



Colonial Foundation - Grant Making Policy

This policy sets out our approach to identifying, assessing, approving and monitoring our grants. It underpins other information currently published on our website.

Mission

Our mission is to make a positive contribution to society by supporting organisations that work to find solutions for those in need, or that assist in improving the quality of community life.

Eligibility

The Foundation only funds organisations that are registered, Australian-based charities, endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as Deductible Gift Recipients, and that meet the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's requirements as charitable at law. We do not fund individuals and do not offer scholarships or fellowships.

Approach

The Foundation generally prefers a small number of larger, multi-year grants (typically three years or more) rather than many small one-off grants, to support large-scale, sustainable outcomes and capacity building. It will also consider occasional one-off grants where a strong case exists and the impact may be significant or catalytic.

Process

We do not accept unsolicited grant applications. Prospective grant partners may make an initial enquiry to the CEO, including a brief project description, however it is more likely that the CEO will, based on the annual strategy, research and broader industry engagement, reach out to potential partners for granting projects.

Where a proposal aligns with our priorities, a grant organisation may be invited to submit a short expression of interest for consideration by the Board, and subsequently a fuller funding proposal. Larger or technical proposals may be assessed with the help of external advisory panels or sector experts, and applicants may be invited to present to the Board directly. All grant commitments require Board approval, in line with our Delegated Authority Framework.

Assessment criteria

In assessing proposals, the Board considers: the social impact and relevance of the need addressed; the feasibility of the project and likelihood of achieving its objectives; alignment with our strategic focus areas; the potential to leverage other funding; the partner's capacity to share knowledge and learnings with the sector; and whether the grant builds a pathway to sustainable outcomes and strengthens the partner organisation's own capacity.

Discretion

The Foundation retains absolute discretion in all funding decisions. It is not obliged to give reasons for declining a proposal, and nothing in this policy creates a right or entitlement to funding.

Conditions on funding

Grant partners report to the Foundation in an agreed format and participate constructively in any review or evaluation process. Multi-year funding remains subject to the Foundation's available funds each year. With the partner's agreement, results may be shared publicly, including in our Annual Review.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually.