



PHILANTHROPY  
*Australia*

# Grant Classification System

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## Introduction

The Grant Classification System is a tool to assist philanthropic foundations to classify, describe and report on their grantmaking activities.

The intention is to standardise the terms used across the Australian philanthropic sector as far as practical, so that grantmaking can be documented and useful statistics on philanthropy collected which in ways that contribute to shared understandings.

Most foundations use some kind of pre-determined language to classify their grants, for the purposes of recording grant applications, describing the grants they make and reporting to stakeholders on their activities. Having a standardised language, from which foundation staff can select those terms which suit their purpose, will support this process. By classifying grants and the projects they support, and archiving this information, an enormous amount of data can be retrieved, researched, collated and where appropriate, shared, thereby building our knowledge base.

This System is multi-dimensional, with six facets:

1. Type of support
2. Organisation Type
3. Program Areas
4. Population Groups
5. Geographic Areas
6. Time Frame of Grant

Each of these has between one and three hierarchical levels.

Foundations can select terms from each facet, using the level of detail which best suit them. We anticipate that some foundations will primarily use the Program Areas to describe their grants, perhaps supplementing these with Beneficiaries, while others may focus more on the Type of Grant and how that ties in with their trust deed or statement of purpose.

Not every facet is fully developed to a level of fine detail. Some foundations may classify grants to a greater degree than we have allowed for; for example a grant to a modern dance troop would be classified under Arts & Culture - Performing Arts - Dance. Foundations that specialise in Arts funding may choose to further refine the system to include specific forms of dance.

Produced by Philanthropy Australia, the Grants Classification System represents a first step in producing a standardised grantmaking language, which we will build upon over time. The System will be reviewed regularly, and Members are welcome to submit suggestions to [l.arkles@philanthropy.org.au](mailto:l.arkles@philanthropy.org.au)



# Grant Classification System

## 1. Type of Support

(This describes the type of support the grant offers, and may also encompass how the grant fits with the funder's mission.)

- **Funding for Core Operations** (i.e. to support core operations within an organisation.)
  - **Capacity Building**
  - **General Operating Support**
  - **Equipment Purchase**
    - **Computers /IT hardware**
    - **Computer software**
    - **White boards, photocopies, fax machines**
    - **Printers**
    - **Rent**
    - **Website development**
  - **Administrative / Technical Support**
  - **Salaries**
- **Funding for Capital Works**
  - **Building Works**
  - **Land Purchase**
  - **Cultural Assets**
- **Funding for Specific Activities and Services** (i.e. to provide or support programs.)
  - **Advocacy** (Programs which seek to influence public policy and/or practice within a major group area.)
  - **Awards and Prizes Communications and Public Education** (Programs that seek to educate or enlighten the public about issues within a program area.)
  - **Conferences and Events**
  - **Direct Service Provision**
  - **Evaluation of Organisations**
  - **Evaluation of Projects or Programs**
  - **Films, Documentaries**
  - **Membership Programs** (Programs that promote the interests of individuals/organizations within a program area and provide informal, educational, and professional development opportunities for members.)
  - **Mentoring Programs**
  - **Pilots, Feasibility Studies,**
  - **Publications**
  - **Research and Public Policy Analysis** (Programs that engage in basic, applied, or developmental research within a program area or which analyse public policy within a program area.)
  - **Training**
  - **Travel**
  - **Volunteering** (Programs that recruit, train, and utilize volunteer services within a program area.)
  - **Websites**
- **Funding for building and strengthening organisational capacity**
  - **Infrastructure Development**
  - **Leadership Development**
  - **Organisational Culture/Change Management**



- **Professional Development & Training** (Programs that provide certificate classes, professional workshops and seminars, or staff training within a program area.)
- **Scholarships / Fellowships / Professional Development**
- **Strategic Planning**
  
- **Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneurship**

## 2. Organisation Type

(This describes the type of organisation being funded.)

- Arts organisation
- Community service
- Education
  - Early Childhood
  - School
  - Vocational Education & Training
  - University
  - Adult & Community
- Employment service
- Environment / Conservation
- Health service
- Library, gallery or museum
- Neighbourhood house
- Place of worship: eg. church, mosque, synagogue, etc
- Philanthropic body
- Policy institute
- Professional association
- Research organisation
- Self-help group
- Sporting club or association
- Think tank
- Welfare organisation
- Other

## 3. Program Areas

(These are the fields in which foundations fund.)

