed.

Does the program support payments for the applicant?
No, applicants cannot financially benefit from the proposed project. This includes any staff, volunteers or board members of the applicant organisation.

What can the program pay for?
Examples but not limited to: costs for on-country camps or day trips (food, fuel, camping/fishing equipment), art therapists and art supplies, facilitation or delivery of cultural workshops, food or venue hire costs for yarning circles or men's and women's groups.

Can I submit a joint application with another group?
Yes, Alike WA encourages collaboration, however, one group needs to be identified as the point of contact for communication.

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