

South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants 2026-27

Grant Guide



Government
of South Australia

Preventive Health SA

Grant Guide

Please read this Grant Guide before applying for the South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants 2026-27 (the Grants).

About the SA Suicide Prevention Community Grants

The South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants 2026-27 support community-led action to improve wellbeing and prevent suicide across South Australia.

The Grants provide funding for evidence-informed projects that respond to local needs, build community capability, strengthen resilience and social connection, and contribute to national and state suicide prevention priorities.

The Grants are informed by evidence supporting community-led, place-based and systems-oriented approaches to suicide prevention, including principles underpinning the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan framework.

The 2026-27 Grants aim to:

- Strengthen protective factors associated with mental wellbeing and suicide prevention.
- Enable community-led and place-based responses to identified local needs.
- Prioritise populations and communities experiencing elevated suicide risk, poorer wellbeing outcomes and social disadvantage.
- Support Aboriginal leadership and self-determination in suicide prevention and wellbeing initiatives.
- Build local leadership, resilience and community capability.
- Foster partnerships and collaboration across communities, organisations and sectors.
- Support implementation of evidence-informed suicide prevention approaches.
- Generate practice-based evidence and insights to inform future policy, investment and program design.
- Contribute to a stronger, more connected and prevention-focused suicide prevention system across South Australia.

Dual-stream funding model

The 2026-27 Grants will be delivered through a dual-stream funding model that maintains a strong suicide prevention focus while supporting community-led projects that strengthen protective factors for wellbeing and address drivers of distress identified in the National Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025-35.

The model recognises that effective suicide prevention requires both targeted suicide prevention activities and broader investment in the social and community conditions that support wellbeing, resilience and connectedness.

Applicants should apply to the stream that best aligns with the primary purpose of their project.

Available funding

Stream 1: Evidence-Informed Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Five grants of up to \$20,000 (**\$100,000 total allocation**)

Supports projects aligned with one or more evidence-informed suicide prevention approaches informed by the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan framework.

Funding at this level is intended to support projects with broader reach, stronger partnerships, organisational capability building and proportionate evaluation.

Applicants are required to demonstrate alignment with one or more of the following domains:

- Improving emergency and follow-up care for people experiencing suicidal crisis.
- Guidelines, resources and initiatives that promote evidence-based treatment of suicidality.
- Engaging the community in suicide prevention initiatives.
- Improving the competency and confidence of frontline workers to deal with suicidal crisis.
- Promoting help-seeking, mental health and resilience in schools.
- Training the community to recognise and respond to suicide.
- Encouraging safe and purposeful media reporting.
- Improving safety and reducing access to means.

Project example for illustrative purposes only:

A community service organisation in a rural or remote South Australian town partners with local support services, schools, sporting clubs, and other groups to strengthen suicide prevention awareness and support.

Activities may include delivering suicide prevention training, hosting community wellbeing events, facilitating youth-led workshops, establishing local peer support networks, and developing information resources that promote available support services and referral pathways.

The applicant identifies the delivery of suicide prevention training sessions, community wellbeing events, peer support activities, and locally tailored resources as key project outputs. Expected outcomes may include increased confidence to recognise and respond to someone at risk, improved awareness of local support services and referral pathways, greater help-seeking, stronger social connections, and enhanced community capacity to support mental health and wellbeing.

Stream 2: Mental Wellbeing and Protective Factors

Ten grants of up to \$5,000 (**\$50,000 total allocation**)

Supports community-led projects that strengthen known protective factors associated with improved wellbeing and reduced suicide risk.

Projects should strengthen one or more of the following protective factors:

- Social connection and belonging.
- Community participation.
- Cultural identity and connection.
- Inclusion and safety.
- Community resilience.
- Help-seeking pathways.
- Economic and social participation.

Project example for illustrative purposes only:

A university student group partners with the local youth network to co-design and deliver practical multilingual resources that encourage help-seeking among international students.

The project is informed by consultation with international students and aims to strengthen social connection and belonging, inclusion and safety, and awareness of help-seeking pathways. Activities may include a series of peer-led workshops that connect students with existing support services and encourage community participation.

