Tasmanian Aboriginal Knowledge Holders School Grants Program

GRANT GUIDELINES

Key dates

Milestone	Date
Grant round open	Monday 21 September 2026
Online info session for schools	Wednesday 28 October 2026
Grant round closes	Friday 13 November 2026
Assessment of grant applications completed	Wednesday 25 November 2026
Successful grant applicants notified and grant outcomes communicated	Wednesday 2 December 2026
Funding agreements executed with successful grant recipients	Wednesday 9 December 2026
School grant payments made to successful school grant recipients	Monday 15 February 2027

Overview

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Knowledge Holders Schools Grants Program addresses a critical barrier to learning in Tasmania – the lack of culturally safe, inclusive school environments where Aboriginal students can thrive and all students can learn from and with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

This program accelerates engagement and commitment to Aboriginal-led learning in schools through opportunities to work with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to build understanding and knowledge among all learners, to foster cultural responsiveness in educators, and create long-term, sustainable cultural change within the whole school community.

Why is this program important?

Many Tasmanian schools lack the confidence, resources, and cultural responsiveness to meaningfully embed Aboriginal histories and cultures in learning. This limits belonging and engagement for Aboriginal students and reduces teacher capabilities to teach this content.

Aboriginal children and young people in Tasmania have a right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment with connections to community, culture and identity. Children and young people, educators, and whole school communities require support to develop a deeper understanding, respect and justice for, and with, Aboriginal peoples and to build cultural change in their environments and relationships.

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Reconciliation Tasmania

Educating all children and young people about Aboriginal histories, cultures, and contributions, and Tasmania's true history, is fundamental to the creation of a learning environment which supports the wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people. Many schools have limited funding available to implement Aboriginal led learning, making it difficult to enact meaningful change.

Program aims

This program aims to connect schools with Tasmanian Aboriginal educators, businesses, and knowledge holders, to facilitate cultural learning and connection across the school environment.

Program outcomes

Cultural safety for Aboriginal learners: Aboriginal children and young people feel safe, respected, and proud of their identity at school.

Understanding, respect and curriculum learning: All children and young people build strong knowledge of, and genuine respect for Tasmanian Aboriginal histories and cultures, embedded across the curriculum.

Educator responsiveness and cultural safety: Teachers and school leaders build the confidence and capability to build culturally safe, responsive schools that value Aboriginal histories, cultures, and identities.

Relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people: Schools build genuine, ongoing connections and partnerships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, which encourage the whole school community to thrive.

Which grant can my school apply for?

Beginning the Journey ($2000)

For schools who are keen to invest in Aboriginal-led learning but have limited connections and are unsure where to start. May have some idea of what they would like to achieve (e.g. improve cultural safety, embed Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum) but would like some guidance on how to get there.

Continuing Connections ($5000)

For schools who are further along in their journey. Have some existing Aboriginal community connections and would like to deepen those relationships and embed cultural safety and Aboriginal-led learning more meaningfully across the school. May have or are in the process of developing strategic targets and plans, such as a Reconciliation Action Plan or equivalent.

Deepening Relationships ($10,000)
For schools already advanced in their journey. Have established relationships with Aboriginal community members over a number of years, have a strategic document guiding their work, such as a Reconciliation Action Plan or equivalent, and are looking for ways to deepen their impact.

What kind of projects can be funded with the grant?

Eligible projects include cultural workshops and On Country experiences, creative collaborations and whole school art projects, relationship building and storytelling with Elders, student led plans and initiatives, and more.

Projects should be based on conversation and co-design between schools and Tasmanian Aboriginal people, depending on the grant capacity and availability of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to collaborate on the project.

In 2027, projects with an On Country component will be encouraged.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

To be eligible for this program, schools must:

- Be a Tasmanian school;
- Have a First Nations student population of 5% or above, or have 50 or more First Nations students enrolled at their school;
- Have an ICSEA percentile of 80 or less: and
- Be willing to supply a financial co-contribution.

Preference will be given to schools who:

- Have a demonstrated willingness or commitment to building respectful, ongoing relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people;
- Can clearly describe how their school would benefit from the funding, including linking their impact to the program outcomes;
- Can clearly demonstrate alignment with the Australian Curriculum, in particular the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures 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: School capacity and capability
Schools must demonstrate that they have access to the skills, resources, and expertise necessary to manage and undertake the project, and include details on how this will be achieved, including timeframes, simple budgets, and for the $5000 and $10,000 grants, evidence of support from a member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

Criterion 2: Alignment with the Australian Curriculum
Schools must describe how the funding will help them meet Australian Curriculum requirements, including alignment with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority.

Criterion 3: Outcomes and impact
Schools must demonstrate how the funding will help them meet at least one of the program outcomes, including cultural safety for Aboriginal learners, understanding, respect, and curriculum learning, educator responsiveness and cultural safety, and relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Criterion 4: Relationships with Tasmanian Aboriginal people
Schools must describe how the project will engage, recognise 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.

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

If successful, what will my school be required to do?

Cultural safety workshop
Schools who are successful in their grant application will also receive two places (for educators and 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 of participating schools, and support a deeper integration of relationships, connections, and learning enabled by the grants program.

Reporting and acquittal requirements
Successful schools will also be required to provide photos, videos, or a written summary of the outcomes achieved by the program, to be submitted by the end of Term 4, 2027.

Any other questions?

For any questions about the program, reach out to Erin Deverell, Education Officer at Reconciliation Tasmania, on 0423 131 741 or email education@rectas.com.au.