

**Aarnja** Ltd

**Aarnja Foundation Future Fund**

**Grants Guideline 2025**



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## Who is Aarnja Limited (Aarnja)?

Aarnja is a Kimberley Aboriginal regional organisation that was established in 2012 with funding secured through negotiations with the State Government under a Regional Benefits Agreement (RBA) following the proposed James Price Point Port Browse LNG project. “Aarnja” is a Bardi word meaning “Sharing” and was gifted to the organisation from Bardi-Jawi, Elders.

Aarnja’s vision is to empower Kimberley Aboriginal people, communities and organisations to have a strong Aboriginal identity and share in all of the social and economic opportunities of modern society. Aarnja’s mission is to work with all parties to create innovative and sustainable opportunities that empower Kimberley Aboriginal people.

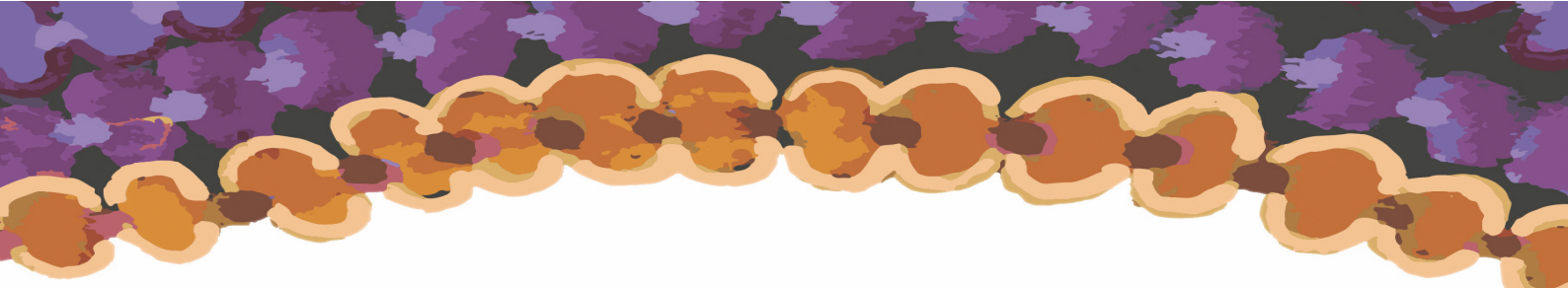
Aarnja is enabling change from passive welfare to Aboriginal empowerment by ensuring a positive and strong Kimberley Aboriginal identity is fostered and sustained for individuals, families and communities. This is done by collaborating with governments, NGOs and Aboriginal organisations to expand policies and programs that really work for Aboriginal people. Aarnja also supports strong, independent Kimberley Aboriginal organisations to work together through coherent and agreed Kimberley-wide governance and accountabilities.

Aarnja provides an interface, secretariat and facilitation role between governments and Aboriginal communities, service providers and leaders. Directed by Aarnja members, Kimberley Aboriginal leaders and other stakeholders, Aarnja’s key priority area is children and young people. Two initial focuses are: (i) Addressing the over-representation of children in care and (ii) Developing the leadership potential of young Kimberley Aboriginal people.

## Aarnja Foundation Future Fund

From inception, Aarnja’s purpose has been to increase social investment opportunities for Kimberley Aboriginal people across the region. Funds received from the Regional Benefit Agreement were invested to ensure Aarnja’s financial capability to support long-term sustainable wealth creation and economic participation for Kimberley Aboriginal People.

Over the years, Aarnja provided sponsorship support to Kimberley Aboriginal people, groups and organisations. From 2018 to 2024 Aarnja has provided a combined total of approximately \$875,000.00 in sponsorship. In 2023, the Aarnja Board of Directors took lead in setting up a Foundation to enhance the financial management and distribution of community funds; and ensure a sustainable financial management model was established. In May 2024, with the support and guidance of the Australian Communities Foundation (ACF), the Aarnja Foundation Future Fund was set up with a self-funded donation of \$7million. This significant milestone honours the legacy of the Crocodile Hole Report 1991 and the object, vision and mission of Aarnja.



