

2026 Year-Round Science Grants Guidelines and application form

2026 Year-Round Science Grants Guidelines

The 2026 Year-Round Science Grants program aims to further develop the network of [NSW Regional Science Hubs](#), enduring local partnerships that bring together multidisciplinary teams to develop and deliver high-profile science events in regional NSW for community members.

The program is funded by the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Resources, managed by Inspiring Australia NSW (Inspiring NSW).

Inspiring NSW welcomes applications from regional organisations operating as Science Hubs for funds of up to \$8,000 to facilitate the delivery of year-round science public engagement programs.

Applicants must present at least four public events or programs that promote science and technology to community members over a 9-month period June 2026 to February 2027. Events should ideally be presented live, though online and hybrid options are possible. The program can include an event for National Science Week 15 to 23 August if it is a new initiative. All activities must be complete by 28 February 2027 with final reports submitted by 13 March 2027.

Eligibility

Year-round grants are available to initiatives that bring together at least **three** of the following types of individuals and organisations to create a NSW Regional Science Hub:

- Local scientists
- Arts, heritage and community organisations
- Local government (e.g. councils, libraries, National Parks and Wildlife services, Local Land Services, youth and family services)
- Business associations and chambers of commerce
- STEM Clubs such as robotics clubs, astronomy clubs or coding clubs
- Citizen science programs
- Landcare networks or environmental groups
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs)
- Schools, universities and TAFE colleges

One of the partners must be an incorporated association with public liability insurance.

Initiatives that are collaborative, involve multiple partnerships and can show evidence of other sources of funding towards program of activity will be highly regarded. A one-off event/activity from groups with no intention of continuing to work together in the longer term will not be considered.

Selection criteria:

Year-round events and activities run by NSW Regional Science Hubs should have enduring benefits. Proposed events 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.

Funding amounts

Applicants that meet the selection criteria can apply for funds of \$5,000 to \$8,000 to support the delivery of at least **four public science engagement activities** in their community throughout the funding period.

Funding can be used for:

- Payment of sole contractors, performers and presenters
- Travel expenses
- Production and marketing expenses
- Documentation e.g. video production and photography

Funding cannot be used for:

- Salaries and wages of staff
- Administration overheads
- Hospitality and catering
- Equipment purchases for items that will be retained by the organisation
- Fixed production costs that are part of a wider Festival or event

Agreement

If you are successful in your grant application, you are obliged to do the following:

- Sign an agreement document.
- Send a Tax Invoice to Inspiring NSW.
- Keep Inspiring NSW up to date with details of your events and activities for promotion.
- Inform Inspiring NSW of any major variations to the proposal.
- Submit an online form after each activity with the outcomes including final program, audience numbers, participants, long term impacts, and some feedback about your experience.
- Submit images of your event that capture presenters, activity, and audience.

Timelines

Applications can be submitted at any time before 5 May 2026 with a proposed program for the rest of the year and up to 28 February 2027.



The Inspiring Australia NSW Executive Committee reviews all applications and will let applicants know about the outcome of their application within two weeks of submission.

Contact

For any questions please contact:

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2026 Year-Round Science Grants application form

The applicant

Name of applicant:	
Position:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Phone number:	
Email address:	
ABN:	
Alternative contact if applicant is not available:	

Location of activity

Local Government Area (LGA):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner City	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban
<input type="checkbox"/> Inner regional	<input type="checkbox"/> Outer regional
<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/> Online

Members and partners

Names of Regional Science Hub members and the organisations they represent. There must be a minimum of two additional members.

	Name	Organisation	Email address
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Which project partner is an incorporated association with public liability insurance?

Name any other presenting collaborators that may be involved in 2026/26, with a brief description of their involvement:

Name	
Organisation	
Email address	
Potential involvement	
Name	
Organisation	
Email address	
Potential involvement	
Name	
Organisation	
Email address	
Potential involvement	

Past and planned activity

Provide a brief description of any current programs and/or previous community science activity delivered by your Regional Science Hub members (no more than 150 words):

Provide a brief description of events/activities planned for 2026/27. Include themes, science topics, audiences, proposed participants, venues and dates.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Audience and communications

Target audience numbers

How many people do you want to attend your events/participate in each of your activities?

Who is your target audience? Tick all that apply.

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- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General community | <input type="checkbox"/> Families & children | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Women and girls | <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbyists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations peoples | <input type="checkbox"/> Neurodivergent people | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQIA+ people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People living with disability | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People living in regional and remote areas | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): | | |

How will you reach these audiences?

Summarise your communications plan and timeline.

Acknowledgements

How will you acknowledge your grant from Inspiring NSW?

Evaluation

How will you measure the success and outcomes of your events?

Restriction and risk management

How will you respond to extreme weather, or other challenges that may arise?

Budget and expenses forecast

Please use this template to provide the budget for your submission. Include estimates of voluntary and in-kind contributions to help us understand the total cost of your program over the year. We realise these re estimates only and final costs may change.

Requested Amount: \$

Budget planning	
Please list the planned costs, income and funding for all components of your event or activity. Add additional rows if needed.	
Expenses (cash) List all the paid components needed to deliver the activity.	
Item e.g., venue hire, production, staging, AV, recording, external marketing, social media campaign, photography, speaker travel, artist and presenter fees, host/MC fees.	Cost (excl.GST)
Total project expenses	\$
Contributions (In-kind support) Please estimate any in-kind support for the project, including your administration costs. We realise these are estimates only.	
Item e.g., free internal venue hire, staffing, volunteer management, administration, travel to and from meetings, pro bono marketing, free advertising in local paper	Amount (excl.GST)
Total in kind support	\$
Income (cash) Please include sources of funding, including your own organisation's cash contribution to the project, or if other funds are to be raised.	
Item e.g., internally funded resources, other grants, box office, tickets, donations, merchandise sales	Est amount
Total project income	\$

Grant allocation

Which items in your budget will the grant be allocated to? Supply in a simple list like this:

Event 1, July 2026		
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	Venue hire	\$700
	AV and tech support	\$500
	Speakers' fee & expenses	\$500
	Social media, posters & publicity	\$300
	Total	\$2,000
Event 2, November 2026		
	Venue hire	\$300
	Welcome to Country	\$500
	Tech support	\$500
	Workshop host	\$500
	Printed flyer, posters	\$200
	Total	\$2,000

Attachments

Include any documents that could be useful for your application such as examples of marketing material from past activities or media coverage.

Please forward completed application form to inspiring-nsw@uow.edu.au