

VICTORIAN WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT TRUST

2024-25 GRANTS PROGRAM



**GUIDELINES FOR
APPLICANTS**



VICTORIAN
WOMEN'S TRUST



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VICTORIAN WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT TRUST



2024-25 GRANTS PROGRAM

The Victorian Women's Trust was established in 1985 in recognition of the role of women in shaping Victoria. We conduct research and advocacy for women, and every year we provide grants to projects that help Victorian women, girls, and gender diverse people to thrive. Over almost four decades, we have seen community projects take shape, grow, and change lives – all through the power of targeted grant-making.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Important: Applications must be lodged no later than midnight Friday 9 August 2024.

To make the application process as easy as possible, we offer two possible approaches you can take in making an application:

Application approach #1. Look carefully at the Sub-Funds themselves

We strongly encourage applicants to look closely at the Sub-Funds to see if their purposes match your interest. The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust has seventeen Sub-Funds open for grants in 2024-25. The Sub-Funds provide small grants to eligible organisations for innovative programs that directly address the purposes of each Sub-Fund.

We ask applicants to carefully consider and address these purposes when applying for a grant. Applicant organisations are asked to only apply to one Sub-Fund, so they should choose the most appropriate Sub-Fund for their project. Your application must address at least one purpose of your chosen Sub-Fund. You do not need to address all listed purposes.

Application approach #2. Make an application with general categories in mind

If you are uncertain about which Sub-Fund might fit your project, please feel free to make an application with the following general categories in mind:

- Health and well-being
- Family violence and sexual harassment
- Poverty and income insecurity
- Housing and homelessness
- Gender equality and discrimination
- Disability
- Leadership
- Education and empowerment
- First Nations rights



Whatever approach you decide on, applicants are encouraged to read our grants ethos (page 2-3) before submitting an application.



With over three decades of grant making, the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust has built a considerable body of expertise and intimate knowledge in effective, feminist grant making. This feminist grant making ethos has guided much of the evaluation and allocation of nearly 700 largely small grants since 1985.

Since the very beginning, our grant making has been systematised, using extensive data collection processes. We have funded all types of organisations from grassroots organisations, larger non-profits, universities and hospitals. With a deep working knowledge of the data, we have great insight into the impact and outcomes of the projects we have funded and are interested in funding.

Before you submit your application, please read through our grants ethos to guide your application and see if it is the right fit.

#1. Catalysing change:

In a quest for equality we fund projects that bring about circuit-breaking, progressive change or show new ways of doing things, always with a positive change for women & girls.

#2. Seeding new ideas:

We prefer not to provide funding for existing projects. Ideally funding requested is seed funding for a new project. Or, if we do provide funding for an existing project, it must be a new component which extends its reach or has a triggering effect

#3. Supporting grassroots:

We prefer a significant proportion of our funding to go towards smaller grassroots community organisations that fly under the radar of larger funders.

#4. Funding with empathy:

For some of our grant seekers, they might not have much grant writing experience or expertise, therefore we try to look past an application that is not perfectly constructed to see if it has real potential to create change.

#5. Research igniting change:

For research either by a university or charity, we want to be confident that it is capable of initiating social change in the broader community and for gender equality.

#6. Equality for all:

We only fund projects that work with men and boys when the needs of women and girls are the central focus. For instance, we may fund a behavioural change program that works with male perpetrators of violence against women. In this instance, reducing violence against women and girls is the central focus and therefore appropriate to fund.

#7. Beyond the binary:

Our primary beneficiaries are women and girls. This includes trans-women. We also extend our support to non-binary or non-identifying people.



#8. Being inclusive

Each year in our funding mix, we try to ensure that we support a broad range of beneficiaries, not limited to, but including: CALD women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women from rural and regional areas, LGBTQIA+ people, women living with a disability and/or mental illness.

#9. Realistic expectations

By providing small grants, we are realistic about what the grant recipient can achieve with the grant money we provide. However, we know that many small grants can trigger great change beyond the life of the grant.

#10. Fair process

We understand that non-profits have limited resources and time. We don't expect grant seekers to jump through hoops to receive a grant. Our application, evaluation and acquittal processes are rigorous and transparent without any great barriers for the grant seeker.

#11. Fair pay

If a funding request includes a salary component, we recognise that grant recipients should be properly remunerated for their work.

#12. Funding change

We primarily fund projects and not core business and operational expenses. However, we may fund a new position that has the potential to build the capacity of the organisation, such as a volunteer coordinator.