This year, the Aarnja Board of Directors are thrilled to announce the launch of five new grant rounds with a total of \$350,000 grants being available to the Kimberley Aboriginal community each year. These rounds were identified through consultation with key stakeholders, including Aarnja members from all of the Kimberley culture blocs, Kimberley elders and philanthropic experts. These grants aim to demonstrate Aarnja's commitment to self-determination, embracing Kimberley Aboriginal culture, and empowering Kimberley Aboriginal people.

1. **On-Country Grants**
2. **Innovation Grants**
3. **Education and Employment Grants**
4. **Significant Supports Grants**
5. **Community Heroes and Champions Grants**

During the first few years, Aarnja will continue to learn and receive guidance from our Kimberley communities to adapt programs to best serve their needs.

### **The Aarnja Equity Lens**

Aarnja is committed to giving all Kimberley Aboriginal people equal opportunity to apply for our grant funding. Each year, the total grants made will be reviewed in the following ways, to ensure equity is maintained over a three-year cycle:

- **Age focus:** ensuring grants for Elders and support for those under 25 years old is prominent.
- **Bloc Equity:** ensuring that grants are distributed equally amongst the Cultural Blocs.
- **Location:** ensuring grants are distributed equally amongst communities across the Cultural Blocs.
- **Gender Equity:** ensuring grants are distributed equally amongst genders across the Cultural Blocs, where possible.
- **Economic Equity:** ensuring grants are distributed equally to Kimberley Aboriginal people, groups and other organisations where other financial resources or means can be accessed.

### **Selection Process**

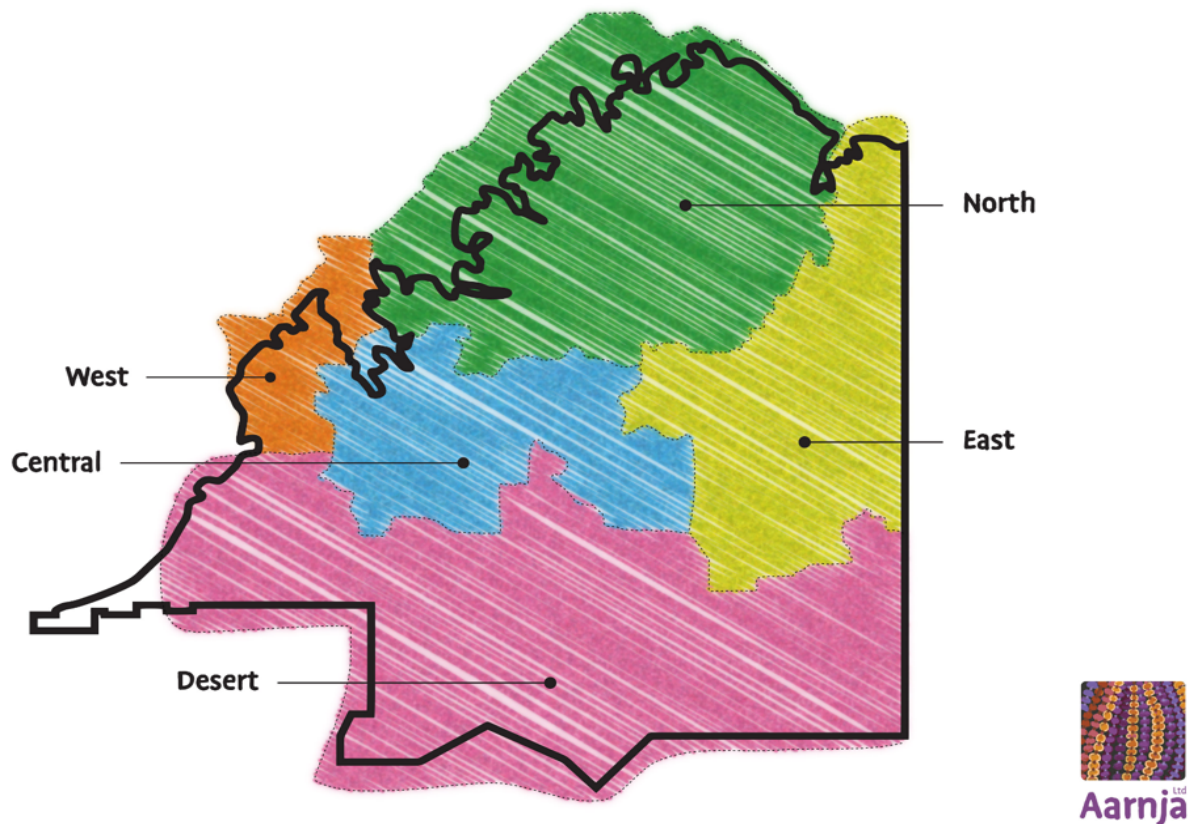
Applications will be screened by independent organisation, Australian Communities Foundation and shortlisted by Aarnja's Evaluation Panel comprised of Aarnja CEO, Aarnja Finance, Audit, Risk & Investment (FARI) Chair and independent community members (one independent community member per Cultural bloc).

