

Australian Early Development Census

# **Tasmanian AEDC**

## **Grant Guidelines 2026-27**



## About these Guidelines

These guidelines support applicants to determine eligibility and prepare an application for the 2026–27 Tasmanian Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Grants Program.

Please read these guidelines together with:

- AEDC community or local community results on the **AEDC National website**
- 2026–27 AEDC Grant Application Form on the: **SmartyGrants application link**.

For assistance, contact the Tasmanian AEDC Coordinator, Jill Clennett, Ph 61655793 or email [aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au)

## Key dates

Grant Program Schedule	Dates
Grant round opens	8-04-2026
Grant round closes	18-05-2026
Recipients of grants notified	26-06-2026
Program Progress Reports	Four monthly
Grant programs completed	31-10-2027
Program Progress Final Report and no-audited financial statement	31-10-2027
AEDC Grant Celebration and Sharing Day	30-03-2028

## About the AEDC

The AEDC is a national, population-based measure of children’s development in their first year of fulltime schooling. It reports across five domains:

- Physical health and wellbeing
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

Data is collected every three years and helps professionals plan programs that strengthen early learning, wellbeing, and development.

## Aims of the AEDC Grants

- Develop or extend early years programs
- Increase awareness and engagement with AEDC data
- Improve developmental outcomes for children

## About the Tasmanian AEDC Grants

The Tasmanian AEDC Grants provide funding to early years educational settings and community organisations to deliver initiatives that directly respond to AEDC identified developmental vulnerabilities.

The AEDC Grant Projects are to include **one** of the below options that aligns with your priorities.

Access the application and full description and requirements of each option here:

- SmartyGrants application link - **Smarty Grants Information**
- Grant Information link - **DECYP Internet**
- Grant information link – **DECYP Intranet**

### OPTIONS

- 1: Growing Well: Health, Wellbeing and Development
- 2: Professional Learning and Training
- 3: Transition to School Project Using AEDC Insights
- 4: Inclusion, Diversity and Cultural Strengthening
- 5: Family Engagement and Community Capacity Building
- 6: Early Identification, Health Partnerships and Developmental Support Access
- 7: Lifting Literacy in Communities

### All AEDC funded projects must:

- Respond to AEDC identified developmental vulnerabilities of Tasmanian children and communities
- Build on community strengths
- Increase awareness and use of AEDC data
- Support children's learning, development, and wellbeing

### Projects must also:

- Be universal and target children aged 0–8
- Demonstrate sustainability and scalability
- Provide value for public money

## Program Eligibility

### Who can apply?

Eligible organisations must be child safe organisations and comply with relevant Child Safe Standards and child safety legislation.

Organisations working with children from conception to eight years, including:

1. Schools
2. Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs)
3. Early Childhood Education and Care providers, including for profit services
4. Libraries
5. Local government organisations
6. Health organisations
7. Community organisations

Collaborative, cross sector applications are eligible under this funding round.

### Eligible Collaboration

Collaborative applications can involve two or more distinct organisations. Applications from within the same legal organisation, including multiple services, sites, or programs under the same provider, will be considered as collaborative for the purposes of this funding round.

### Eligibility – Insurance Requirements

All applicants must hold current Public Liability Insurance to the value of at least \$10 million. Evidence of this insurance must be provided to the Grantor prior to the commencement of the funded project.

Failure to provide adequate insurance coverage may result in the withdrawal of the grant offer.

## Ineligible Applications

### Applications will be ineligible if:

- Eligibility criteria are not met.
- Conditions of previous AEDC Grants have not been fulfilled.
- The project is a for profit activity.

### Ineligible Expenditure

Grant funds **cannot** be used for:

- Ongoing administration or operational costs, including staff salaries, on-costs, general organisational expenses, or curriculum delivery not solely attributed to the project.

- Capital works or construction, including building upgrades.
- Equipment purchases that are not essential to the project and would otherwise support normal organisational operations.

## Ineligible Programs

Applications will also be ineligible if the proposed program:

- Is undertaken outside Tasmania.
- Activities or programs that use grant funding for profit-making or private benefit, including those led by for profit businesses.
- Primarily provides grants or financial assistance to others.
- Seeks retrospective funding for costs incurred before the grant deed is signed.
- Is solely an outing or excursion (such as, bus trips).
- Includes construction or refurbishment of areas to be leased or used for commercial gain.
- Seeks funding for prizes or gifts.
- Contains vague budget items (such as contingency, sundry, miscellaneous).
- Produces strategic, business, or communication plans or feasibility studies without direct outcomes for children, families, or the community.
- Involves publications or products created to celebrate organisational anniversaries.

## Funding available

**Total pool:** \$150,000 (ex GST)

**Small funding amounts:** up to **\$10,000**

**Medium funding amounts:** up to **\$25,000**

**Large funding amounts:** up to **\$50,000**

## GST applies - budget must include GST

- GST applies to this grant program.
- Your budget must include GST.
- If your application is successful, you will need to submit a compliant tax invoice (including GST) before payment is made.

