

Positive Ageing and Elder Abuse Awareness Grant Guidelines

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1. About the grant

1.1 Background

Ageism remains a common form of prejudice in Australia, contributing to exclusion, discrimination and negative attitudes towards older people, and increasing the risk of abuse and exploitation.

Abuse, mistreatment of older people is complex, poorly understood and difficult to recognise in families and in the community and therefore underreported.

There is an ongoing need to raise awareness of elder abuse and available support services to encourage and enable help seeking.

The 2025 Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into Elder Abuse identified the need for a cultural shift in ageism driven by community awareness and education across all ages and a variety of community settings. Significant gaps were identified in community awareness, education and engagement relating to the prevention of elder abuse, safeguarding, and knowledge of available support services. Awareness-raising initiatives were recommended that normalise help-seeking and challenge ageism and the stigma associated with elder abuse.

Elder abuse contributes to poor health outcomes, increased hospitalisations and social isolation. Raising awareness of ageism and elder abuse supports healthy ageing and safeguards the rights of older people to live with respect and dignity, free from abuse, mistreatment and neglect.

1.2 Purpose of the grant

Research has consistently shown a strong link between ageism and elder abuse. Ageism, which involves stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination against individuals based on their age, creates a social environment that can normalise or perpetuate elder abuse.

Community awareness and place-based projects are critical to overcoming isolation and barriers to accessing services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The aim of the grant is to support community and statewide activities that raise awareness of ageism and elder abuse to promote prevention and early intervention.

The grant recognises that addressing ageism and improving community awareness of elder abuse is best achieved through grassroots efforts within communities and by fostering community partnerships.

The grant is divided into two streams: a Local Awareness Stream and a Statewide Awareness Stream, each operating at a different level and designed to achieve complementary outcomes.

The Local Awareness Stream allows messages to be tailored to local contexts, cultures, and needs, encourages dialogue and active participation rather than passive awareness, and can reach vulnerable and socially isolated cohorts who are harder to engage through broader projects.

The Statewide Awareness Stream aims to establish a consistent and visible foundation for raising awareness of elder abuse and challenging ageism by reaching large numbers of older people with consistent key messages and developing resources and communication materials that can be used broadly and sustained beyond the life of the grant. To achieve the objectives

of the Statewide Awareness Stream, applicants are expected to demonstrate an established capacity to engage older Queenslanders across multiple regions and deliver initiatives at a statewide scale.

You must read these Grant Guidelines carefully before completing your application to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements.

These guidelines set out:

- Purpose of the grant
- Funding available
- Eligibility criteria
- Project requirements
- Assessment criteria
- Assessment process.

1.3 Target group

The target group for the Positive Ageing and Elder Abuse Awareness Grant is older Queenslanders aged 60 years and over and First Nations peoples aged 50 years and over.

1.4 Geographic catchment

Applications are invited from eligible entities located within Queensland. The project must be delivered in Queensland. The department encourages applications from eligible entities located in regional, rural and remote areas.

1.5 Outcomes and benefits

Expected outcomes include:

- Improved community awareness of elder abuse and ageism, including how to recognise the signs and support older people who are at risk of, or experiencing, abuse, to increase early help-seeking behaviours;
- Increased awareness of elder abuse support services and how to access them in a culturally safe and appropriate way;
- Reduced ageism through increased understanding of ageing and older people, and by challenging negative stereotypes and attitudes towards older people, particularly among cohorts at greater risk of vulnerability, including First Nations peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, and LGBTIQ+ communities;
- Stronger intergenerational understanding, appreciation and opportunities for connection;
- Increased capability of community members and workers to identify, prevent and respond to elder abuse and ageism through education, training and mentoring; and
- Development of tools, resources and communication materials that can be used in community settings to raise awareness of elder abuse, challenge ageism and support older people's wellbeing.

