

All organisations considering applying to VFFF are requested to read these guidelines and then contact us on (02) 9291 2727 before commencing an application.

GRANT GUIDELINES – CHRISTIANITY

The following guidelines offer information to assist grant seekers determine whether their request is compatible with the Christianity funding priorities of VFFF. You will also find information about VFFF grant making. This is provided in the spirit of transparency and to assist grant seekers determine whether their work aligns with how VFFF works and the role it seeks to play as a grant maker. The final section details our application process.

VFFF's Founder Sir Vincent Fairfax was a committed Christian and actively involved in the Anglican Church. Christian faith was a central pillar of his life and character, providing purpose, a robust ethical framework and the basis of care for others. Today, VFFF seeks to support a spiritually rich society that values Christian faith in action.

Our Christianity funding focuses on young people, with the goal and priority outcomes noted below:



*aged 25 years or less

ABOUT VFFF GRANT MAKING

VFFF makes grants to **charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) working in NSW**. Organisations based outside NSW are welcome to contact VFFF but it is unusual for grants to be made for work outside NSW.

Our assessment

We work closely with organisations and groups to understand their current position and future aspirations so we can provide the most useful support we can at the opportune time. In assessing funding opportunities, we consider;

- *Is there strong leadership?* – ‘doing’ leaders with vision, action and tenacity – people who are making things happen and motivating others
- *Is the organisation in good health?* - sound governance, effective operational systems and financially viable
- *Is the work proposed driven by demand?* – there is evidence that the work proposed is relevant and important to the people who are meant to benefit from it, and that those people have or will be genuinely involved in its development
- *Is there a sound strategy?* - the work proposed is a logical and practical response to the issue and local context, and there is evidence suggesting it will be effective in these circumstances
- *Is there capacity and experience to deliver the strategy effectively?* – a deep understanding of the people you seek to work with, relevant specialist skills, you are trusted by the people you seek to work with
- *Are the desired outcomes clear and demonstrable?* – clarity on what will be different as a result of the grant, and mechanisms to track outcomes as you go along, allowing refinement in real time
- *Are there other financial contributions?* - or a sound plan to leverage VFFF support to obtain further funding

Our overall grant profile – in the 2017 financial year:

- 81% of applications to VFFF were approved
- 78% of grants approved were multi-year commitments
- Grants ranged from \$20,000 to \$515,000
- 47% of funds approved were for work in regional areas
- 53% of grants approved were for core operations or organisational capacity building

In the 2019 financial year, we aim for 60% of our funding to go to regional areas and 75% to core operations and organisational capacity building.

Types of support

VFFF provides support that falls under the following three categories:

1. Core operations

This refers to organisational and administrative costs such as salaries and overheads that maintain the everyday operation of an organisation. VFFF primarily makes core operations grants for small to medium-sized organisations at a critical time of transition or development.

eg. For Generate Ministries to support the growth and sustainability of the Generate chaplaincy program in NSW public schools (\$525,000 over three years).

2. Capacity Building

Capacity building grants aim to strengthen organisations by investing in core competencies such as business or operational planning, board development and governance, management capacity, staff training, leadership development and infrastructure. This support intends to enhance the ability of an organisation to operate more effectively beyond the conclusion of the grant.

eg. For Bible Society Australia to employ specialist digital media skills to digitise the Eternity newspaper (\$269,000 over two years).

3. Programs

This refers to costs that are directly related to the development, implementation, delivery and evaluation of a specific program or activity. Most VFFF grants under \$50,000 tend to be for programs as well as some larger grants.

eg. For the We Belong Inc. Jesus Club to provide support, training and resources for local churches to equip them to reach people with intellectual disabilities (\$45,000).

VFFF does not provide funding for: Public fundraising appeals, Endowment funds established to provide a corpus for institutions, Disaster appeals or Political projects and/or lobby groups.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications can be made through our online portal, accessed through our website www.vfff.org.au at any time. Applicants create a log in and are guided through a series of questions. You can save your application and return to it later. We require copies of organisations' latest audited financial statements and up to date management accounts be uploaded with applications. Receipt of applications is acknowledged by email and shortly after VFFF will be in touch to discuss your request. VFFF reserves the right to seek assistance from external experts in assessing applications.

We aim to be of assistance to grant seekers during the preparation of applications and encourage organisations to contact us with any queries that arise. VFFF will contact grant seekers to work through any concerns or questions and may also request meetings or site visits. We are grateful for grant seekers' cooperation and patience and appreciate open communication throughout the application process.

For requests over \$50,000 there is a two-step application process

- 1) **Preliminary enquiry** – an outline of the funding request that allows us to determine whether we can progress the request to a submission for Directors' consideration.
- 2) **Submission** - some organisations will be invited to progress to a submission and requested to provide further information through the online portal. We use all the information provided to write a submission for consideration by the VFFF Board.

Submissions are considered quarterly by the VFFF Board and applicants are advised of the outcome by phone following the meeting and in writing within a fortnight.

For requests between \$20,000 and \$50,000 there is a single-step grant application process

Applications are considered by the Grants Committee every two months and applicants are advised of the outcome by phone following the meeting and in writing within a fortnight.