



ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

Gambling Harm Prevention & Mitigation Fund

Annual Grants Program Grant Guidelines



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If you are deaf or hearing impaired and require the National Relay Service, please telephone **131 677** then ask for **133 427**.

Any additional information provided by the Commission as part of the Grants Program will be available online at www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au.

Contact us

gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au

www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au

02 6207 0359 (Option 4)

For gambling help or support

[1800 858 858](tel:1800858858)

www.everystorymatters.act.gov.au

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About

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

The ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (**the Commission**) is an independent body established under section 5 of the *Gambling and Racing Control Act 1999*.

The prevention and reduction of gambling harm are core objectives of the Commission and this is guided by its five-year [Strategy for gambling harm prevention in the ACT: A public health approach](#). This Strategy relies on the development and delivery of evidence-based, co-ordinated activities and initiatives addressing harm as experienced by people who gamble, their families and the community.

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund

The Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund (**the Fund**) was established under the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* (**the Act**). Payments to the Fund consist of a levy from gaming machine licensees as well as voluntary contributions from Tabcorp ACT, Casino Canberra and The Lottery Corporation.

The scope of the Fund

Section 163C (2) of the Act provides that the Commission may only make payments from the Fund for a purpose the Commission is satisfied will assist in:

- Alleviating gambling harm
- Alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm
- Providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm

The Commission has established the Gambling Harm Prevention and Mitigation Fund Grants Program (the **Grants Program**) and administers it through the Fund.

Grants Program objectives

In the ACT gambling is a regulated activity that many people enjoy, yet there are significant social and individual harms that can arise with negative impacts to individuals, friends and families, the community and the economy.

Utilising a public health approach, the prevention and reduction of gambling harm are core objectives of the Commission where it seeks to prevent gambling harm before it occurs or reduce or delay the actual onset of gambling harm.

Involvement from industry, research organisations, community and individuals are integral to alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm and promoting healthy communities and environments. The Grants Program provides a funding framework to support this multi-sectoral response to gambling harm prevention and reduction.

The aims of the Grants Program are to:

- Prevent and reduce gambling harm utilising a public health approach aligned with the principles of the Commission's Strategy
- Increase understanding about gambling harm amongst government, gambling industry, communities, families and individuals
- Enhance social cohesion and an inclusive community that enables all ACT residents to access fit for purpose solutions and supports to live a fulfilling life in our city
- Improve awareness, skills and capability in gambling harm, prevention and response across the ACT
- Ascertain information in creating or adopting effective regulatory measures that better protect individuals and reduce the negative impacts associated with gambling

Projects funded by the Annual Grants Program must provide benefit to the ACT and its residents, align with both the scope of the Fund and the objectives under the Commission's Strategy. These objectives are:

1. Ensuring Government policy and initiatives prevent and reduce gambling harm
2. Increasing understanding about gambling harm amongst government, gambling industry, communities, families and individuals
3. Providing a wide range of accessible, responsive and effective services and initiatives that prevent and reduce gambling harm
4. Ensuring gambling environments and providers prevent and reduce gambling harm
5. Supporting and building the evidence base for gambling harm prevention strategies and initiatives

Eligibility

Eligible organisations and entities

To be eligible to apply for the Grants Program applicants must:

- Be an incorporated legal entity or be auspiced by an incorporated legal entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN) (See additional information about auspiced funding requirements under *Important information for applicants* section of this document)
- Be registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) if applicable
- Have a minimum of \$10 million public liability insurance (evidence may be requested)
- Be willing to enter into a Deed of Grant
- Not be a Family Trust or Political party registered under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
- Have no overdue acquittal reports associated with grant programs administered by the Commission

Please note: Applications may not be assessed for funding if the applicant does not meet the above eligibility requirements.

Examples of organisations eligible to apply to the Grants Program may include:

- Not-for-profit organisations
- Health, community and support services
- ACT community clubs
- Australian State and Territory Government organisations or public health organisations
- Research institutions and universities
- Sole traders
- Individuals, including people with lived experience of gambling harm ACT community organisations and associations* including but not limited to:
 - sporting
 - social
 - cultural
 - recreational associations

* ACT community organisations must be a current ACT organisation listed on the [Incorporated Associations public register](#).