## Funding Allocations and Conditions

- Collaborative, cross sector applications are eligible under this funding round.

- Funding is awarded per project. Individual or collaborative projects may be approved for small (up to \$10,000), medium (up to \$25,000), or large (up to \$50,000) funding amounts.
- Additional funding **may be considered** at the discretion of the AEDC Reference Committee.
- Funding may be offered at a lower level than the amount requested.
- In past AEDC grants, more applications were received than there was capacity to support; therefore, some worthwhile projects may not be funded or may be offered partial funding.

### In Kind Contributions

In kind contributions are nonfinancial contributions that support the delivery of the project and must not include cash or cash equivalent items (such as vouchers or gift cards).

In kind support may include staff time or an in-house contribution towards funding of staffing or associated resources, use of facilities or venues, equipment, materials, or professional expertise provided at no cost, and must be directly related to the approved project activities and clearly identified in the budget.

### Assessment Process

Assessment occurs in two stages:

#### Stage 1 – Eligibility Screening

- Applicant is eligible
- Application is complete

#### Stage 2 – Merit Assessment

Applications are assessed on a competitive basis against five criteria and are also required to align with the aims of the selected option.

	Assessment Criterion	
1	Eligibility	N/A
2	Strength of Alignment to AEDC Data and Purpose	20%
3	Capacity to Strengthen Early Years Practice	30%
4	Evidence Based and Rationale	30%
5	Sustainability, Long-Term Benefit and Value for Money	20%

#### Criterion 1: Eligibility (0%)

#### Criterion 2: Strength of Alignment to AEDC Data and Purpose (20%)

Evaluates how well the proposal:

- Uses local AEDC data to identify a need
- Demonstrates understanding of AEDC domains
- Shows clear links between the identified vulnerability and the proposed activity

#### Criterion 3: Capacity to Strengthen Early Years Practice (30%)

This criterion assesses how well the proposal:

- Enhances educator capability or confidence in using AEDC data.

- Supports professional learning or reflective practice.
- Builds stronger pedagogical approaches linked to child development.
- Encourages evidence-informed decision making in the service/school or community.

#### Criterion 4: Evidence Based and Rationale (30%)

This criterion assesses how well the proposal:

- Demonstrates a clear logic for *why* the chosen activity will address the identified AEDC vulnerability.
- Draws on research, best practice, or previous successful implementation.
- Explains the need through data, observations, or community insights.
- Shows a well-reasoned link between the issue, the activity, and the expected outcomes.

#### Criterion 5: Sustainability, Long-Term Benefit and Value for Money (20%)

Evaluates whether:

- Benefits continue after the funding period
- Resources or practices will be embedded long-term
- There is a plan for ongoing use, training, or maintenance
- Demonstrates efficient and effective use of funding, with costs proportionate to outcomes.

### Reporting Requirements

All grant applications must be submitted electronically through the AEDC Tasmanian electronic grant management system **Smarty Grants**.

**Successful applicants must:**

Submit progress reports every **4 months** on dates set out in the grant agreement.

Complete a final report within **30 business days** of project completion and be accepted by DECYP.

**Final reports must include:**

- Financial statement (with any unspent funds returned)
- Evidence of reach, impact, and lessons learned
- Evaluation of partnerships and sustainability
- Supporting materials (such as images, videos, or links) may be included where relevant, provided appropriate consent has been obtained for all children featured, and materials are used in line with privacy and child safety requirements.
- Grant recipients may be invited to a showcase event at the end of the program.

### Funding Agreement

Successful applicants must:

- Sign the grant agreement within **24 days**.

- Provide a compliant tax invoice within **24 days** of signing.
- Meet Grant Progress Report and milestone requirements.
- Acknowledge funding as specified, including intellectual property rights and insurance (see *AEDC Grant Deed* example on the DECYP internet).
- Comply with relevant legislation (such as, Working with Vulnerable People).
- Complete the project by the agreed completion date.

## How to Apply

Apply through the **SmartyGrants** 2026 link.

Applicants are encouraged to view the pre-recorded AEDC webinar via the DECYP AEDC webpages:

- DECYP Intranet: **Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)**
- DECYP Internet: **Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) - Department for Education, Children and Young People**

## For Support Contact

**AEDC Coordinator:** Jill Clennett 6165 5793 [aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au)

**Technical/SmartyGrants assistance:** [grants@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Further AEDC information is available on the:

- **AEDC National website**
- **AEDC DECYP Intranet**
- **AEDC DECYP Internet**

## Appendix 1 Glossary

Term	Explanation	Comments, examples and references
<b>Agreement</b>	A legally enforceable agreement between the department and an applicant with enforceable obligations and milestones.	
<b>Applicant/s</b>	An individual organisation or person who makes a formal application for a grant.	
<b>Application/s</b>	A formal grant application completed by applicants, which may involve several persons or organisations.	
<b>Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)</b>	The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a national collection of information on young children's development in Australia. Data is collected every three years about children in Prep, and the results provide a snapshot at a community level of how children are developing as they enter school.	Refer to the <b>AEDC National website</b>
<b>Benefit</b>	A parent/carer or child may benefit from an activity through an improvement in one or more of the five AEDC domains of development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skills/knowledge</li> <li>• attitude/opinion</li> </ul>	A benefit will relate to the expected outcomes of the specific funding category. For example, within the child-focused activity funding category, a parent/carer may report improved understanding of their child's

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skills and behaviour</li> <li>• circumstances.</li> </ul>	development.
<b>Children</b>	For the purposes of this grant, children are defined as those from conception to eight years of age.	
<b>Community</b>	A group of individuals who live in the same geographic area, or the area in which they live.	AEDC communities are a geographic area, usually equivalent to a Local Government Area (LGA).
<b>Contract</b>	A contract used when the department purchases a defined product or service, for a defined period and amount.	
<b>Criteria</b>	Criteria used to prioritise strategies and actions.	Decisions may include specificity, focus on target groups/domains, feasibility, reach, and leveraging opportunities (Friedman 2005, pp. 43–44, 46 & 82).
<b>Developmentally appropriate</b>	Practices adapted to match the age, characteristics, and developmental progress of a child.	
<b>Developmentally at risk</b>	An AEDC classification based on the 2009 data collection baseline.	Children scoring between the 10th and 25th percentile nationally were classified as 'At risk'.
<b>Developmentally on track</b>	An AEDC classification based on the 2009 data collection baseline.	Children scoring above the 25th percentile (top 75 per cent) nationally were classified as 'On track'.
<b>Developmentally</b>	An AEDC classification based	Children scoring below the

<b>vulnerable</b>	on the 2009 data collection baseline.	10th percentile (lowest 10 per cent) nationally were classified as 'Vulnerable'.
<b>Domains</b>	The AEDC measures five domains of early childhood development that form the foundations for later health, education, and social outcomes.	Physical health and wellbeing; Social competence; Emotional maturity; Language and cognitive skills (school-based); Communication skills and general knowledge. See the fact sheet <b><i>About the AEDC domains.</i></b>
<b>Early childhood development</b>	The period from prenatal development to eight years of age. Early child development (ECD), including health, physical, social/emotional, and language/cognitive domains, strongly influences learning, school success, economic participation, social inclusion, and health.	Refer to the link: <b>World Health Organisation</b>
<b>Early years service (EYS) providers</b>	Organisations funded by the department to deliver services to support children and families.	
<b>Evaluation</b>	A structured process of measuring the value or effectiveness of a program through identifying, collecting, and considering information to determine goals, progress, and outcomes.	Central to evidence-based practice (Friedman 2005, pp. 129–131).
<b>Goods and</b>	A tax of 10 per cent on most	GST-registered businesses

<b>Services Tax (GST)</b>	goods, services, and other items sold or consumed in Australia.	must collect one-eleventh of the sale price.
<b>Grant</b>	Funding provided to a third-party recipient as a contribution to the cost of delivering an activity intended to assist the recipient to achieve its goals and promote Reference Committee policy objectives.	A grant agreement outlines conditions, use of funds, and expected outcomes.
<b>Grant Program</b>	A grant program delivers funding for projects to meet outcomes identified in the Grant Guidelines.	
<b>Outcomes</b>	The desired end state or condition of wellbeing or development for children within an agency, service, or organisation.	Are children better off because of receiving this program?
<b>Partners</b>	People or organisations working together towards shared results for a population and/or target group.	May include financial, community, and service delivery partners.
<b>Partnerships</b>	Formal or informal arrangements where stakeholders work together to achieve results for their clients or target group.	
<b>Performance accountability</b>	Accountability for achieving results or outcomes for clients assisted by a service, program, or team.	Applicable to services, programs, teams, providers, agencies, or systems (Friedman 2005, pp. 65–96).
<b>Performance</b>	A measure of how well a service	Includes: how much did we

<b>measure</b>	provider, agency, or system is working.	do; how well did we do it; is anyone better off? (Friedman 2005, pp. 67–81).
<b>Performance result/outcome</b>	The desired condition of wellbeing for families, children, and communities.	Examples include children benefiting from activities or parents/carers accessing services they need.
<b>Population</b>	A group of people defined by geography and/or other shared characteristics.	Example: all children aged 0–5 years in Tasmania.
<b>Stakeholder/s</b>	Individuals and organisations with a vested interest in the health and wellbeing of children.	
<b>Strategy</b>	A coherent collection of planned actions with a reasoned chance of improving outcomes.	Strategies draw on evidence and partner contributions (Friedman 2005, p. 20).
<b>Targeted services</b>	Services available or offered to specific population groups or individuals within a defined geographic area.	
<b>Universal services</b>	Services available to the entire population.	