The applicant identifies the development of multilingual resources and the delivery of at least three peer-led workshops as key project outputs with broad reach. Expected outcomes include increased social connection and belonging, greater community participation, improved awareness of available support services and help-seeking pathways, increased confidence to seek help and support others, and stronger connections between international students and their local community.

Priority populations

Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate clear benefit for populations and communities experiencing elevated suicide risk, poorer wellbeing outcomes and social disadvantage, including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Men
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- People from LGBTIQ+SB communities
- South Australians from rural or remote locations
- First responders
- People with disabilities
- Veterans
- Older people
- Children and young people
- Primary production and agricultural industries
- Veterinarians
- South Australians affected by drought or algal bloom
- International university students

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles set out the standards expected for project design, delivery and evaluation. Applicants should demonstrate alignment with these principles.

Community-led

A community-led project demonstrates that community members, including those intended to benefit, have had meaningful input into identifying the need, shaping the project and informing project delivery. Community involvement may occur through consultation, co-design, partnerships, advisory groups, local leadership or other appropriate mechanisms.

Collaboration

Projects involve relevant community organisations, services, supports, networks, councils or other groups. Build local capability and strengthen partnerships to create lasting benefits beyond the funding period.

Evidence of need

Use evidence such as research, data, evaluation findings, service provider and community feedback, lived experience, cultural knowledge and local community knowledge to inform the identified need, project design, delivery and intended outcomes.

Aboriginal leadership and self-determination

Projects should support Aboriginal leadership, self-determination, and community empowerment through genuine partnerships and respectful engagement. Applicants should demonstrate how Aboriginal voices, perspectives, priorities, and cultural knowledge have informed the project's design, delivery, and evaluation, where relevant to the project and the people to benefit.

Safe communication

Communications are consistent with recognised safe communication and suicide prevention principles to reduce stigma, minimise harm, and promote help-seeking and help-offering.

Inclusive

Projects are designed to be accessible and culturally responsive to diverse needs and backgrounds.

Trauma-informed

Promote safety, choice, dignity and support. Activities must not involve sharing personal experiences of suicide in ways that may increase distress or risk. Discussions relating to suicide should be safe, purposeful and supported by appropriate wellbeing and referral pathways.

Evaluation

Use appropriate evaluation methods to measure what was delivered, who was reached, outcomes achieved, and lessons learned to inform future policy, investment and program design. Evaluation should be proportionate to the scale and complexity of the project.

Eligibility requirements

The applying organisation must meet all eligibility requirements below:

- Be a legal entity operating on a **Not-for-profit (NFP)** basis.
- Be based in South Australia.
- Hold an active Australian Business Number (ABN) and meet one of the following taxation statuses:
 - **Registered Charity:** Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).
 - **Income Tax Exempt NFP:** A non-charitable community service organisation that self-assesses as income tax exempt with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and complies with annual NFP self-review return obligations.
- Have an active bank account in the legal entity's name.
- Have public liability insurance and will provide a certificate of currency with the application.

Local councils are eligible to apply only in partnership with community organisations and must demonstrate strong community engagement and collaboration, including clearly defined roles and contributions from each partner organisation.

The following organisations are not eligible to apply:

- State government agencies and departments.
- Organisations established for political, lobbying, or commercial (for-profit) purposes.
- NFPs that fail to meet ATO annual reporting and self-review compliance requirements.
- Non-government institutions that have declined, or failed, to agree to participate in the National Redress Scheme.

Eligible costs

Grant funding can be used for **reasonable** and **necessary** costs directly related to delivering the project.

Eligible costs may include:

- Project-specific administration.
- Delivery of community activities and workshops, including equipment, materials, catering, venue hire, and facilitator or presenter fees.
- Advertising, promotion, and evaluation.
- Accessibility, inclusion and cultural participation support, including interpreters, transport assistance and other reasonable costs that enable participation and access.
- Delivery costs associated with evidence-informed mental wellbeing and suicide prevention training. Where training is included, applicants should use an established training programs with an appropriate evidence base, accreditation, or recognised quality assurance. Training should be appropriate for the community, target population, and intended purpose of the initiative.
- Other reasonable costs that are directly related to project delivery.