Eligible projects

Projects eligible for funding under the Grants Program must:

- Be delivered in the ACT for the benefit of ACT residents
- Be completed within 24 months
- Address a clear need in public health and gambling harm prevention
- Not duplicate the Commission's current or previous activities
- Align with at least one of the five strategic objectives under the *Strategy for Gambling Harm Prevention*
- Align with at least one of the following under 163C (2) of the *Gaming Machine Act 2004*:
 - alleviating gambling harm
 - alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm
 - providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm

Please note: Applications may not be assessed for funding if the applicant does not meet the above project eligibility requirements.

Examples of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Community development, engagement and education programs (e.g. within school, sporting, recreational and cultural groups)
- Public health information and promotion activities
- Communication activities and campaigns
- Community events and workshops
- Innovative improvements to enhance gambling harm initiatives
- Capacity and knowledge building

- Providing support for:
 - practical initiatives for people experiencing gambling harm or their family
 - education and awareness about harms caused by gambling
 - assisting people experiencing gambling harm to exclude themselves from gambling venues
 - supporting the family of people experiencing gambling harm
 - self-help information about gambling harm
 - research about gambling harm

Funding exclusions

Funding will not be provided through the Grants Program for the following:

- Projects that are primarily involved with fundraising, prizes, competitions and awards
- Any activity of a commercial nature that is for personal profit
- Travel and accommodation costs unless it is demonstrated that its essential to the outcome of the project
- Costs of project activities that are fully covered by other funding sources
- Costs of products or activities that are core business of the organisation, for example, the infrastructure costs associated with running an organisation including but not limited to employment of core staff, equipment, core programs, leasing or property maintenance
- Expenses not related to the direct costs of the project
- Expenses occurring outside the project start and end date
- Fees related to applicants' attendance at conferences, workshops or events

Application information & process

Annual Grants Program

The 2026 Annual Grants Program has up to \$300,000 available to fund eligible organisations to undertake significant initiatives or activities that will have a substantial impact on preventing and reducing gambling-related harm in the ACT.

Annual Grants Program	
Grant Funding Pool:	Up to \$300,000
Project Funding Scope:	\$10,000 - \$300,000 (GST exclusive)
Project Type:	Medium to larger-scale projects (See <i>Eligible projects</i> section of this document for examples of types of projects)
Project Period:	Projects must be delivered within a 24-month period

How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the [Grants webpage](#). You will need to complete the application form and upload your written response to the assessment criteria contained within these guidelines.

To apply:

1. Visit the [Grants webpage](#)
2. Click 'apply now'
3. Follow the instructions to complete your application
4. Submit your application before the closing date

If there is a reason you are unable to submit an online application, please contact the Gambling Harm Prevention Team via email to gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au or phone (02) 6207 0359 (option 4).

Grant application stages

The table below outlines the stages for the Grants Program. Key dates for the Grants round will be available on the Commission's website.

Grants Program stages
Early Grant Notification
Grant applications open
Applications close (6 weeks after opening date)
Assessment of applications
Notification about outcome of application

Grant assessment criteria

All applications will be assessed against each other using a competitive, merit-based process. Each application will be scored against the criterion below (merit, viability, project governance, budget), using the indicated weightings.

After all applications are assessed, the panel will provide recommendations to the Commission, which will make the final decision on grant recipients.