The panel will take into consideration the Aarnja Equity Lens when making recommendations.

Final approval will be made at the discretion of the Aarnja Board of Directors.



## Aarnja's Cultural Governance Model



**East Kimberley:** Mirriuwung Gajerrong, Jaru, Purnululu and Gajanana Jaru, Malarngowern, Goorring, Yurriyangem Taam, Ngarrawanji, Koongie Elvire, Lappi Lappi and Ngulupi, Ngururpa, Ngurra Kayanta and the unclaimed / undetermined areas between claims.

**Central Kimberley:** Bunuba, Warlangurru, Gooniyandi, Yarrangi Riwi Yoowarni Gooniyandi, Giniyawarni Yoowaniya Riwi, Noonkanbah and the unclaimed / undetermined areas between claims.

**Dampier Peninsula/ Western Kimberley:** Bardi and Jawi, Mayala, Jabirr Jabirr/Ngumbarl, Nyul Nyul and Nimanburr, Bindunbur, Joombarn-Buru, Booroola Moorrool Moorrool, Warrwa, Yawuru and the unclaimed / undetermined areas between claims.

**Desert / Southern Kimberley:** Nyikina and Mangala, Yi-Martuwarra Ngurrara, Birriman-gan, Karajarri, Tjurabalan, Yawinya, Nyangumarta and the unclaimed / undetermined areas between claims.

**North Kimberley:** Balangarra, Wanjina - Wungurr Wilinggin, Uunguu, Dambimangari and the unclaimed / undetermined areas between claims.



## Partnership with Australian Communities Foundation

Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) and Aarnja began working together in 2022 exploring philanthropic solutions for Aarnja. In 2024, Aarnja established the Aarnja Foundation Future Fund (Ext) with a donation of \$7M.

ACF is an independent, not-for-profit, non-faith-based charitable foundation. The Trustee is Australian Communities Foundation Ltd, a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. ACF trustees ensure regulatory compliance and take instructions via the ACF staff from the Aarnja Foundation Future Fund Advisors (Aarnja Board Chair, Aarnja Deputy Board Chair and Aarnja CEO.)

Aarnja has engaged ACF to provide granting support which includes access to the online grant portal, **Foundant**. Applications for all Aarnja Foundation grant streams will be received and managed through the Foundant portal.



Level 6, 126 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
Tel: (03) 9412 0412 Email: [info@communityfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@communityfoundation.org.au)  
Website: [www.communityfoundation.org.au](http://www.communityfoundation.org.au)



**Activating a  
nation of givers  
for a fairer  
Australia**



## On-Country Grants

The On-Country Grant is being provided to support community members to maintain, practice and pass on knowledge and traditions with family through cultural activities on-country.

Grants of up to \$500 are available through bank transfer or gift card for on-country experiences and activities that enhance Kimberley Aboriginal culture and strengthen connection to country and culture.

These grants encourage families and individuals to engage in on-country activities that encourage ongoing cultural participation and practice.