Ineligible costs

Funding cannot be used for:

- Activities that form part of an organisation's business-as-usual operations or existing funded programs.
- Projects that have already commenced or are funded through another funding source.
- Ongoing operational expenses and maintenance costs.
- Retrospective costs incurred before the date of funding approval.
- Duplication of existing services, programs or supports (projects should complement existing services, programs or supports).
- Consultant fees for grant writing, project management or organisational development.
- Clinical treatment, counselling or individual case management services.
- Participation by individuals in activities or events outside of South Australia (interstate or international locations).
- Fundraising activities, donations, sponsorships or conference attendance.
- Projects undertaken for financial gain or profit.
- Capital works or major infrastructure.
- Grant funds must not be used to purchase alcohol or support activities that promote the use or consumption of alcohol.

Preventive Health SA must be notified immediately if a project is approved for funding through an alternative funding source.

Key dates

Milestone	Date
Applications open	10 September 2026
Applications close	23 October 2026, 5 pm
Applicants notified	16 November 2026
Projects commence	December 2026
Projects completed	31 December 2027

How to apply

Applicants can access the application form for each stream via the links below.

Stream 1: Evidence-Informed Suicide Prevention Initiatives, apply here:

<https://preventivehealthsa.smartygrants.com.au/SASPCG2026-27-Stream1>

Stream 2: Mental Wellbeing and Protective Factors, apply here:

<https://preventivehealthsa.smartygrants.com.au/SASPCG2026-27-Stream2>

Eligible organisations may submit a maximum of one application per funding stream but applications must be distinct.

Applicants should contact Preventive Health SA well in advance if they require clarification or support in submitting their application.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Assessment process

Applications must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered for assessment.

Eligible applications will be assessed competitively by a Grant Assessment Panel in a fair, transparent and consistent manner against the assessment criteria and objectives of the relevant funding stream.

Funding recommendations will be based on the overall merit of each application, taking into account priority populations, geographical reach, equity considerations, emerging needs, and available funding.

The Grant Assessment Panel may recommend full, partial, or no funding for eligible applications.

As funding is limited, not all applications that meet the assessment criteria will receive funding.

All Grant Assessment Panel members and decision-makers will declare and manage actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest in accordance with Preventive Health SA governance requirements.

Assessment criteria

Why is the project needed? → What will the project achieve? → Who will contribute to delivery? → How will the project be delivered? → Can the organisation successfully deliver the project?

The Grant Assessment Panel will assess applications against the five criteria below.

Further details are provided in Appendix 1.

- Community need, leadership and who will benefit
- Project design, outcomes and value for money
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Safe, inclusive and culturally responsive delivery
- Organisation capability and governance

Notification of application outcomes

All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the South Australian Government. The Grant Agreement will outline the funding requirements, reporting obligations and other conditions of funding.

Evaluation and reporting requirements will be proportionate to the funding stream. Preventive Health SA will provide a Final Report and Financial Acquittal Template with the Grant Agreement.

Approved grant funding will be provided as a single payment.

These Grants provide one-off funding for the 2026-27 financial year. Organisations should not have an expectation of ongoing funding from Preventive Health SA.

All funded projects must be completed, grant funds expended, and final reports and financial acquittals submitted by 31 December 2027.

Funding acknowledgement

As a condition of funding, successful applicants must acknowledge Preventive Health SA's support and provide any promotional, media or social media materials relating to the funded project to Preventive Health SA for review prior to public release. Successful applicants will be provided with a Communications Pack and guidance.

Publicity and information sharing

It is a condition of Grant funding that Preventive Health SA will publish a list of successful recipients. In addition, Preventive Health SA may promote or publicly refer to any funded project through the South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants.

Information about projects funded through previous rounds of the South Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants is available on the Preventive Health SA website.

