



GUIDELINES: 2026 NSW National Science Week grant funding

The NSW Executive Committee for National Science Week and Inspiring Australia seeks applications from NSW event providers to deliver innovative community events and activities for National Science Week from 15 – 23 August 2026.

The purpose of this funding is to connect community members with science and technology, including in regional communities, and to enable community presenters to develop interactive science events and activities for the general public.

Where possible, we encourage applicants to collaborate with local event providers that have well established audiences e.g. libraries, regional museums and galleries, or community organisations.

Projects can start before National Science Week, but the major project component of the project must be delivered during National Science Week 15 to 23 August 2026.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

Applicants that meet the selection criteria can apply for funds of \$500 to \$5,000 to support the delivery of 2026 National Science Week activities.

SELECTION CRITERIA

National Science Week in person, online and hybrid events and activities must meet at least two of the following criteria:

- Inspire young people to pursue an interest or aptitude in science.
- Encourage local community participation and ongoing engagement in science.
- Provide diversity and inclusion in programming and audience reach.
- Celebrate Australian scientific achievement past and present.
- Provide opportunities for scientists and researchers to present to the public.
- Build digital literacy in Australian communities.
- Expand existing STEM networks and partnership opportunities.

Funding allocations will be decided on merit and the applicant's ability to meet the selection criteria.

PROJECT LOCATION

Please use this [interactive map](#) to determine your project location remoteness area classification.

- Major Cities
- Inner Regional
- Outer Regional
- Remote
- Very Remote



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ELIGIBILITY

This funding is **NOT** for incursions, excursions or developing teaching resources and curriculum materials or any projects targeting school students. Schools can apply for National Science Week grants. [See Australia Science Teachers Association for grants to Schools for National Science Week.](#)

Applicants may include but are not limited to:

- Scientists and freelance producers working with community groups
- Local government (e.g., Councils, libraries, youth, and family services)
- Business associations and chambers of commerce
- Specialist interest groups, local clubs, and societies (e.g., Astronomy Clubs, Landcare, Friends of Botanical Gardens)
- Arts, community and environmental organisations
- Research institutions and networks, and life-long learning education providers (not schools)
- Citizen Science projects working with any of the above.

Initiatives that are collaborative, involve multiple partners and attract other sources of funding towards proposed activity will be highly regarded.

AUDIENCE and PARTNERS

Diversity and Inclusion

We recommend all applicants review the recently published [Pathway to Diversity in STEM Review final recommendations report](#) including the section *Changing perceptions and valuing diverse Knowledge, Recommendations 10 and 11*, for working with First Nations communities and to increase the national profile of diversity in all areas of STEM.

Under-represented groups in STEM

We are especially interested in receiving proposals that show evidence of community building and collaboration to boost engagement with STEM, and we welcome innovative ideas for engaging community members that may not ordinarily engage with science and technology. Groups historically under-represented in STEM include but are not limited to:

- First Nations people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
- women and girls
- people living in regional and remote areas
- people with disability
- people from low socio-economic backgrounds
- neurodivergent people
- LGBTQIA+ people
- people who face age-based discrimination.



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Libraries

We encourage libraries to program during National Science Week by either adapting their existing technology programs or offering new initiatives. Please see the extensive National Science Week resources on [holding an event](#), and for more ideas, the [Science Week Library activities ideas booklet](#).

Inspiring Australia NSW will also have a grant round for NSW Libraries. Grants of up to \$1000 will open on 9 March 2026. [NSW Public Library National Science Week grants](#).

Inspiring Australia NSW is partnering with [Children's Discovery](#) to run a competition to find the best science themed display across NSW public libraries. Libraries can enter the [NSW Libraries Science Display Contest](#) for a chance to win a \$500 Children's Discovery pack for your library.

Digital

We encourage activities and events that promote an understanding of developments in technology and digital platforms. Preference will be given to digital platforms that use locally produced STEM content. Please review the [Directory of STEM digital resources](#).

CHILD SAFETY

All applicants who could potentially work with children during their activity/event must demonstrate they are a child safe organisation. We recommend the Australian Human Rights Commission resources to help implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#). The NSW [Office of the Children's Guardian](#) also has resources.

EXPENDITURE

Grants can be used for:

- External venue, equipment hire, AV and production costs
- Consumable materials used during the activity
- Presenter/speaker/artist fees
- Participating scientists' travel, accommodation, and expenses
- Project management fees
- Communications, including social media campaigns and publicity

Grants funds cannot be used for:

- General administration of an organisation or company, including salaries
- Equipment, infrastructure and support costs associated with other ongoing activities
- Internal charges such as venue hire
- Incursions, excursions, or competitions for school students
- Teaching resources and curriculum development materials
- Activities of a solely commercial nature



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- Research projects, including surveys
- Conferences, symposium, or meetings
- Large-scale functions, hospitality or catering
- Show/sample bags with disposable and single use products like plastics

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND REPORTING

All successful grants applicants are required to keep the Inspiring NSW office up to date with their event planning and progress. Inspiring Australia NSW is to be acknowledge on promotional material. The project report is due by Monday 14 September 2026, with documentation of the grant activity and key data on audiences and impact.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2025

Payment of the grant will be made upon receipt of a valid tax invoice, and after event details are submitted to the National Science Week event calendar.

DISCLAIMER

The availability of grant funds will be contingent on funding from Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Research in 2026.

Questions and requests for further information can be directed to:

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