

GRANT GUIDELINES – *BACKING YOUNG PEOPLE*

The following guidelines offer information to assist grant seekers to determine whether their work is compatible with the funding priorities of VFFF. VFFF makes grants to charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) working in NSW and Queensland, including work with a national reach.

Our assessment:

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

- *Is there **clear alignment** with VFFF's **funding outcomes**?* – 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
- *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 **demand-driven**?* – evidence that the work proposed is informed by and relevant to young people
- *Is there a **sound strategy**?* – the work proposed is a logical and practical response to the issue, and there is evidence suggesting it will be effective in these circumstances
- *Is there **capacity** and **experience** to deliver the strategy effectively?* – relevant specialist skills and a deep relationship with and understanding of the young people you seek to work with
- *Are there other **financial contributions**?* – or a sound plan to leverage VFFF support to obtain further funding.

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Our **grant profile** in the 2021 financial year:

79% of grants approved were multi-year commitments

Grants ranged from \$41,720 to \$1,380,000

62% of funds approved for work in rural and regional areas

88% of grants approved for core or capacity-building

Types of Support

VFFF provides **core operations** and **capacity building** grants to strengthen organisations and support them to operate more effectively beyond the conclusion of the grant.

Core operations grants fund organisational and administrative costs such as salaries and overheads that maintain the everyday operation of an organisation.

Capacity building grants aim to strengthen organisations by investing in core competencies such as business or operational planning, board development and governance, evaluation, staff training, leadership development and infrastructure.

Application Process

VFFF does not accept unsolicited applications. The VFFF team proactively seeks granting opportunities aligned to the funding outcomes in each focus area. See [Our Grants](#) for more information on the granting status of each focus area.

If invited to apply, applications are made through our online portal, accessed through this website. Applicants create a log in and are guided through a series of questions. You can save your application and return to it later.

We also require copies of organisations' latest audited financial statements and up-to-date management accounts to be uploaded with 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.



Caring for the Environment

VFFF's funding in this area has been informed by our 2021 [consultation](#) with youth-led and youth-focused organisations in the environment space and we encourage grant seekers to review this information. We aim to build the **capability of young people** in Australia to turn their **environmental concerns into action**.

VFFF does not accept unsolicited applications. In 2021 we are giving priority to the funding pipeline that has developed through our strategic review consultation process.

Funding goal:

Real and lasting impact on young people's lives through supporting them to participate in and lead environmental projects.

Funding outcomes:

- Young people gain new environmental knowledge, skills and networks
- Advance youth-driven approaches to environmental challenges.

Activities we may consider for support:

The following are examples of the types of activities that VFFF supports in this focus area to achieve funding outcomes:

- Supporting youth engagement in regenerative agriculture
- Advancing local, grassroots, youth-focused approaches to conservation, biodiversity and land care
- Encouraging the development of youth-led ideas and solutions to environmental challenges
- Increasing knowledge and engagement of environmental issues in schools
- Supporting youth engagement in Indigenous land management
- Building capacity for young people to organize and act on environmental issues
- Supporting youth involvement in community transitions to renewable energy.



Contributing to Society

VFFF's funding in this area has been informed by our 2021 [consultation](#) with youth-led and youth-focused organisations and we encourage grant seekers to review this information. We see real opportunity in building young people's **skills, capacity** and **networks** to create change and increase their **representation** and **participation** in all aspects of society.

VFFF does not accept unsolicited applications. In 2021 we are giving priority to the funding pipeline that has developed through our strategic review consultation process.

Funding goal:

Increasing young people's agency by building their capacity and opportunities to drive change on the issues that matter to them.

Funding outcomes:

- More organisations genuinely embed youth voices in their work
- Young people are equipped and connected to shape better futures
- A greater diversity and representation of young people influence decisions that affect and matter to them.

Activities we may consider for support:

The following are examples of the types of activities that VFFF supports in this focus area to achieve funding outcomes:

- Resourcing organisations to better listen and respond to young people's concerns and ideas
- Giving young people a 'seat at the table' within decision-making bodies
- Supporting peer-to-peer leadership programs
- Connecting young people to tackle issues that affect and matter to them
- Increasing young people's democratic engagement and civic participation
- Creating space for young people to tell their own stories and use their voice.



Exploring Christian Faith and Values

VFFF's funding under this focus area has been informed by our 2019 [consultation](#) with faith based organisations and we encourage grant seekers to review this information. We seek to support a **spiritually rich society** that values Christian faith in action.

VFFF does not accept unsolicited applications. Should you believe your organisation's work aligns with the funding goal and outcomes, please send a brief email to foundation@vfff.org.au addressing the following:

- How does your work fit with VFFF's funding goal and outcomes?
- How do you identify this work as being important to young people?
- Why is VFFF support needed now?

Please note that VFFF does not provide funding for individual churches.

Funding goal:

Young people are able to make life choices informed by an understanding of Christian faith and values.

Funding outcomes:

- Young people gain knowledge of and interest in Christian faith
- Young people have positive, engaging experiences that encourage their participation in Christianity.

Activities we may consider for support:

The following are examples of the types of activities that VFFF supports in this focus area to achieve funding outcomes:

- Provide young people with access to Christian teachings.
- Provide young people with opportunity to actively participate in faith based activities with their peers.
- Promote discussion with young people of Christianity's place in the development of modern society.
- Provide Christian ministry to educational, community and sporting institutions.
- Activities that are youth-led and informed by authentic input from young people.
- Activities that provide young people with responsibility, autonomy and where their views are respected.



Decent Work

Employment programs can be described as building **supply** (focusing on improving the job readiness of jobseekers available to work) and/or building **demand** (focusing on employers and industries creating roles in the labour market). VFFF focuses on the demand side of employment.

Funding goal:

Employer driven, innovative models for work that integrate learning to ensure young people gain the work and experience they need and value.

Funding outcomes:

- Increased employer engagement in work-based learning relevant to the needs of local industry
- Increased entry level jobs for young people
- Smoother transitions for young people from entry level jobs to decent, secure work.

VFFF is undertaking sector consultation to inform our *Decent Work* focus area. We will commence granting in this focus area during 2022.