#13. Co-funding

When we have funding requests for our small grants to contribute to a larger project, we carefully weigh up what impact our funding will have and whether it's an important project to be a part of.

#14. Due diligence

We understand that our grant recipients may not need to always reinvent the wheel, but if a project is like another organisation's project, it's important that they demonstrate that they have done their due diligence and have communicated with the other organisation.



Image: Her Place (2023-24 grant recipient) by Breeana Dunbar



Every Sub Fund honours women in some way. Some are named after a woman or a couple, others are established in their memory, or have a giving focus that honours a woman's life, passions, and contributions. Each invest in creating a better world for women and girls. We have seventeen named Sub-Funds to choose from. Read on to find out which might suit your application best. Learn more about our Sub-Funds: www.vwt.org.au/grants/sub-funds/

Important: Your application must address at least one purpose of your chosen Sub-Fund. You do not need to address all listed purposes.

FLEUR SPITZER SUB-FUND

Supports projects that:

- increase the literacy, educational opportunity and empowerment of women and girls; or
- identify and address barriers that deny older women safety, security, and dignity.

CON IRWIN SUB-FUND

Supports innovative social justice projects that offer circuit breaking solutions to:

- discrimination;
- violence against women and children; and
- inequality of educational opportunity.

CHRISTINE FRIDAY & KATHLEEN POOLEY SUB-FUND

Supports project applications from Aboriginal community organisations that:

- address the education, health needs and housing of Aboriginal women and girls in Victoria.

HUMANITAS SUB-FUND

Supports project applications from women from African countries living in Victoria, including those who are refugees or asylum seekers that:

- enable them to avail themselves of educational, employment and other economic opportunities in Australia.

JAN WEBSTER AND SUE PETERSON SUB-FUND

Supports projects that work with:

- women exiting prison;
- educational and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal women; and
- pathways for women out of homelessness.

LOULA RODOPOULOS SUB-FUND

Supports projects that:

- assist women recovering from mental illness or other difficult circumstances; or
- support and enable programs which encourage young and established female writers.



UNION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN SUB-FUND (Victoria)

Supports projects from Aboriginal organisations which address:

- Indigenous rights, leadership and training for Indigenous girls in Victoria.

PRUE MYER SUB-FUND

Supports projects for immigrants, refugees and disadvantaged girls and young women that:

- provide them with positive mentoring opportunities;
- improve their academic and educational outcomes; and
- encourage their engagement and participation in political life.

JOAN HUDSON SUB-FUND

Supports projects that provide:

- positive and effective community supports for mothers and their children;
- new and/or improved opportunities for respite care for mothers of children with high-need disabilities; or
- practical support for young women from less advantaged backgrounds to access educational and academic opportunities.

RUTH OWENS & KEVIN LYNCH SUB-FUND

Supports grassroots projects that address and enhance educational and employment opportunities for:

- single women as parents; and
- refugee and migrant women.

JEAN MCCAUGHEY SOCIAL JUSTICE SUB-FUND

Supports research projects that relate to women in the areas of:

- homelessness;
- poverty and family well-being; and
- strengthening local communities.

ALMA & ALBERT TIVENDALE SUB-FUND

Assist projects which:

- Support girls who are disadvantaged in overcoming barriers to participation in physical activities such as sport and dance; and
- foster imaginative community models to assist women and their families experiencing financial hardship due to health and medical crises.



DEBORAH GANDERTON & JOHN HENRY SUB-FUND

Assist projects which:

- support young women and gender diverse people in developing their skill and capacity in strategic foresight and strategic planning to advance full gender equality.

SUPRIYA SINGH SUB-FUND

Supports projects which:

- financially empower women who have experienced violence and abuse; or
- deepen our understanding and communication of gender, money, power and control in intimate relationships.

ESSIE BURBRIDGE SUB-FUND

Supports projects that provide:

- positive and effective community supports for mothers and their children;
- new and/or improved opportunities for respite care for mothers of children with high-need disabilities; or
- practical support for young women from less advantaged backgrounds to access educational and academic opportunities.

NANCYE & JOHN CAIN SUB-FUND

Assist projects for women, girls and gender diverse peoples with disability or disabilities, including hearing loss, in ways which:

- support their participation, civic engagement and leadership capacity;
- address barriers in society that prevent their full and equal enjoyment; and
- empower them to have independence, choice, and control in their own lives.

FAY MARLES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SUB-FUND

Supports projects that provide:

- leadership training to increase young women's working knowledge of equal opportunity legislation, structures and processes;
- research that strengthens knowledge of loopholes and gaps in equal opportunity legislation, with a view to system improvement and policy change; and
- education and engagement on equal opportunity issues in workplaces, organisations and in the broader community.