Further information for applicants

Preventive Health SA

<https://www.preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/our-agency/mental-health-wellbeing/suicide-prevention>

Mental Health Services and Support

If you or someone you know needs immediate help, support or advice:

<https://www.chiefpsychiatrist.sa.gov.au/emergency-contacts>

LifeSpan Framework

Information about the Black Dog Institute's LifeSpan framework for suicide prevention:

<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/research-centres/lifespan-trials/>

South Australian Suicide Prevention Networks

Locations and contact details for local Suicide Prevention Networks:

<https://www.preventivehealth.sa.gov.au/suicideprevention/suicide-prevention-networks/find-a-suicide-prevention-networks>

Accredited Suicide Prevention and Mental Wellbeing Training

Directory of accredited suicide prevention and mental wellbeing training programs:

<https://www.suicidepreventionaust.org/directory-of-programs/>

Safe Communication Resources

Guidance and resources to support safe and responsible communication about suicide:

<https://lifeinmind.org.au/the-charter/tools-and-resources>

<https://mindframe.org.au/guidelines>

<https://mindframe.org.au/our-words-matter-guidelines-for-language-use>

Contact us

Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Team, Population Health

PreventiveHealthSA.suicideprevention@sa.gov.au

Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria and Questions

Stream 1: Evidence-Informed Suicide Prevention Initiatives	Score
1. Community need, leadership and who will benefit	/20
Tell us about the need for this project and the community it will benefit. • What need or issue in your community will this project address? • What tells you this project is needed? Your evidence might include local or other data, research, lived experience, cultural knowledge, community knowledge, feedback from community members or services, or learning from previous activities. • Who will benefit from the project? Tell us about the people or communities you aim to reach, including any priority population(s), and why the project is particularly relevant to them. • How have community members, including people with relevant lived experience and/or cultural knowledge where appropriate, helped identify the need and shape the project? • How will the people or communities the project is intended to benefit continue to be involved in its design, decisions, delivery and/or evaluation? <i>Applicants are not expected to disclose personal experiences of suicide. We are interested in how relevant lived experience, community knowledge and cultural knowledge have informed the project.</i>	
2. Project design, outcomes and value for money	/30
Tell us what you plan to do, why you think it will work and what difference you expect it to make. • What activities will you deliver, and approximately how many people do you expect to reach? • What will the project produce or deliver? For example, this might include people trained, activities or events delivered, resources developed, people connected with support, or other relevant outputs. • Why do you think this approach is appropriate and likely to work for the community you aim to benefit? Tell us about the evidence or knowledge that supports your approach. This might include research or evaluation findings, evidence from similar initiatives, lived experience, cultural knowledge, community knowledge or previous local experience. • Which evidence-informed suicide prevention approach(es) below is your project most closely connected to? Select all that apply: ○ Improving emergency and follow-up care for people experiencing suicidal crisis. ○ Guidelines, resources and initiatives that promote evidence-based treatment of suicidality. ○ Engaging the community in suicide prevention initiatives. ○ Improving the competency and confidence of frontline workers to deal with suicidal crisis. ○ Promoting help-seeking, mental health and resilience in schools. ○ Training the community to recognise and respond to suicide. ○ Encouraging safe and purposeful media reporting. ○ Improving safety and reducing access to means. • Briefly explain how your project will contribute to the suicide prevention approach(es) you selected. • What difference do you expect the project to make for participants or the community? Describe the changes you hope to see as a result of the project. • How will you know whether these changes have occurred? Tell us what information you will collect or use to understand whether the project made a difference. This could include participant feedback, surveys, stories of	

change, changes in knowledge or confidence, participation information, referrals or connections, or other measures appropriate to your project. • How could the project create benefits, capability or learning that continue beyond the funding period? • Provide a project budget showing how grant funding will be used, including any cash or in-kind contributions.	
3. Partnerships and collaboration	/15
Tell us who you will work with and how the project fits with what is already happening. • Who will you work with to plan or deliver the project, and what will each partner contribute? • How have relevant community organisations, services, networks or other local supports been involved in developing the project? • How will your project build on, connect with or complement existing services, programs, community strengths and supports rather than unnecessarily duplicate them? • If the project responds to a gap in existing supports, what tells you that this gap exists? <i>Formal partnerships are not required in every case. We are interested in whether the partnerships and connections proposed are appropriate to the project and community.</i>	
4. Safe, inclusive and culturally responsive delivery	/15
Tell us how you will make the project safe, welcoming and accessible for the people and communities involved. • Give practical examples of how you will make the project: ○ trauma-informed; ○ inclusive and accessible; and ○ culturally safe and responsive to the community or communities involved. • Where Aboriginal people and communities are intended to benefit, how will Aboriginal leadership, self-determination, cultural knowledge and appropriate community involvement inform the project? • What wellbeing supports and referral pathways will be available if participants or others require additional support? • How will you ensure that project activities and communications about suicide are safe, purposeful, minimise potential harm and encourage help-seeking and help-offering? <i>Your response should be relevant and proportionate to your project. We are interested in what these principles will look like in practice.</i>	
5. Organisation capability and governance	/20
Tell us why your organisation and project team are well placed to deliver this project. • What relevant experience, skills, community relationships, lived experience expertise and/or cultural knowledge do your organisation, staff and volunteers bring to the project? • Why is your organisation well placed and trusted to work with the people or communities the project aims to benefit?	