### What we will fund

Example activities that funds can be used for include:

- 2 Way Learning
- Traditional dance
- Camping
- Knowledge sharing
- Cultural health and wellbeing on country
- Language
- Hunting and gathering
- Art and artefacts
- Collecting ochre/bush medicine/other wild harvest

### What we won't fund

- Personal items and/or expenses not associated with activity.
- Cultural (Lore) business
- Funeral expenses
- Household items or expenses
- General living expenses
- General motor vehicle expenses or purchases
- Bills
- Emergency Relief
- Commercial or for-profit purposes, including investments, loans, etc.





## Who can apply?

Grants are open to all eligible applicants, preference may also be given to Aboriginal Representative Organisation (ARO) program clients.

You can only apply for this grant if you are:

- A Kimberley Aboriginal person with Traditional Owner connection to a cultural bloc as defined by Aarnja's Cultural governance model. *(Please see page 4)*
- Can demonstrate financial need (must provide proof of low-income earner eg. concession card)
- Have not received an On Country Grant in the past 24 months
- Not able to gain assistance/support through other services/programs provided by other organisations/agencies.

Applicants that meet grant criteria are not guaranteed funding.

## Reporting

You will need to let us know that you have received the funding so that we know your project is ready to go. You can do this by sending us a screenshot of the transaction in your bank account or by sending us an email.

We are doing our best to make our reporting process as simple as possible and can tailor this to your needs. Once you have completed your project, you can report in one of the following ways:

- Photo story
- Verbal report via phone or audio recording
- Written report
- Survey
- Video clip
- Social media - YouTube, TikTok or Facebook mentioning and tagging Aarnja





## Important Dates

Applications are open all year round with particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. If an application is received after the cut-off date, it will be assessed in the next round.

- Round 1 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Thursday 20 March 2025
- Round 2 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Wednesday 16 July 2025
- Round 3 Dates – To Be Confirmed
- Round 4 Dates – To Be Confirmed

## Application process

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>STEP 1</b> | Read the guidelines above to make sure your project or activity meets the objectives.   |
| <b>STEP 2</b> | Go to the Aarnja website to access the link to the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal.   |
| <b>STEP 3</b> | <p>Register your details and create an account. You will require a current and accessible email account.</p> <p>If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.</p>   |
| <b>STEP 4</b> | Log into the system and complete the Aarnja Foundation eligibility form. If this does not display automatically, click the Apply button in the top left of the dashboard. You will not require an Access Code.  |
| <b>STEP 5</b> | Don't forget to submit your application before the closing date. As applications are open all year round, there are particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. Check the website for upcoming dates.   |
| <b>STEP 6</b> | The panel will consider your application, and you will be notified of your application after the next upcoming Board Meeting (April, August, October, December)   |
| <b>STEP 7</b> | If successful, the funds will be released to you once we have your bank details.  |
| <b>STEP 8</b> | <p>There is a reporting process, but we want to keep it simple. Once you have completed your project, you can report in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photo story</li><li>• Verbal report via phone or audio recording</li><li>• Written report</li><li>• Survey</li><li>• Video clip</li><li>• Social media - YouTube, TikTok or Facebook mentioning and tagging Aarnja</li></ul> |



## Community Heroes & Champions Grants

This grant is being provided to recognise and acknowledge community members who make a significant contribution within their families and communities. Community Heroes and Champions are the unsung heroes and quiet achievers that hold communities together.

Grants of up to \$1000 are available to celebrate and support local heroes doing great things in their community. Examples of local heroes include a quiet achiever supporting people with their own funds or a champion of the Kimberley Aboriginal people who is working to share positive stories across the region.

These grants will be given quietly, without fanfare and aim to encourage and acknowledge the work of local heroes.

Funds provided are untied but cannot be used for commercial or for-profit business, including investments.

### Who is eligible?

Community Heroes and Champions must:

- Be a Kimberley Aboriginal person with Traditional Owner connection to a cultural bloc as defined by Aarnja's Cultural governance model. (*Please see page 4*)
- Demonstrate financial need (must provide proof of low-income earner eg. concession card)
- Not able to gain assistance/support through other services/programs available through other organisations/agencies.

Applicants that meet grant criteria are not guaranteed funding. You can also nominate someone else for this grant.

### Reporting

You will need to let us know that you have received the funding and can do this by sending us a screenshot of the transaction in your bank account or by sending us an email.