Assessment criterion: merit	Weight (40%)
Proposed project demonstrates: - Alignment with the objectives and principles of the Strategy for gambling harm prevention in the ACT: A public health approach - It will assist with at least one of the following: - Alleviating gambling harm - Alleviating the disadvantages that arise from gambling harm - Providing or ascertaining information about gambling harm - It addresses a need or gap that offers a solution or finding that is of benefit to ACT residents - The overall impact and who specifically would benefit from the proposed activity	
Assessment criterion: viability	Weight (20%)
Proposed project demonstrates: - Capacity, capability and resources to carry out and evaluate the project - Community networks or partnerships that will be utilised, where applicable	
Assessment criterion: project governance	Weight (30%)
Proposed project demonstrates: - A clear project plan including: - Project scope - Project outputs and outcomes - Achievable milestones - Timelines - Provision of progress plans - Key risks and management - Plans for evaluation and final reporting, with project findings and/or learnings - Plans for the communication/dissemination of learnings to relevant stakeholders	
Assessment criterion: budget	Weight (10%)
Proposed project demonstrates: - Value for money and appropriate use of government funds - A detailed cost breakdown and is based on realistic estimated costs for proper implementation	
Assessment criterion: risk & ethics	Non-scored
Proposed project demonstrates: - It is likely to achieve its stated goals within the proposed timeline and budget - Alignment with ‘do no harm’ principles and addresses any ethical issues arising from the proposal	

Assessment process

ACT Government staff will assess applications and act in accordance with the ACT Public Service [Code of Conduct](#). External representatives with relevant expertise may also be involved in the assessment process. All members of the assessment panel and process are required to sign a conflict-of-interest declaration and confidentiality undertaking in line with the Code.

Notification of application outcome

You will be advised about the outcome of your application in writing via email.

Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback or comments on their application by emailing the Gambling Harm Prevention team gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au. Generally, feedback will be provided via email, however a time can be arranged to call you.

Important information for applicants

Auspiced funding

An auspicings organisation is an entity that accepts all legal responsibility, including financial accountability, for the delivery of a project. The auspicings organisation will be the applicant.

The auspicings organisation must provide a letter of support with the application stating they will:

- Be the applicant for this grant funding and, if successful, contract directly with the Commission for the receipt of grant funding, and comply with all grant funding contractual obligations, including the provision of financial acquittal documentation
- Be the entity that will accept the grant funding for the project and administer the funding in accordance with the Funding Guidelines and Deed of Grant
- Disburse grant funding to the auspicied party in accordance with the Funding Guidelines and Deed of Grant and not unreasonably withhold funding from the auspicied party for the implementation of the project

Project planning and timelines

Applicants should plan for their proposed project to commence between January and March the following year. For example, if you applied for a grant in 2026, your project should commence from January 2027. This is to allow applicants to forward plan grant submissions and consider their project requirements well in advance of applying.

Accepting a Grant

Successful applicants are required to enter into a Deed of Grant with the Commission setting out the terms and conditions for which funding will be provided, including acquittal requirements within the agreed timeframe. The Deed of Grant identifies certain legal

obligations associated with the grant, including your project proposal, the use of grant funds, and project and financial reporting.

Information about successful Grant recipients will be published on the Commission's website, including the name of the organisation, grant amount, the project name and description.

Funding duration

The funding duration for each project is up to 24 months from the execution of the Deed of Grant.

Other funding sources

Other funding can come from any source, including but not limited to Commonwealth, state, territory and local government grants, private and in-kind contributions. If applicants are seeking additional funds from other sources, costs need to be clearly defined and show transparent application of project funds to reflect activities (or components of projects) that have been funded through other sources.

Reporting

Successful applicants are required to provide the Commission with progress report(s) throughout the grant period. These reports must capture an overview of the project's progress against milestones and activities, including any issues that may have arisen. This will help provide assurance that projects remain on track and are being delivered to an acceptable standard. The types of evidence collected for reporting should be proportional to the size of the project.

The Recipient must provide to the Commission, a final report confirming the completion of the Project and an acquittal of the Funding in accordance with the Deed of Grant, within 30 days from the end of the Term.

Confidentiality

All material submitted to the Commission is provided in confidence. However, the Commission may promote successful applicants for the mutual benefit of the applicant and the Grants Program. Details of applications will not be made available to third parties without permission. However, applicants should be aware that the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* apply to documents in the Commission's possession.

Contact details for more information

If you require more information about the Grants Program, please contact the Gambling Harm Prevention team at gamblingharmprevention@act.gov.au or on 02 6207 0359 (option 4).