1.6 Timeframes

Detail	Date
Grant open	Friday 09 October 2026 9.00 am AEST
Grant close	Monday 30 November 2026 5.00 pm AEST
Grant offer of funding to successful applicants	1 March 2027
Grant Agreement commence	1 April 2027
Grant Agreement end	31 March 2028

*Please note that these timeframes may change at the department's discretion.

2. Funding available

The total amount of funding available through this open grant round is \$250,000 (excluding GST) for a 12-month period divided into two streams.

The department is under no obligation to provide funding past the ending of the agreement.

Applicants can apply for delivery of one or both of the two grant streams (Local Awareness Stream and Statewide Awareness Stream) by submitting a separate application form for each stream. Each application must be for a distinct project and clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities align with the purpose and intended outcomes of the relevant stream.

2.1 Local Awareness Stream

Funding of \$150,000 (excluding GST) is available through the Local Awareness Stream, including a minimum of \$30,000 (excluding GST) for projects that support First Nations peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and people living in rural and remote areas.

One-off grants up to \$15,000 (excluding GST) are available to raise awareness of elder abuse or challenge ageism through place-based local projects.

Projects funded may include but are not limited to:

- community education sessions
- culturally safe awareness campaigns
- events that provide safe spaces for older people and families to seek information and support.

Projects that demonstrate collaboration with older people, partnership and/or an intergenerational approach will be highly valued. Collaboration may include but is not limited to:

- Not-for-profit community organisations
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations
- Local Government Councils
- Universities located in Queensland.

2.2 Statewide Awareness Stream

Funding of \$100,000 (excluding GST) is available through the Statewide Awareness Stream.

One-off grants of up to \$50,000 (excluding GST) are available for capability-building projects that raise awareness of elder abuse, challenge ageism and support older people's wellbeing at the statewide level.

Projects funded may include but are not limited to:

- community education sessions
- professional training for workers
- development of resources
- development of culturally safe awareness campaigns.

Project activities including resources developed should ensure information and materials are inclusive and accessible by diverse communities.

Projects that demonstrate collaboration with older people, partnership and/or an intergenerational approach will be highly valued. Collaboration may include but is not limited to:

- Not-for-profit community organisations
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations
- Local Government Councils
- Universities located in Queensland.

2.3 What will not be funded

The following projects are NOT eligible for funding:

- Projects that do not align with one or more of the grant objectives, namely raising awareness of elder abuse, challenging ageism, and improving outcomes for older people.
- Projects that duplicate projects, programs or initiatives being delivered in the same location during 2026-2027 including those funded by Queensland Government, the Australian Government or non-government organisations.
- Projects that require ongoing funding from the Queensland Government beyond the grant period.
- Activities that involve commercial ventures for personal gain or fundraising activities.
- Projects that primarily support the organisation's core business, routine operations or ongoing service delivery.
- Projects that do not directly address ageism or elder abuse prevention.
- Research and evaluation to identify local needs, gaps or barriers related to ageism and/or elder abuse.

3. Eligibility criteria

3.1 Eligible entities

To be eligible to apply for funding, applicants must be one of the following:

- an incorporated association
- a company incorporated by guarantee
- a company incorporated in Australia
- an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisation or corporation
- a university located in Queensland

- State-run entities such as schools and hospitals
- a Queensland local government authority.

Note: Evidence demonstrating compliance with the eligibility criteria must be provided as part of the application process.

3.2 Ineligible entities

The following entities are ineligible to apply for the Local Awareness or the Statewide Awareness Streams:

- a state, territory or Australian government agency or body
- an unincorporated organisation
- a for-profit organisation
- an individual
- an organisation that is not based in Queensland
- a local government council that is not based in Queensland
- a cooperative
- a fixed trust
- a political party.