You will be asked to complete a short survey six months after receiving funding. There are no other reporting requirements however you are welcome to provide us any feedback, photos or stories.



## Important Dates

Applications are open all year round with particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. If an application is received after the cut-off date, it will be assessed in the next round.

- Round 1 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Thursday 20 March 2025
- Round 2 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Wednesday 16 July 2025
- Round 3 Dates – To Be Confirmed
- Round 4 Dates – To Be Confirmed

## Application process

<b>STEP 1</b>	Read the guidelines above to make sure you, or the person you want to nominate meet the criteria.
<b>STEP 2</b>	If you want to nominate someone, direct them to the Aarnja website or contact the Aarnja office if you wish to remain anonymous.
<b>STEP 3</b>	Go to the Aarnja website to access the link to the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal.
<b>STEP 4</b>	Register for the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.
<b>STEP 5</b>	Log into the system and complete the Aarnja Foundation eligibility form. If this does not display automatically, click the Apply button in the top left of the dashboard. You will not require an Access Code.
<b>STEP 6</b>	Don't forget to submit your application before the closing date. As applications are open all year round, there are particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. Check the website for the upcoming dates.
<b>STEP 7</b>	The panel will consider your application, and you will be notified of your application after the next upcoming Board Meeting (April, August, October, December)
<b>STEP 8</b>	If successful, the funds will be released to you once we have your bank details.
<b>STEP 9</b>	You will be asked to complete a short survey six months after receiving funding. There are no other reporting requirements however you are welcome to provide us any feedback, photos or stories.





## Education and Employment Grants

This grant is being provided to support individuals and families with education and/or training costs. Aarnja is committed to investing in the personal development of Kimberley Aboriginal people for the benefit of our communities.

Grants between \$2,000 and \$12,000 are available for individuals to boost their education and employment opportunities and can include parents and carers applying for children under 18. These grants may supplement other support received externally such as a scholarship.

The total grant pool and number of grants is dependent on current multi-year projects and will be made public at the time of the open grant round.

### What we will fund

These grants can cover any aspect of furthering schooling and employment opportunities including;

- Transport costs
- Accommodation costs for study/training
- Job tools and uniforms
- Academic fees
- Books
- Materials and resources
- Training expenses.

### What we won't fund

- Travel, accommodation or any other expenses not related to education/employment opportunities eg holidays
- Personal items and/or expenses not associated with activity
- Cultural (Lore) business
- Funeral expenses
- Household items or expenses
- General living expenses
- General motor vehicle expenses or purchases
- Bills
- Emergency Relief
- Commercial or for-profit purposes, including investments, loans, etc.



## Who can apply?

You can apply for this grant if you are:

- A Kimberley Aboriginal person with Traditional Owner connection to a cultural bloc as defined by Aarnja's Cultural governance model. *(Please see page 4)*
- Can demonstrate financial need (must provide proof of low-income earner eg. concession card OR provide an income & expenses review to consider cost of living and not gross household income)
- U18 years: A parent/guardian/primary carer of a current student
- 18+ years: Enrolled in an education or employment program (must provide proof of enrolment and/or employment contract of Apprenticeship or Traineeship)

## How much should I apply for?

You can apply for \$2,000-\$12,000 a year to cover the span of your study (ie six years of high school; three years of a university degree). Funding is awarded in principle, therefore you must show you continue to be enrolled each year of funding. Funding will cease if you withdraw from your education or employment program during this period. Recovery action may apply if you withdraw during this period.

Depending on your situation, you may need to declare this funding for tax purposes as it may count towards your taxable income. Please consider this before applying and reach out if you have any questions.

## Reporting

You will need to let us know that you have received the funding by sending us a screenshot of the transaction in your bank account or by sending us an email.

Each year you must provide a copy of your academic record to demonstrate progression and achievements. If you have received a multi-year grant, you will need to provide proof of enrolment prior to funds being released.

We may reach out during the grant period to have a yarn and see how you are going. There are no other reporting requirements however you are welcome to provide us any feedback, photos or stories.



