

# DREAM IT FORWARD

## Guidelines 2023

CBPATSISP Endorsed:  
*Best Practice Indigenous Governance-  
Commissioning and Partnering*

**A Community-led Social and Emotional Wellbeing Small Grants Program for  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Western Australia**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023**



## Overview

The Dream it Forward program (DIF) is a ConnectGroups small grants program focused on strengthening, sustaining, or adding value to grassroots, community-led projects that:

- Positively impact the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities in Western Australia.
- Strengthen cultural identity and apply culturally-informed ways of healing to improve social and emotional wellbeing.
- Reduce risk factors and operate a range of activities to increase community protection against psychological distress.

## Key Elements

- Embed cultural understanding into the design and delivery of activities that enhance quality of life, and holistically promote wellbeing.
- Connection to country, culture, spirituality, family, and community.
- Projects must be based on needs identified by the community for the community and must be informed by evidence of what works for Aboriginal people.
- Projects should demonstrate clear objectives and outcomes.

## Funding Criteria

Funding is open to community groups or leaders, Elders, ACCOs (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations) or any community member with a healing-focused initiative meeting the intent of the program and provides a culturally responsive approach.

Grants will be awarded to applicants whose projects aim to achieve some of the following outcomes:

- Focus on hope and healing
- Strengthen cultural identity
- Prevention of psychological distress
- Address intergenerational trauma and grief
- Connection to country
- Involvement of Elders
- Strengths-focused
- Increased social connectedness, belonging and purpose
- Strengthen individual, family, kinship and community wellbeing
- Create a positive environment that improves people's awareness and access to services and natural supports
- Increase awareness about the project/service to the community and to other organisations
- Project sustainability beyond the life of the grant

## Funding Amount

Applications up to \$7,000.00 for projects. Suggestions include but are not limited to:

- Delivering on-country camps/trips, healing workshops, therapeutic art therapy, cultural transmission;
- Opportunities that connect people to culture, country and community, and strengthens cultural identity;
- Men's Groups or Women's Groups;
- Identifying an opportunity to engage with at-risk groups;
- Partnering between community and ACCOs to have wider impact;

Project budgets must be detailed, specific and transparent, and accompanied by quotes where possible.



## General Eligibility Criteria

- Programs and services must take place in Western Australia and directly benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities in Western Australia.
- Applicants must not be in receipt of funding and/or under a Service Agreement from the WA Mental Health Commission.
- **NOTE: there is no direct exchange of funds** between ConnectGroups and grant recipients. ConnectGroups will be responsible for all payments to vendors, service providers, Elders, Traditional Owners, consultants, guest speakers, and will facilitate that process to allow grant holders to focus on the outcomes of their project. ConnectGroups will acquit the grant to the Mental Health Commission directly.

## How to Apply

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023**

Complete the Grant Application form either online or in Word and submit to:

**EMAIL** [karen@connectgroups.org.au](mailto:karen@connectgroups.org.au)

OR

**POST** **ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA**  
Dream It Forward Program  
PO Box 1209  
Booragoon, WA 6954



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### 1. Who Can Apply?

Community groups or leaders, Elders, ACCOs (Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations) or any other community member with a healing-focused initiative that meets the intent of the program and provides a culturally responsive approach.

### 2. Who can I talk to about my application?

Dream it Forward is a partnership between ConnectGroups and community. Please contact the ConnectGroups project team below to:

- Discuss ideas
- Answer all your questions about the application process
- Provide advice and support
- Provide support and assistance to complete an application form if needed.

**Christine Hendricks**

[christine@connectgroups.org.au](mailto:christine@connectgroups.org.au)

or

**Karen Silverthorne**

[karen@connectgroups.org.au](mailto:karen@connectgroups.org.au)

Phone: 08 9364 6909

### 3. How many applications can I submit?

As priority is given to distributing the available funds as widely as possible, there is a limit of one submission per applicant.

### 4. Does the program support payments to Elders and Traditional Owners?

Yes, Elders and Traditional Owners can be compensated for providing cultural knowledge and support to a project. They will be supported to complete the required ATO Statement by a Supplier form where needed.





**5. Does the program support payments for the applicant?**

No, applicants cannot financially benefit from the proposed project. There cannot be a financial benefit to staff or Board members of an applicant organisation either.

**6. What can the program pay for?**

Examples but not limited to: costs for on-country camps or day trips (food, fuel, camping/fishing equipment), therapeutic art therapists and art supplies, facilitation or delivery of cultural workshops, travel costs where needed to deliver the project, food or venue hire costs for yarning circles or men's and women's groups.

[Click to see stories of past Dream it Forward projects.](#)

**7. Can I submit a joint application with another group?**

Yes, ConnectGroups encourages collaboration, however one group needs to be identified as the point of contact for communication.

**8. How does the assessment work?**

All applications are considered by an Assessment Panel made up of representatives from:

ConnectGroups Support Groups Association WA  
Mental Health Commission of WA  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community representative

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within approximately 4 weeks of the closing date.

**9. If I am successful, then what?**

Congratulations! You will have approximately one year to complete your project. Dream it Forward is a partnership between ConnectGroups and community, and we are here to support you to ensure your project is as successful as possible. We will stay connected with you throughout the process to assist where needed.

**10. Will I have to do a grant acquittal?**

No, **there is no direct exchange of funds** between ConnectGroups and grant recipients. ConnectGroups will be responsible for all payments to vendors, service providers, Elders, Traditional Owners, consultants, guest speakers or other providers, and will facilitate that process to allow successful applicants to focus on the positive outcomes of their project. ConnectGroups will acquit the grant to the Mental Health Commission directly.