4. Project requirements

4.1 What the funding can be used for

- Community awareness, workshops, seminars, training sessions to raise awareness of ageism faced by older people and elder abuse prevention.
- Development of educational materials and/or resources including collaboration with older Queenslanders.
- Public awareness campaigns including social media, local media or community events.
- Community engagement and partnerships.
- Projects that foster collaboration and programs that engage older people in the decision-making process or planning.
- Support services and programs such as the development of peer support groups, mentoring, intergenerational connections activities, and training for older people to recognise and respond to elder abuse.
- Projects that target vulnerable cohorts including First Nations peoples, CALD communities, LGBTIQ+ communities.

4.2 What the funding cannot be used for

- Capital works or upgrades to infrastructure such as renovations, refurbishment of building or facilities
- Salaries or wages for employees
- General ongoing operational costs
- Individual support such as medical expenses or financial assistance

- Commercial or for-profit activities
- Purchase of capital assets
- Personal gain
- Payment for individuals to participate in grant project
- Non-age-related projects
- Retrospective funding for activities that have started or have already been completed
- Political or religious activities
- Unrelated costs not clearly linked to the objectives of the grant program
- Social events and activities.

4.3 Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants will be required to complete and submit an interim report and a final report outlining project activities, achievements, and outcomes. To support reporting requirements, applicants must collect qualitative and/or quantitative data that demonstrates the outcomes and impacts of the project.

5. Assessment criteria

5.1 Local Awareness Stream

All applications submitted for the Local Awareness Stream that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against each of the following assessment criteria.

When addressing the criteria, you should describe how you will use the funding to deliver the requirements outlined in the 'What the funding can be used for' in the Guidelines and where the project will be located.

Criterion 1 - Describe the proposed project you are seeking funding for (600 words maximum).

- Provide a clear and detailed description of the project.
- How does the project meet the objectives of the grant and how will it be delivered?
- How many people will benefit from this activity/project?
- Identify the strengths of the proposed project and what benefits it will bring to your community.
- Identify how you will measure the success or capture the benefits of your project.

Please Note: If engaging with First Nations peoples or Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities:

- clearly indicate how your proposed project demonstrates how it will engage with the community, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure culturally safe service provision engagement, collaboration and implementation of proposed activities
- provide detail of your experience working with similar projects that demonstrates your capacity to work with First Nations Peoples and CALD communities in a culturally appropriate and safe environment.

Criterion 2 – Describe how you will build and maintain partnerships and collaborations to support the delivery of your project (400 words maximum).

- How will you work with other organisations, the department and the community to deliver the project?
- Describe any local partnerships/collaborations that will contribute to the success of this project.

Criterion 3 – Your capacity to deliver the project (400 words maximum).

- Describe your capacity and capability to deliver this project. Provide information about your previous success in delivering a project like this.
- How will you ensure that the project will be delivered on time, within budget and to the required standard?
- Are outcomes measurable, realistic, and linked to the project's aim?
- Describe how you will measure and report on your project's progress.

Criterion 4 – Cost to deliver this project (400 words maximum).

- Provide a breakdown of expected costs for the project.
 - Are the project costs reasonable and realistic?
 - Demonstrate that the project offers value for money.
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5.2 Statewide Awareness Stream

All applications submitted for the Statewide Awareness Stream that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against each of the following assessment criteria.

Criterion 1 - Describe the proposed project you are seeking funding for (600 words maximum).

When addressing the criteria, you should describe how you will:

- Use the funding to deliver the requirements outlined in the 'What will be funded' in the Guidelines and build the capability of individuals, communities and organisations.
- Coordinate the sharing of information across the community, including older people, the community services sector and/or local government to support improved and consistent understanding of ageism, elder abuse and available support services.
- Utilise effective statewide mechanisms and presence for engaging with diverse older Queenslanders, communities and organisations and for dissemination of information.
- Ensure, where a specific cohort is identified, that communication is tailored to meet the needs of the group.

Please attach a project plan, using the template provided in the application form (no more than 3 pages).

Projects that demonstrate collaboration, partnership and/or an intergenerational approach will be highly valued.

Criterion 2 – Describe how you will build and maintain partnerships and collaborations to support the delivery of your project (400 words maximum).