## Important Dates

There will be one application round a year and dates will be published on our website. You will be notified of your application outcome around three months after applications close.

## Application process

- STEP 1** Read the guidelines to make sure you meet the eligibility criteria. If you have any questions, contact the Aarnja team to discuss.
- STEP 2** Register for the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.
- STEP 3** Log into the system and complete the Aarnja Foundation eligibility form. If this does not display automatically, click the Apply button in the top left of the dashboard. You will not require an Access Code.
- STEP 4** Don't forget to submit your application before the closing date.
- STEP 5** The panel will consider your application, and you will be notified of your application outcome around three months after applications close.
- STEP 6** If successful, you will need to sign a grant agreement and provide your bank details. Funding will be released only when these are received.
- STEP 7** You will be asked to provide a receipt upon receiving funding.

Each year you must provide a copy of your academic record to demonstrate progression and achievements. If you have received a multi-year grant, you will need to provide proof of enrolment of employment prior to funds being released.

We may reach out during the grant period to have a yarn and see how you are going. There are no other reporting requirements however you are welcome to provide us any feedback, photos or stories.





## Innovation Grants

This grant is being provided to support new, place-based initiatives that will benefit the community. This enables the exploration of new ideas and projects that have not previously been funded by any other organisation or individual.

Grants between \$10,000 and \$40,000 are available for Kimberley-based Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOS), Kimberley Aboriginal community groups or individuals for innovative projects in the region.

Applicants can apply for multi-year funding up to 3 years in duration. After the second year, the grant must be accompanied by grants from other funders or income from the project.

The total grant pool and number of grants is dependent on current multi-year projects and will be made public at the time of the open grant round.

### What we will fund

- up to 30% overheads and capacity building
- salaries
- equipment and infrastructure

### What we won't fund

- retrospective activities
- political or illegal activities
- commercial or for-profit purposes, including investments, loans, etc.
- travel, accommodation or any other expenses not related to the project eg holidays
- Personal items and/or expenses not associated with the project
- cultural (Lore) business
- funeral expenses
- household items or expenses
- general living expenses
- general motor vehicle expenses or purchases
- bills
- emergency relief



## Who can apply?

You can apply for this grant if you:

- Are a Kimberley based ACCO (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation) OR are auspiced by a Kimberley based ACCO (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation)
- Can demonstrate financial need and impact (Organisation must demonstrate need regarding why they are unable to secure alternative funding; and attempts to apply for other funding; evidence why is initiative needed, gaps, etc; and how/who will benefit by this initiative being delivered)
- Can demonstrate good governance and compliance (must provide supporting documents, including registration, recent financial/audit report, annual report)

You cannot apply for this grant if you:

- Are a Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs)
- Have received an Aarnja Significant Support grant for the same project in the last five years

## How much should I apply for?

You can apply for \$10,000-\$40,000 a year for up to 3 years. Using our budgeting template think through all the different expenses that you might need for your project. Make an informed estimate of how much things will cost (for example, getting quotes or researching online).

Once you know how much you need and how much you have, the difference between these two amounts will show you how much to apply for.

You will need to secure additional funding by the third year of your project and must be able to demonstrate how you plan to do this.

## Reporting

You will need to sign a grant agreement and provide a receipt upon receiving funding.

There is a reporting process, but we want to keep it simple. Once you have completed your project and/or every 12 months from receiving funding, you will need to submit a written report and financial acquittal/audit report. Second- and third-year funding will only be released after we receive your report.

You can also provide supporting information such as photos, social media posts, newsletters, etc



## Important Dates

There will be one application round a year and dates will be published on our website. You will be notified of your application outcome around three months after applications close.

## Application process

- STEP 1** Read the guidelines to make sure you meet the eligibility criteria.
- STEP 2** Contact the Aarnja CEO to discuss your application. If you meet the criteria, you will be given the link to the online application form.
- STEP 2** Register for the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.
- STEP 3** Register for the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.
- STEP 4** Don't forget to submit your application before the closing date.
- STEP 5** The panel will consider your application, and you will be notified of your application outcome around three months after applications close.
- STEP 6** If successful, you will need to sign a grant agreement and provide your bank details. Funding will be released only when these are received.
- STEP 8** You will be asked to provide a receipt upon receiving funding.

