



THE COUNTRY ARTS SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP)

OVERVIEW

CASP (Country Arts Support Program) is an annual small grants program and is guided by the Arts and Cultural Funding Program's (ACFP) three major objectives:

- Grow creative leadership and programming excellence in NSW
- Strengthen NSW arts and cultural activity that drives community and social benefits
- Showcase NSW as a leader for strategic arts and cultural governance and strong financial management

CASP is not a recurrent fund.

The funds are delivered in partnership with the 15 Regional Arts Development Organisations.

CASP OBJECTIVES

The aim of the Country Arts Support Program is to support community arts and cultural development in regional NSW through small grants that:

- Assist locally determined community arts and cultural activities
- Increase opportunities for regionally based groups to access a diverse range of arts programs
- Enable communities to explore and express their cultural identities
- Bring social and economic benefits to the community through training, employment and promotional opportunities
- Lead to greater awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity
- Increase the sustainability and resilience of regionally based community arts organisations

KEY DATES

- Applications Open: **9.00am 14 July 2025**
- Applications Close: **5.00pm 25 August 2025**
- Successful Applicants Notified: **3 September 2025**
- Projects are to take place between: **1 October 2025 - 1 July 2026**

ELIGIBILITY – WHO CAN APPLY?

- A not-for-profit incorporated body
- A local government authority
- A collective with a nominated administering body (see FAQs below)
- Applicants are required to have a current certificate of currency for Broadform Liability or 'Public Liability' Insurance
- Applicants who have discussed their project with the relevant regional arts development organisation via phone 0493 316 463 or email rado@artsnw.com.au
- The eligible local government areas include:
 - Armidale Regional
 - Glen Innes Severn
 - Gunnedah Shire
 - Gwydir Shire
 - Liverpool Plains Shire
 - Moree Plains Shire
 - Narrabri Shire
 - Tamworth Regional
 - Tenterfield Shire
 - Uralla Shire
 - Walcha Council

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- Individuals
- Groups and organisations based in Sydney and the Blue Mountains, or for projects based in those areas or outside of the Arts North West service area.
- Interstate organisations
- Professional touring groups
- Commercial enterprises
- Groups/ensembles and unincorporated associations with no administering body
- Regional Conservatoriums
- Those who have already received CASP Funding
- Organisations that have applied for or received Create NSW funding for the same activity
- Previous recipients where the use of the grant did not, in the opinion of the CASP state assessment panel, conform to the spirit and intentions of these guidelines
- State and federal government departments, including schools (except P&Cs who are incorporated)
- Organisations that have overdue reports or acquittals for any funding programs administered by RANSW and/or Create NSW
- Applicants who have not discussed their project with the relevant regional arts development organisation.

FUNDING RANGE

Grants of up to \$3,000 are available primarily for professional artists' fees, travel and accommodation.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Projects including but not limited to:

- Workshops
- Arts activities as part of community festivals or events
- Artist-in-residence programs
- Public art and design projects
- Performances
- Arts and cultural directories
- Community seminars and forums
- Exhibitions
- Other local arts initiatives

CASP WILL NOT FUND:

- Core administrative costs, office costs or the purchase of equipment
- Capital expenses
- Competitions
- Fundraising events
- Prizes and adjudication fees
- Applicants who have already received Create NSW funding for the same activities
- General operating expenses or ongoing costs of long-term continuous projects
- Projects that have commenced or are completed Sporting activities
- Activities which could be considered part of the curriculum for schools or tertiary institutions
- Rent, prize money or gifts

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Artistic and cultural merit (Merit)
- Relevance, extent and depth of community engagement and participation (Impact)
- Evidence of adequate planning, budgeting and capacity to manage the project (Viability)

Priority is given to projects which address these criteria with consideration given to each region's arts and cultural resources and requirements.

PROCESS

You must contact your relevant Regional Arts Development Organisation to discuss your application before it is submitted. Applications from organisations based in eligible local government areas that do not contribute to a Regional Arts Development Organisation can contact Create NSW.

To apply to the 2025 CASP funding round you need to complete and submit an application form through our secure online grants system, SmartyGrants. You will be required to create a SmartyGrants account before you can proceed with your application. You should save your application form regularly and allow plenty of time to review your application before submission.