### Ageing Futures

Accommodation for the Elderly  
Aged care  
Dementia

### Animals

Animal welfare  
Conservation of endangered species  
Zoos and wildlife sanctuaries

### Arts, Culture and Humanities

Architecture & Design



Cultural Heritage (e.g. Historical societies, Commemorative events)  
Humanities (e.g. History, Languages, Literature, Philosophy)  
Libraries  
Media & Communications (e.g. Film, Journalism, Publishing, Radio, Television)  
Museums & Galleries  
Performing Arts  
    Dance  
    Music  
    Theatre  
Visual Arts and Crafts

**CALD Communities** (Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Communities)

Asylum Seekers  
Migrants  
Refugees

**Children/Youth at Risk**

Addiction & Substance Abuse (See also Health & Medical Research)  
Homelessness  
Out-of-home Care (e.g. Foster families, Residential care, Kinship care)

**Civil Society**

Advocacy  
Citizen Participation  
Human Rights  
Public Affairs and Administration  
Social Justice

**Community Development**

Small Business Development  
Community Development  
Economic Development  
Interface Councils  
Rural Development and Agriculture  
Transport  
Urban Communities

**Crime, Justice and Legal Issues**

Abuse Prevention  
Crime Prevention  
Ex-offenders  
Offenders currently incarcerated  
Public Interest Law  
Victims of Crime

**Disability**

Carers of People with Disabilities  
Equipment for People with Disabilities  
Housing & Accommodation for People with Disabilities  
Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities  
Services for People with Physical Disabilities

**Disaster Relief**

**Education**

Adult / Continuing Education  
Financial Literacy  
Higher Education



- Literacy & Numeracy Support
- Preschool
- Scholarships
- Schools
  - Primary School
  - Secondary School
- Vocational Education & Training
- Special Education

### **Employment & Training**

- Ageing Workforce
- 'Brain Drain' phenomenon
- Vocational Education & Training
- Transition to Work
- Unemployment and Underemployment

### **Environment**

- Climate Change
- Drought
- Farming
- Natural Resources - Conservation and Protection
  - Water Resources
  - Land Resources
  - Energy Resources
  - [Wildlife – see Animals]
- Pollution Control
- Recycling
- Sustainable Development
- Tourism

### **Health, Wellbeing & Medical Research**

- Addiction & Substance Abuse (eg. Alcohol, Drugs, Nicotine)
- Chronic & Acute Conditions (eg. Cancer, Diabetes)
- Complementary/Alternative Medicine
- Dual diagnosis
- Health Promotion & Prevention Programs
- Medical Research
- Mental Health
- Other Addictive Behaviours (e.g. Gambling)
- Public Health Services (e.g. hospitals & clinics)
- Public Health & Safety
- Reproductive Health

### **Housing and Homelessness**

- Crisis Accommodation (e.g. Shelters)
- Housing affordability
- Homelessness
- Housing Development & Construction

### **Indigenous Australians**

- Arts & Culture
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Other

### **International Development and International Relations**



### **Poverty & Disadvantage**

Services for Economically Disadvantaged/Low Income  
Policy  
Research

### **Philanthropy, Voluntarism and Non-Profit Infrastructure**

Non-For-Profit Infrastructure  
Philanthropy  
Volunteering

### **Recreation and Sport**

### **Religion and Spirituality**

### **Science and Technology**

## **4. Population Groups**

(These are the beneficiaries of the grant.)

### **Adults**

#### **Children & Youth (0-25 years)**

- Early childhood (0-5 years)
- Children (6-13 years)
- Youth (13-21 years)
- Young Adults (18-25 years)

#### **Older People**

- People over 60
- Frail elderly

#### **Families**

- Adoptive families
- Foster families
- Mixed / blended families
- Parenting
- Single parent families

#### **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender**

#### **Gender**

- Men / Boys
- Women / Girls

#### **Indigenous Australians**

- Language groups
- Rural and remote Indigenous communities
- Urban Indigenous communities



## 6. Geographic Area Served

- Australia-wide
  - Coastal
  - Interior
  - Regional
  - Urban
- ACT
  - Canberra
  - ACT rural
  - ACT regional
- New South Wales
  - Sydney
  - NSW rural
  - NSW regional
- Northern Territory
  - Darwin
  - NT rural
  - NT regional
- Queensland
  - Brisbane
  - Qld rural
  - Qld regional
- South Australia
  - Adelaide
  - SA rural
  - SA regional
- Tasmania
  - Hobart
  - Tas rural
  - Tas regional
- Victoria
  - Melbourne
  - Vic rural
  - Vic regional
- Western Australia
  - Perth
  - WA rural
  - WA regional
- International

## 6. Time Frame of Grant

- Single grant
- Multi-year grant
  - 2 years
  - 3 years
  - More than 3 years
- Recurrent