There is a reporting process, but we want to keep it simple. Once you have completed your project and/or every 12 months from receiving funding, you will need to submit a written report and financial acquittal/audit report.

Supporting information such as photos, social media posts, newsletters, etc are also





## **Significant Support Grants for Kimberley based Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations**

This grant is being provided to assist Kimberley Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCOs) with leveraged funding for one-off projects.

Grants between \$20,000 to \$50,000 per annum (up to three years) are available for Kimberley based ACCOs, such as those participating in the annual AGMs. These grants are awarded for a one-off project for a period of one to three years.

The amount granted cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost.

### **What we will fund**

- up to 30% overheads and capacity building
- salaries
- equipment and infrastructure

### **What we won't fund**

- retrospective activities
- political or illegal activities
- commercial or for-profit purposes, including investments, loans, etc.

### **Who can apply?**

You can apply for this grant if you:

- Are a Kimberley based Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO)
- Can demonstrate financial need and impact (must be able to provide evidence why is the initiative needed, gaps, etc; and how/who will benefit by this initiative being delivered)
- Can demonstrate good governance and compliance (must provide supporting documents, including registration, recent financial/audit report, annual report)
- Have not have received Aarnja funding for five years from last payment

You cannot apply for this grant if you are a:

- Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)



### How much should I apply for?

You can apply for \$20,000-\$50,000 a year for up to 3 years. Using our budgeting template think through all the different expenses that you might need for your project. Make an informed estimate of how much things will cost (for example, getting quotes or researching online).

Once you know how much you need and how much you have, the difference between these two amounts will show you how much to apply for.

### Reporting

You will need to sign a grant agreement and provide a receipt upon receiving funding.

There is a reporting process, but we want to keep it simple. Once you have completed your project and/or every 12 months from receiving funding, you will need to submit a written report and financial acquittal/audit report. Second- and third-year funding will only be released after we receive your report.

Providing additional supporting information such as photos, social media posts, newsletters, etc is encouraged but optional.

### Important Dates

Applications are open all year round with particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. If an application is received after the cut-off date, it will be assessed in the next round.

- Round 1 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Thursday 20 March 2025
- Round 2 Closes on 11:59pm AWST Wednesday 16 July 2025
- Round 3 Dates – To Be Confirmed
- Round 4 Dates – To Be Confirmed



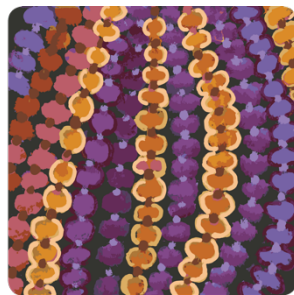
## Application process

- STEP 1** Read the guidelines above to make sure your project or activity meets the objectives.
- STEP 2** Contact the Aarnja CEO to discuss your application. If you meet the criteria, you will be given the link to the online application form.
- STEP 3** Register for the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal. If you already have an account through Australian Communities Foundation, please use your existing username and password. Make sure to note your username and password as you will be able to save and continue the form at a later date.
- STEP 4** Log into the system and complete the Aarnja Foundation eligibility form. If this does not display automatically, click the Apply button in the top left of the dashboard. You will not require an Access Code.
- STEP 5** Don't forget to submit your application before the closing date. As applications are open all year round, there are particular cut off dates throughout the year for assessment purposes. Check the website for the upcoming dates.
- STEP 6** The panel will consider your application, and you will be notified of your application after the next upcoming Board Meeting (April, August, October, December)
- STEP 7** If successful, you will need to sign a grant agreement and provide your bank details. Funding will be released only when these are received.
- STEP 8** You will be asked to provide a receipt upon receiving funding.

There is a reporting process, but we want to keep it simple. Once you have completed your project and/or every 12 months from receiving funding, you will need to submit a written report and financial acquittal/audit report.

You can also provide supporting information such as photos, social media posts, newsletters, etc





**Aarnja**<sup>Ltd</sup>

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**Website: [www.aarnja.org.au](http://www.aarnja.org.au)**