Tasmanian Aboriginal Knowledge Holders School Grants Program

GRANT GUIDELINES

Introduction

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Knowledge Holders Schools Grants Program was designed for schools who want to take meaningful steps towards reconciliation and building strong relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Despite good intentions, we know that many schools lack the resources to meaningfully invest in deeper relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and businesses. As a result, Aboriginal students may experience culturally unsafe learning environments, and whole school communities lack the benefit of connections with and knowledge about Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture.

By empowering schools to build relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge holders, this grant program aims to foster shared, culturally enriching learning environments that create opportunities for whole school communities to learn from Tasmanian Aboriginal people and perspectives.

Grants available

There are three grant tiers available:

Beginning the Journey Grant - $2000
Designed for schools who have just started their reconciliation journey but have good intentions and are making meaningful progress. May have some reconciliation goals but lack the funding or would like some guidance about how to get there.

Continuing Connections Grant - $5000
Designed for schools who are further along in their reconciliation journey, with projects aimed at strengthening ongoing relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and implementing strategic reconciliation targets for the school.

Deepening Relationships Grant - $10,000
In the first year of this grants program, one larger grant will also be awarded to a school who can demonstrate how the proposed project activities will deepen existing relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and deliver integrated learning and cultural safety outcomes across the whole school environment. Additional Deepening Stories grants are intended to be introduced in successive years, supporting the continued growth and reach of the program.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

Applicants will be eligible for funding if they are:

- A Tasmanian school;
- Have an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander student population of 5% or above, or have 50 or more Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at their school;
- Are able to supply a financial co-contribution.

Preference will be given to schools who:

- Have an ICSEA percentile of 80 or less;
- Can provide evidence of a demonstrated commitment to reconciliation (such as a strategic plan for the school, photos, videos, and stories of work undertaken, etc.);
- Can demonstrate how the funding will be used to influence change for the whole school community (rather than individual students or classes);
- Can demonstrate clear alignment with the Australian Curriculum, in particular the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cross-curriculum priority; and
- Can demonstrate clear financial need (i.e. cannot fund a project of this type through any other means).

The following criteria will inform assessment:

Criterion 1: Commitment to reconciliation (20%)

- Schools must demonstrate a commitment to reconciliation through a strategic plan, reconciliation goals or targets, or evidence of previous work undertaken.

Criterion 2: Relationships with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community (25%)

- Schools must describe how the project will engage and remunerate Tasmanian Aboriginal people and businesses to consult, deepen understanding, and provide ongoing learning. Preference will be given to projects that focus on building relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and businesses in the local community.

Criterion 3: Transformational quality (20%)

- Schools must demonstrate how the funding will benefit the whole school community, rather than just individual students or classes. Plans that focus on building long-term, sustainable cultural change within schools will be prioritised.

Criterion 4: Alignment with the Australian Curriculum (15%)

- Schools must describe how the funding will help them meet Australian curriculum requirements, including alignment with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cross-curriculum priority. In 2026 and 2027, funding for an On Country component of Deep Time History will be prioritised.

Criterion 5: School capacity and capability (20%)

- Schools must demonstrate that they have access to the skills and expertise necessary to manage and undertake the project, and include details about how this will be done, including timeframes, simple budgets, and evidence of support from a member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.

Applicants who do not fully address the essential assessment criteria will not be eligible for consideration under this program.

Cultural safety workshop

Schools who are successful in their grant application will also receive two places (for educators/school leaders) to a one-day Tasmanian Aboriginal led cultural safety workshop.

This component of the program is designed to strengthen cultural responsiveness and leadership within participating schools, and support a deeper integration of relationships, connections, and learnings enabled by the grants program.

Reporting and acquittal

A condition of funding is that successful schools will be required to provide photos, videos, and/or a written summary of outcomes achieved by their project by the end of Term 4 2027.

Need support?

If you would like help completing the form, or would like to discuss your eligibility or the grants program more generally, reach out to:

Erin Deverell, Education Officer at Reconciliation Tasmania
Ph 0423 131 741
Email erin@rectas.com.au | education@rectas.com.au

For technical support for your application, contact SmartyGrants.