• Who will be responsible for the project, and what governance or oversight arrangements will support its safe and effective delivery? • How will you monitor progress, manage any significant risks or challenges, and make changes if the project is not working as expected?	
Total	/100

Stream 2: Mental Wellbeing and Protective Factors	Score
1. Community need, leadership and who will benefit	/30
Tell us about your community, the need you have identified and how the idea for this project developed. • What need or issue in your community will this project address? • What tells you this project is needed? This might include what community members have told you, lived experience, cultural knowledge, local knowledge, feedback from services or organisations, local or other data, research, or experience from previous community activities. • Who will benefit from the project? Tell us about the people or community you hope to reach, including any priority population(s), and where the project will take place. • How have people from the community helped identify the need and develop the project idea? • How will community members, including people with relevant lived experience and/or cultural knowledge where appropriate, continue to have a say in how the project is delivered? <i>Applicants are not expected to disclose personal experiences of suicide. Community knowledge, cultural knowledge and lived experience are recognised as valuable forms of evidence.</i>	
2. Project design, outcomes and value for money	/25
Tell us what you want to do and what difference you think it will make. • What activities will you deliver? • Approximately how many people do you expect to involve or reach? • What will the project produce or deliver? For example, this could include community activities, events, resources, volunteers involved, people trained or supported, or new community connections or partnerships. • Which protective factor(s) will your project strengthen? Select all that apply: ○ Social connection and belonging. ○ Community participation. ○ Cultural identity and connection. ○ Inclusion and safety. ○ Community resilience. ○ Help-seeking pathways. ○ Economic and social participation. • Briefly tell us how the activities you propose will strengthen the protective factor(s) you selected. • What difference do you hope people or the community will experience because of the project? • How will you know whether the project made that difference? This does not need to be complicated. You might use participant feedback, short surveys, conversations, stories of change, attendance or participation information, observations, or another method appropriate to your project.	

• How could the project create benefits, connections or community capability that continue after the grant funding finishes? • Provide a simple project budget showing how the grant funding will be used, including any cash or in-kind contributions.	
3. Partnerships and collaboration	/15
Tell us who you will work with and how your project connects with your community. • Who will help you plan or deliver the project, and what will they contribute? • What connections do you have with relevant community groups, organisations, services, networks or other local supports? • How will your project build on or complement what is already available in the community rather than unnecessarily duplicate it? <i>Partnerships do not need to be formal. For a small community project, strong local relationships and practical collaboration may be just as important.</i>	
4. Safe, inclusive and culturally responsive delivery	/15
Tell us how you will make your project safe, welcoming and accessible for the people taking part. • Give practical examples of how you will consider: ○ safety and wellbeing; ○ inclusion and accessibility; ○ trauma-informed practice; and ○ cultural safety and responsiveness. • Where Aboriginal people and communities are intended to benefit, how will Aboriginal leadership, community knowledge, culture and self-determination be respected and supported? • What will you do if someone taking part needs additional wellbeing or other support? • If your project talks or communicates about suicide, how will you make sure this is done safely and in ways that promote help-seeking and help-offering? <i>We are looking for practical responses appropriate to the size and nature of your project rather than complex policies or procedures.</i>	
5. Organisation capability and governance	/15
Tell us why you are well placed to make this project happen. • What experience, skills, community relationships, lived experience expertise and/or cultural knowledge will help you deliver the project? • Why are you well placed to work with the people or community the project aims to benefit? • Who will be responsible for organising and overseeing the project? • How will you keep track of the project, the funding and whether activities are being delivered as planned?	
Total	/100