GRANT AMOUNT

Grants can range from small sums up to \$10,000 depending on the Sub-Fund.

TIMELINES

- Monday 1 July 2024 – Applications Open
- Friday 9 August 2024 – Applications Close
- Decisions about successful applications are made by Trustees in October 2024

ELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSIONS

- The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust cannot fund individuals.
- Grant applicants must be endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office for Item 1, Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR), and either Tax Concession Charity (TCC) or can prove that they would be charitable but for their connection with government (usually established by a letter from the ATO). Applicants must provide a copy of these endorsements, or a letter from the ATO, at the time of application.
- Eligibility is strictly limited to groups that operate for charitable purposes and either provide relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution, or helplessness amongst Victorian women or operate for purposes beneficial to Victorian women.
- Projects must address the needs of women and girls living in Victoria.
- VWBT is open to funding the project of an eligible organisation in partnership with another organisation.
- VWBT does not provide matching or shortfall funding for government funded projects, infrastructure, or operational costs.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS: REPORTING AND EXPECTATIONS

Effective reporting benefits all parties. It helps us to better inform our donors and future grant-making decisions, and it helps the grant recipient by clarifying the links between objectives and outcomes. The wider community gains through exposure to the knowledge and experience from the project.

Successful grant recipients are expected to:

- provide a final report on project outcomes and as appropriate, progress reports;
- complete a financial acquittal;
- acknowledge VWBT in any promotional material or media resulting from the grant; and
- assist where feasible our promotional materials and publications such as photos for our annual report and newsletters;
- liaise about possible site visits;
- liaise with VWBT, where appropriate, in exploring possible policy implications of the project.



HOW TO APPLY

- Go to www.vwt.org.au/grants
- Complete the online application form
- Note: your application will need to include a budget. [Download the budget template.](#)
- Applications must address all questions in the application form

Important: Applications must be lodged no later than Friday 9 August 2024.

MORE INFO

- We recommend reading through FAQs below.
- See our full list of previous grants via our [Annual Reports](#).
- Should you have any unanswered questions, or if you would like to discuss accessibility accommodations, please email: grants@vwt.org.au

FAQs

Can I submit multiple grant applications?

No, applicant organisations may only apply to one Sub-Fund, and only need to address one purpose for the Sub-Fund they are applying to (ie not all the purposes for that Sub-Fund).

Who do I contact for advice and inquiries?

If you are unable to find an answer to your question in these guidelines, please **email** grants@vwt.org.au and a member of our grants team will call you back.

Is my organisation eligible for a grant?

Due to legal requirements:

- We can only fund projects that directly benefit Victorians.
- Applicant organisations require Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR Item 1) and Tax Concession Charity (TCC) endorsement.
- We are unable to fund individuals.

When are grant decisions made?

The Sub-Fund Grants Program opens in July and closes in August. Decisions will be announced in October.



Do you have a project budget template?

Please download the Project Budget template and attach to your application.

[Download Project Budget template](#)

Is there a Grant Agreement?

Successful applicants are required to sign a Grant Agreement, which outlines the VWBT's requirements. This Grant Agreement will be sent to successful applicants at the time of notification of the grant.

How do I provide a project report and financial acquittal?

- Project reports and financial acquittals are a standard requirement for all grants.
- A final report on your project outcomes and expenditure is due within two months of project completion.
- Successful applicants will be emailed the project reports and financial acquittals template
- Please email your completed report and financial acquittal to grants@vwt.org.au

We love to receive photographs of your project for possible inclusion on our website or in our newsletters or annual report (please ensure that photographs that feature children have the permission from parents or guardians).

Should I acknowledge our grant from the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust?

Grantee organisations are encouraged to acknowledge our support. A .jpeg or .eps format of our logo is available on request. Please contact us for electronic files and guidelines on how to use the logo and the wording to acknowledge the VWBT and/or Sub-Funds. Please email your request to grants@vwt.org.au

Is it important to communicate the outcomes of our project?

An important aspect of the Trust's work is understanding and communicating the outcomes and impact of our grants. If you believe your organisation's project was successful and there is a great story to tell, please contact us to discuss how we can share this news.

How do I seek an amendment to our grant?

If there are significant changes to your project (including key personnel, project scope, timeline, expected outcomes and outputs) you are required to contact the Trust and discuss the change. Please contact the grants team to discuss this by emailing grants@vwt.org.au



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