All applications must be submitted via the Country Arts Support Program (CASP) 2023 Application in SmartyGrants by **5.00pm 25 August 2025**. Applications will not be accepted after that time.

Once your application is received and has been deemed eligible, it will be assessed, rated and prioritised by the CASP Regional Assessment Panel in your region. Applications from organisations based in non-contributing local government areas will be assessed by a separate assessment panel.

Create NSW staff will make final recommendations with reference to the assessment criteria, artform, demographics and the distribution, range and scale of recommended applicants.

This may include prioritising applicants living and/or working in regional NSW, people living and/or working in Western Sydney, Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds, people with disabilities and young people. Prioritisation of recommended applicants ensures equity across the state and the best outcomes for NSW Government investment.

Final recommendations are submitted for the consideration of the Minister for the Arts.

CHECKLIST

- All support material must be relevant to your project and submitted with your application.
- If your project involves working with children and young people participants must supply their current Working with Children Check Number (WWCC).
- Applicants should consider access for People with Disability in their information and events.
- Applications with creative content and/or stated intended outcomes relating to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists, communities or their activities must provide letters of support from relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artists and/or communities. Please follow this link to view Create NSW's Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Protocols: <https://www.create.nsw.gov.au/news-and-publications/publications/arts-nsw-aboriginal-arts-and-cultural-protocols/>
- Applications must have a current certificate of currency for Broadform Liability or 'Public Liability' Insurance.
- Except for local government, all applicants are required to provide a current financial report for your organisation (and your administering body, if applicable) with your application.

NSW POLICY DIRECTIONS, OBJECTIVES & PRIORITY AREAS

The Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP) delivers on the Premier's commitment to enhance the quality of life of the people of NSW. The strategic direction of the Program aligns with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's focus on Community Engagement and Service Delivery underpinned by high standards of service and advice to Government and priority of Excellence in Arts, Culture and Heritage.

A key priority for the Arts and Cultural Funding Program is to invest in NSW Aboriginal arts and cultural practice and to deliver this through Aboriginal self-determination and leadership.

The ACFP supports excellence in arts and culture by funding creative development and presentation, investing in artists and arts and cultural workers and supporting cultural visitation and participation. The Program supports the telling of stories that reflect NSW's diverse history and contemporary life. This approach supports NSW as a world class centre for the arts and for culture.

NSW ARTS AND CULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK: CREATE IN NSW

Create NSW has a ten-year policy framework for the arts, cultural and screen sectors 'Creative Communities': <https://www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/engage-nsw-arts-and-culture/resource-hub/creative-communities>

This framework guides arts funding, future investment, and the development of strategic initiatives to achieve the Government's vision for the arts, including increased cultural participation.

The Arts and Cultural Funding Program (ACFP) is a key mechanism for Create NSW in achieving these targets.

ACFP PRIORITY AREAS

Growing the quality and quantity of activities in Priority Areas is a key focus of the ACFP.

Programs and projects that support high quality activity, engagement and participation with these Priority Areas are of particular importance:

The Country Arts Support Program supports the following ACFP priority areas:

- People living and/or working in regional NSW
- Aboriginal people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds
- People with disability
- Young people

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an administering body?

If your group is not incorporated, you can still apply for a grant if you have an administering body. An administering body is a legally constituted organisation that will take legal and financial responsibility for a grant if awarded. A signed letter from the administering body will be required. If a grant is awarded, the administering body must also sign the Conditions for Payment of Grant form and is responsible for reporting on the grant within three months of the project's completion. All correspondence and monies will be directed to the administering body.

It is recommended that grant applicants enter into a written agreement with their nominated administering body highlighting respective rights and responsibilities.

What is a Regional Arts Development Organisation?

Formerly known as a Regional Arts Board (RAB), it is an organisation servicing several local government areas to provide support and services to local artists and arts organisations.

For more information and contact details visit the Regional Arts NSW website.

regionalartsnsw.com.au/networks

What is a non-contributing council?

A council that does not contribute financially to the local Regional Arts Development Organisation, or a council that is outside a RADO (Regional Arts Development Organisations) area. Applicants can still apply to CASP by selecting non-contributing council on the application form.

What is regional?

Regional NSW, for the purposes of the ACFP, includes the Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra, and is defined as the areas or regions outside of **Sydney and Western Sydney**.