

Backing the Future

Program Information

Program Purpose

Backing the Future is an exciting grant initiative that provides funding for individuals to test new ideas aimed at improving the lives of young people across remote, rural, and regional NSW and QLD. We recognise that there are passionate people in these communities dedicated to supporting young people and offering them meaningful opportunities. We also understand how challenging it can be to secure funding for bold, untested ideas.

Backing the Future offers grants of \$50,000 to **individuals** for **new ideas** that **support young people aged 12-30**.

Through these grants, this program aims to:

- Make remote, rural and regional NSW and QLD better places for young people to grow up;
- Provide innovative opportunities that enhance young people's independence, social purpose, and future security; and
- Back the ideas and enthusiasm of community members who are passionate about supporting young people.

Project Eligibility

To be eligible, a project must:

- Benefit young people aged 12-30 in remote, rural, or regional NSW or QLD;
- Be a new idea or project.

For additional information on eligibility, please refer to the Important Notes section.

Applicant Eligibility

This program supports the ideas and enthusiasm of individual community members. Therefore, **applications are only accepted from:**

- Individuals aged 18+; or
- Groups of individuals. If the project is being delivered by a group of individuals, you must nominate one primary applicant to undergo the selection process.

Successful applicants will also need to undergo a background check and provide a Working with Children Check (NSW) or Blue Card (QLD).

For additional information on applicant eligibility, please refer to the Important Notes section.

Funds Available and Priorities

Annually there is a QLD and NSW round, with up to 10 grants of \$50,000 available per state.

Applications are assessed by the VFFF Youth Advisory Group who have highlighted that the strongest applications demonstrate:

- A genuine connection to and understanding of the community they are working in;
- A commitment to elevating youth voices, either through a youth-led project or by working alongside young people; and
- Strong passion for the idea and motivation to deliver the project.

What Can be Funded

A wide range of activities can be funded including:

- Delivering activities, events, programs, and services;
- Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials;
- Community infrastructure projects;
- Community resource development;
- Wages to the individual delivering the project;
- Payments to young people for their contribution to projects; and
- Allocating up to 10% of the budget for personal capacity development.

What Can't be Funded

There are several areas that we **can't fund** through this program:

- Projects that have been in active development for more than 3 years;
- Individuals seeking support for scholarships;
- Public fundraising appeals;
- Disaster appeals;
- Political projects;
- Litigation and / or political lobby groups; and
- Applications from registered charities or organisations.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via the VFFF Grants Gateway Portal available in the VFFF [website](#).

You can download a sample copy of the application form [here](#).

Assessment Process

Eligible applications are reviewed and shortlisted by VFFF's Youth Advisory Group. Shortlisted candidates will then be interviewed by the VFFF Grants Committee (via phone or online) before final grant recipients are selected.

Contact Details

Backing the Future is delivered in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).

If you have questions or need assistance with your application, please contact the Youth Futures Team at FRRR.

Free call 1800 170 020 or email: btf@frrr.org.au.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Eligibility

Project Eligibility

- **VFFF uses the Modified Monash Model (MMM) to determine geographic eligibility for Backing the Future grants within QLD and NSW.** Eligible projects must take place in regional, rural and remote communities (MM 2-7) outside of metropolitan areas (MM 1). View [an interactive map here](#) and [overview of MMM areas here](#).

If your project falls within a major city on this map but you believe it significantly supports regional young people, please reach out before submitting to discuss.

- **Defining 'New' Ideas:** Early-stage work refers to projects that have been in active development for less than three years. In this context, "active development" means there is continuous progress, involvement, and iteration aimed at reaching milestones or achieving specific goals. We also recognise that some ideas and projects may take time to gain community support and momentum. If your project idea was initially conceived over three years ago but has not seen significant progress, please reach out to discuss eligibility.

Applicant Eligibility

- Individuals aged 18+ are eligible. There is no upper age limit, but the project must benefit young people aged 12-30.
- Applicants may reside outside of remote, rural or regional NSW and QLD, provided project delivery is in an eligible area.
- Organisations cannot apply; however, if your project idea originated within an NFP context, it must be clear that ownership of the project resides with you, not the organisation.
- It is acceptable if project delivery leads to the creation of a new entity, such as an NFP, social enterprise, or business.
- Applicants who have previously received funding through Backing the Future are ineligible to apply again.

Background Checks

Prior to receiving funds, applicants will need to complete a background check (Bankruptcy Check and National Criminal History Check). This is part of our due diligence process and not a pass / fail test. FRRR will support applicants throughout this process, including in instances where documentation may not be available or if recipients have concerns about the outcome of the background check process.

Supporting Documents

Ensure your supporting documents are quality over quantity. We suggest no more than three pages to ensure our assessors can take in the most important information about your project.

Make sure your video remains under three minutes. We can only assess the first three minutes of any video supplied.

Grant Payment Details

Successful applicants can choose to have the \$50,000 paid in one lump sum to:

- Their personal or business bank account; or
- A nominated not-for-profit organisation that agrees to receive the grant funds on behalf of the individual. The individual must retain full autonomy over the grant funds. In this instance, VFFF will require the nominated NFP to provide VFFF with additional documentation. If the NFP requires an administration fee, this should be included in the budget as no additional fee will be paid beyond the \$50,000 grant.

We encourage applicants to seek tax advice regarding their circumstances. A tax help sheet is available for reference to provide examples of how previous applicants have considered the tax implications of their individual circumstance.

What to Expect if You're Successful

Deliver and Report on Your Funded Project

You have 12 months to deliver your funded project and you must be ready to receive payment and start your project within three months of the date you are informed of the outcome of your application (dates for the grant round will be available in the [VFFF website](#)).

You must provide a short acquittal report detailing:

- Project outcomes and impact on young people;
- Key learnings and future plans; and
- A statement of income and expenditure.

Online Program Catch-Ups

To ensure the program remains responsive to the needs of regional changemakers, successful grantees are required to participate in:

- **Meet the Cohort Catch-Up:** An informal introduction to fellow grantees and exploration of potential collaborations.
- **Mid-Year Check-In:** One-on-one support to discuss project progress and explore if there are any ways for us to support you and your project.
- **Roundtable Reflections:** A casual opportunity to share your work and hear from fellow recipients about their knowledge, insights, wins and challenges. This session also provides a forum to connect and explore commonalities and opportunities for collaboration.