

Media release

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Bank Australia celebrates 10 years of community customer grants providing more than \$2.5 million in funding to support people and the planet

This year marks a significant milestone for Bank Australia's community customer grants program, celebrating 10 years of supporting community organisations creating positive change for people and the planet. Since launching in 2016, Bank Australia has committed more than \$2.5 million to support 174 projects across Australia.

The community customer grants program provides funding for projects and initiatives led by organisations that bank with us and are creating positive impact in areas that matter most to our customers. The funding helps deliver important services and initiatives across Bank Australia's 12 impact areas, including First Nations Recognition and Respect, nature and biodiversity, gender equality, and universal access to education. This is also the first year welcoming Qudos Bank community customers to apply for grants and participate in the customer selection committee.

"We share a belief with our customers that money can be used to create a world where people and the planet thrive," said Bank Australia Head of Impact Jane Kern.

"That's why, as a customer-owned bank, we ask our customers to tell us which issues they want to see us act on and invite them to be part of the grant selection process each year."

In 2026, the program is supporting 14 organisations across Australia, with \$300,000 awarded in grants. The maximum grant amount increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000 this year, enabling recipients to create an even greater positive impact in their communities.

Recipients include:

- [The Footpath Library](#), providing age-appropriate books, activities and reading bears to children living in crisis accommodation across Greater Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter region.
- [Djakamirr Co-op Ltd](#), supporting the premiere of [MAYPILAMA: Yolŋu Voices on the Big Screen](#) by enabling Yolŋu leaders from Galiwin'ku attend the Darwin launch and Melbourne premiere of the feature documentary MAYPILAMA, giving audiences and media the opportunity to hear directly from the people behind the story.

- [Meals with Impact](#), delivering a 10-week program for 25 women from refugee backgrounds, providing training and employment skills that support economic independence.

“This Bank Australia grant will enable The Footpath Library to distribute 180 literacy kits to children living in crisis accommodation across Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter NSW,” said Sarah Garnett, Founder and Managing Director of The Footpath Library.

“The resulting trauma of homelessness and school disruptions can see children fall up to three years behind in reading by the age of 15. These calico bags containing age appropriate books, colouring books, colouring pencils, flash cards, a hand knitted reading teddy and personalised message will bring comfort and entertainment to children in need,” continues Sarah.

“We are very grateful to Bank Australia for its support and generosity.”

Rosemary Gundjarranbuy, spokesperson for the Djäkamirr Co-op said, “We are incredibly grateful to Bank Australia for recognising the importance of ensuring First Nations people are present to tell their own stories,”

“*MAYPILAMA* is more than a documentary, it is the voices and experiences of Yolŋu women restoring cultural authority in maternal care and sharing knowledge that has sustained our families for generations,” continues Rosemary.

“This grant removes one of the greatest barriers faced by remote communities – distance – and ensures that when Australia hears this story at the cinema, it hears it directly from the Yolŋu women who are living it,” Rosemary said.

Jane Kern, Head of Impact Management at Bank Australia said, “we were once again impressed by the number of outstanding applications we received this year from both Bank Australia and Qudos Bank community customers,”

“As we celebrate 10 years of the program, we're proud to have delivered 10 rounds of funding to help create positive change on behalf of our customers. We look forward to continuing to grow the community customer grants program and supporting more organisations in the future.”

Each year, Bank Australia allocates a portion of its impact fund to support the program. The impact fund commits up to 4% of annual after-tax profit to partnerships and initiatives that create positive outcomes for people and the planet, including projects such as Bank Australia's 2,117-hectare conservation reserve in western Victoria.

To find out more about this year's recipients visit: www.bankaustralia.com.au/support/2026-community-customer-grant-recipients

About Bank Australia

Bank Australia Ltd believes banking can be a force for good and together we can have a positive impact on our customers, communities and the planet. Following its merger with Qudos Mutual Ltd on 1 July 2025, Bank Australia Ltd continues to operate the Bank Australia and Qudos Bank retail brands. We are 100% customer owned and aim to build on our position as Australia's leading purpose-driven bank. We support almost 330,000 customers and we're custodians of more than \$20 billion in assets.

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