When addressing the criteria, you should outline:

- Capability and processes to support working collaboratively and effectively with the department, organisations and government agencies to deliver the project.
- Describe what community support or partnerships you have established that will be involved with the delivery of this project.

Criterion 3 – Describe how you will maintain quality control of the project to ensure effective reporting and evaluate the impact of the activity for individuals and the community (400 words maximum).

- Describe your capacity and capability to deliver this project. Provide information about your previous success in delivering a project like this.
- How will you ensure that the project will be delivered on time, within budget and to the required standard?
- Are outcomes measurable, realistic, and linked to the project's aim?
- Describe how you will measure and report on your project's progress.

Criterion 4 – Cost to deliver this project (400 words maximum).

- Provide a breakdown of expected costs for the project.
 - Are the project costs reasonable and realistic?
 - Demonstrate that the project offers value for money.
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6. How to apply

Before applying, you must read and understand the Grant Guidelines and meet all the eligibility criteria.

Applications will open for applicants via *SmartyGrants* at 09:00 AEST on 09 October 2026.

The application period will remain open until 17:00 AEST on 30 November 2026.

Applications will be managed online through *SmartyGrants*:

[Positive-Ageing-Elder-Abuse-Grant-Application-Local-Awareness-Stream](#)

[Positive-Ageing-Elder-Abuse-Grant-Application-Statewide-Awareness-Stream](#).

Questions about *SmartyGrants* can be directed to: service@smartygrants.com.au.

Please refer to the *SmartyGrants—Help Guide for Applicants* [[Help Guide for Applicants](#)] for assistance on completing your application form.

If you are unable to access *SmartyGrants*, please contact: seniors@families.qld.gov.au.

To apply you must:

- register, complete and submit the application form via *SmartyGrants*: (Insert link) Application Form

- provide all the information requested
- address each of the selection criteria
- provide the application in English
- provide evidence of applicant eligibility
- provide an indicative budget using the template in the application form
- submit the application by the closing date and time.

Applications must include the following:

- evidence of eligibility
- Certificate of Currency (Public Liability at the minimum value of \$10 million).

Late applications will not be accepted.

For this grant round, there are separate application forms for each stream. If applying for both streams, please submit applications using the relevant application form.

7. Application checklist

- read and understand these Grant Guidelines
- develop your application
- complete the online application form
- read and understand the terms and conditions
- submit your application.

8. Assessment process

This is a competitive grants process, and lodging an application does not guarantee that funding will be approved.

8.1 Eligibility check

The department will review all submitted applications against the eligibility criteria to determine whether they are eligible to proceed to assessment.

8.2 Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of Queensland Government officers against the assessment criteria outlined in these Guidelines.

- Applications will be considered on their merits, based on:
 - how well the application meets the objectives of the grant
 - how well the application addresses the assessment criteria
 - how it compares to other applications
 - value for money.
- The panel may seek further details or clarification during the assessment process.

- The assessment panel will make funding recommendations to the Director-General for the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety for consideration and approval.
- The department will determine which applications are successful.
- All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.
- Applicants may request feedback on their grant application up to four weeks after being notified of the outcome.

8.3 Successful grant applications

Successful applicants will receive an approval letter advising them of the outcome of their application and the amount of funding awarded.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Enter into a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the State of Queensland.
- The agreement must be fully executed before any payment can be made.
- Comply with the Queensland Government's Whole-of-Government (Short Form) Terms and Conditions, available at <https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au>.
- Comply with all terms and conditions of the agreement, including reporting requirements. Further information will be provided in the Short Form Particulars Agreement.
- Acknowledge the Queensland Government as the funding source on any printed, digital or promotional material relating to the project, including websites.
- Comply with the *Community Services Act 2007*.

