



CONNECTING CARERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 2025/2026

GRANT APPLICATION FAQs

This information is to support groups and organisations considering an application to the Connecting Carers in their Community 2025/2026 grant round.

What if I don't have an ABN?	<p>Carer groups or organisations that do not have an ABN will need to find an auspice organisation willing to support their application.</p> <p>If you are not sure about who to approach about being an auspice or wish to discuss the use of an auspice organisation, please contact Carers Victoria grants@carersvictoria.org.au.</p> <p>As a condition of your application, you will be asked to submit evidence of the arrangement such as a letter of agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding.</p>
What if I don't have a bank account in my groups name?	<p>Carer groups that do not have a bank account in the group's name will need to find an auspice organisation willing to take responsibility to receive and manage funds.</p>
Can Carers Victoria be an auspice partner for a grant?	<p>No, Carers Victoria cannot be a partner for this grant because we are administering the grants on behalf of the Victorian Government.</p>
Will project reporting be direct to the Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) or via Carers Victoria?	<p>Carers Victoria is administering the grants and therefore project reporting will be provided to Carers Victoria.</p>
Can I apply for less than \$15,000?	<p>No, \$15,000 (excluding GST) is the minimum amount that can be applied for.</p>

Can I apply for more than \$25,000?	No, \$25, 000 (excluding GST) is the maximum amount that can be applied for.
What will I have to do to acquit the grant?	<p>You will be required to complete a final report. Carers Victoria will provide a report template for you, along with advice on how to complete the report.</p> <p>The final report will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcomes of your planned activities • Your budget, listing the items you spent the funds on • A short evaluation of the project.
Do I need to attend the four Community of Practice sessions?	Yes. It is a requirement of the grant that grant recipients attend a minimum of four Community of Practice sessions.
Does my group require public liability insurance?	Yes. Grant recipients must hold public liability insurance.
What happens if my contact details change?	Please contact Carers Victoria's Grants Team at grants@carersvictoria.org.au
How will the grant applications be assessed and by whom?	<p>Carers Victoria will convene a panel of external assessors from across Victoria, with strong knowledge of carer services and activities.</p> <p>The applications will be assessed against the key selection criteria and priority groups which can be found in the guidelines.</p>
Are there any postcode boundaries for grant eligibility?	All Victorian postcodes are eligible.
Can you clarify the focus on Priority Groups? For example, we support carers looking after people with mental health issues, but we have various cultures in our group, would	<p>It is not essential for your application to focus exclusively on the priority groups.</p> <p>The priority groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional and remote groups, especially those impacted by fire and flood events

this be considered multicultural?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups working directly with First Peoples carers, families, and communities • Multicultural and diverse communities, including younger carers and language and cultural groups. <p>Activities that benefit these groups will be considered as a priority.</p>
Are we able to apply multiple times for different local regions?	<p>You can only apply for one grant as a lead organisation or group. An organisation can however be nominated as an auspice for multiple groups.</p>
Can I apply if I am a previous Connecting Carers in their Community recipient?	<p>Previous grant recipients for <i>Connecting Carers in their Community</i> grant rounds are welcome to apply. Where multiple applications are judged as equal, preference will be given to new applicants. Planned activities should focus on building on the success of previous activities, and how the work will be extended and enhanced. Previously funded applicants will also be assessed on their past ability to meet the project milestones and achieve their outcomes. Please note that all applications must meet the focus and objectives of this grant round.</p>
I run an existing carer support group, we are all volunteers, can we apply?	<p>Yes. Both existing carer support groups and new carer support groups are eligible to apply.</p> <p>If your group does not have an ABN, you will need an auspice organisation with an ABN to handle the money for your group. You will need to have a formal letter of agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding with your Auspice organisation.</p>
Our focus is kinship care, are we eligible?	<p>We recognise the importance of kinship care. You are eligible if the kinship care relationship is also a care relationship where care is provided to a child or adult who has a chronic</p>

	illness, disability, mental health condition, addiction or a life-limiting condition.
Do I have to spend the funds by 30 June 2026?	Yes. Grant funds which have not been expended may be required to be returned.
Can we plan activities beyond 30 June 2026?	No. Activities need to cease by 30 June 2026 so you can complete your final report by 31 July 2026.
Can I start my project prior to October 2025?	No, Items that were purchased prior to the grant approval are ineligible for grant funds.
Our service is currently funded through the Support for Carers program, can we apply?	No. The Connecting Carers in the Community 2025/26 funding round targets carer groups and not-for-profit organisations who are not receiving Victorian Government funds through existing funding programs such as Support for Carers or Additional Respite. However, you can auspice a carer support group or other group seeking funding.
What is SmartyGrants?	SmartyGrants is a software program that is used specifically for grant management. All applications are received via the program, and it is what we use to assess and award the grants. It is easy to use, and we try to make our application process as simple as possible.
I have never used SmartyGrants before, do I need to register?	Yes, there is a sign-up process to create a user account. You will need to provide an email address. It is a good idea to use an email to a shared inbox if you have one.
Can we do a joint application with other organisations for a larger project and a larger amount of money?	Partnerships are encouraged where this will help provide better support to carers. However, individual applications must fall within the grant amount of between \$15,000 and \$25,000 (ex GST).

Our carers often can't attend events without respite for the person they care for and we can't afford to provide it for them. What are our options?	One option is to plan activities that include the care recipient so they can both attend. Alternatively, you will need to identify respite options for the person with care needs. If you would like advice on respite options, please call Carers Victoria's state-wide advisory service on 1800 514 845.
Do the activities we run have to be just for carers or can they be for carers and the person they are caring for?	They can include both, but with the overall aim of supporting the carer.
What support is there to assist me with my application?	<p>We encourage you to join us if you would like to know more or have questions on the grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information session - Monday 4 August, 11 - 12pm • Q&A session - Tuesday 12 August, 1 - 2 pm <p>For information about these sessions and information on how to register for SmartyGrants, please visit Connecting Carers in their Community Grants Program Carers Victoria.</p> <p>Please also read the guidelines as most questions can be answered in this document.</p> <p>If you still have questions, you can also email us at grants@carersvictoria.org.au</p>
Will late applications be accepted?	No. Applications can be submitted up until 12pm, Monday 18 August 2025.