9. Probity

The department will make sure the grant opportunity process is fair, conducted according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

10. Feedback and Complaints

We are committed to effective complaints management and will deal with all complaints against our actions, decisions, or officers' conduct in a responsive, confidential, and fair manner. Please refer to the compliments and complaints section at <https://www.families.qld.gov.au/contact-us/compliments-complaints>.

If you have questions about a grant decision, please contact seniors@families.qld.gov.au.

If you are dissatisfied with how the department has managed your complaint, you can refer the matter to the Queensland Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will generally only consider a complaint after it has first been raised directly with the department.

The Queensland Ombudsman can be contacted on:

- Telephone: (07) 3005 7000
- Address: GPO Box 3314, Brisbane, QLD 4001

- Website: www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au

11. Privacy

We handle your personal information in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*. This includes informing you:

- what personal information we collect;
- why we collect your personal information; and
- who we give your personal information to.

By submitting a grant application, you consent to the Queensland Government collecting personal information about you, including your name, contact details and role within your organisation. This information is collected to assess your application and administer the grant.

If you do not provide the requested information, we will be unable to assess your application.

Information collected through this grant may also be used and disclosed for other Queensland Government functions and activities. This may include publishing grant information on the department's website and providing information to the Australian Taxation Office for compliance purposes.

The information provided in your application, including personal information, may be shared with other Queensland Government entities, the responsible Minister and ministerial staff, and Members of Parliament for purposes such as government administration, research, service delivery, or where otherwise authorised or required by law.

12. Further information and assistance

Any questions received during the application period will be posted on *SmartyGrants*. The department aims to respond to emailed questions within three business days.

For more information about the grants, including the guidelines, terms and conditions and how to apply:

- Email: seniors@families.qld.gov.au
- Visit the *SmartyGrants* website: [Positive Ageing & Elder Abuse Awareness Grants Program - Local Awareness Stream](#) and [Positive Ageing & Elder Abuse Awareness Grants - Statewide Awareness Stream](#)
- Visit our website at www.qld.gov.au/positive-ageing-elder-abuse-grants

13. Conditions governing grant process

13.1 No legal relationship

No legal or other obligation shall arise between an Applicant and the department in connection with this grant process or any associated negotiation, unless and until a formal contract has been signed by both parties.

13.2 Reservation of rights

Notwithstanding any provision of this grant to the contrary, the department may conduct the process for the assessment of the Applications in such manner as it thinks fit and the department reserves the right, in its absolute discretion and at any time, to:

1. change the structure, procedures, nature, or timing of the grant process;
2. vary or amend its Assessment Criteria without notification;
3. consider any information from its own and other sources in evaluating an application;
4. give more weight to any one or more of the Assessment Criteria over other criteria and consider relative trade-offs between criteria;
5. alter the terms of participation in the grant process;
6. question any Applicant, including to invite presentations from any Applicants or engage in an interview with any Applicant (including without limitation in order to clarify any matter relating to the Applicant's Application);
7. conduct due diligence investigations in respect of any Applicant;
8. draw on outside expertise as required;
9. request further information from any Applicant;
10. terminate further participation in the grant process by any Applicant;
11. refuse any particular Applicant entry to the grant process;
12. allow further Applicants to participate in the grant process;
13. terminate or reinstate the grant process;
14. extend the closing date and time;
15. allow the withdrawal or addition of any Applicant;
16. conduct negotiations with any one or more Applicants after the Applications have been lodged;
17. consider or accept an application which does comply with the requirements of this grant or is non-conforming;
18. reject any Application or all Applications for any reason;
19. publish the names of Applicants and preferred Applicant;
20. take such other action as it considers in its absolute discretion appropriate in relation to the grant process;
21. refuse to consider any non-conforming Application or Applications that do not meet the Eligibility Criteria; and
22. not provide Applicants with any reason for any actions or decisions it may take, including in respect of the exercise by the department of any or all the above-mentioned rights.

13.3 Acceptance of conditions

In applying, Applicants are deemed to have accepted these conditions.

13.4 Governing law

This grant process is governed by the laws applicable in Queensland.