

# Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO)

Funding Guidelines 2023 – 2024





## Background

### Closing the Gap

Following the Closing the Gap 'refresh', the National Agreement on Closing the Gap was signed in 2020. The South Australian Government is committed to implementing the [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) (the National Agreement)<sup>1</sup> in partnership with the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network<sup>2</sup> (SAACCON).

The South Australian Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap was agreed in November 2022 and established the South Australian Partnership Committee on Closing the Gap (Partnership Committee). The Partnership Committee is comprised of South Australian Government and SAACCON members, with equal membership.

### What is the ACCO Fund?

The ACCO Fund (the Fund) has been established by the South Australian Government to address [Priority Reform Two](#) in the National Agreement, which is Building the Aboriginal Community-Controlled sector<sup>3</sup>. The Fund is dedicated to support and strengthen the capacity and capability of South Australian ACCOs to provide services and/or establish new initiatives that contribute to closing the gap.

The Fund is administered by the South Australian Government in partnership with SAACCON, via the SmartyGrants online portal: <https://dcsi.smartygrants.com.au/ACCO-Round1>. The process is overseen by the Partnership Committee.

Please note, only South Australian ACCOs are eligible to apply for funding. Refer to the section 'Applications' and 'Who can apply for funding' in this document for more information about eligibility. Considerations are included for Aboriginal organisations that require auspicing arrangements.

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<sup>1</sup> National Agreement on Closing the Gap – [www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement](http://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement)

<sup>2</sup> South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network – [www.saacson.org.au](http://www.saacson.org.au)

<sup>3</sup> Reform Priority Two – <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/6-priority-reform-areas/two>



## Funding available

There is a total of \$2.7m available across five grant funding rounds that will be offered between April 2023 and April 2024.

The aim of the Fund is to support as many South Australian ACCOs as possible to implement a range of small, medium, and large projects. Funding tiers are offered at:

- Tier 1 – up to \$25,000
- Tier 2 - \$25,001 - \$75,000
- Tier 3 - \$75,001 - \$150,000

Eligible ACCOs can submit multiple applications in each round and there is no limit to the number of applications received from an eligible ACCO.

Applications can be for any combination of Tier 1, Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 projects. In each round there is a cap of \$200,000 as the maximum amount of funding that one ACCO can be awarded across multiple projects, per funding round.

ACCOs can submit multiple applications for small projects (e.g. Tier 1, Tier 2) or they can apply for funding of a large project (e.g. Tier 3) in a single funding round, or in any combination.

## Funding rounds 2023-2024

Five (5) funding rounds will be offered between April 2023 and April 2024:

- Round 1 – April 2023
- Round 2 – July 2023
- Round 3 – October 2023
- Round 4 – February 2024
- Round 5 – April 2024.

## Funding priorities

Funding is for projects or activities that support [Priority Reform Two](#) of the National Agreement – Building the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector.

The National Agreement has also identified four priority sectors to be strengthened which are:

1. Early childhood care and development
2. Housing
3. Health
4. Disability.

Sector strengthening plans can be found here <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/resources>.



Each round will have priorities assigned that are agreed by the Partnership Committee.

Round 1 prioritises projects that support:

- Participation in a place-based partnership project (Priority Reform 1)
- Participation in a community data project (Priority Reform 4).

More information is provided in these guidelines at the heading 'ACCO Funding Guidelines, Round 1'.

Round 2 will prioritise projects that broadly support Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement.

Priorities for the remaining three rounds will be advised closer to the opening dates. Please note, all grant submissions will be considered. Unsuccessful submissions will be provided with feedback and the opportunity to resubmit for a subsequent round.

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## **Enquiries and feedback**

If you have any questions about applying for this grant or would like to discuss a project proposal for the ACCO Fund, please contact:

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Attorney-General's Department

Email: [acco-grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:acco-grants@sa.gov.au)

General number: 08 8226 8900

(during business hours)

Toll free number: 1800 127 001



## ACCO Funding Guidelines

### Round 1

**Open date:** 11 April 2023

**Close date:** 23 May 2023

### Funding priority:

The Round 1 priority is designed to support local ACCOs to participate and engage in the Place-based Partnership<sup>4</sup> and Community Data Project<sup>5</sup>, which are partnership actions under the National Agreement.

The place-based partnership and community data projects are co-located in the local government areas of Port Adelaide/Enfield, Charles Sturt, and West Torrens. If your ACCO operates in any of these locations and is interested in participating in either of these projects, contact SAACCON or Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation using the details provided in this document.

## Requirements

### What types of projects will be supported by the Fund?

The Fund will support projects that will enable ACCOs to participate in Closing the Gap actions, strengthen their operations and programs, undertake projects or new initiatives.

Funding can support a single project or multiple activities. Examples include, but are not limited to:

### Data projects

For example:

- Staff development and mentoring
- Data development e.g. access and use of location or program specific data, development of new systems for data collection and reporting
- Enabling participation in the Community Data Project.

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<sup>4</sup> Clause 39 National Agreement on Closing the Gap – <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/6-priority-reform-areas/one>

<sup>5</sup> Clause 74 National Agreement on Closing the Gap – <https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap/6-priority-reform-areas/four>



## Partnership

For example:

- Collaboration or partnerships between ACCOs or other entities that further capacity and capability of the organisation/s or improve service or program outcomes
- Enabling capacity to participate in the Place-based Project (Adelaide's Western Suburbs).

## Projects

- Short term projects that further capacity and capability of the organisation/s or improve service or program outcomes
- Projects may include events where the outcomes align to the Priority Reform Two.

Note: 'Short term' means a project that can be delivered within the grant agreement term of 12 months.

## Business capability and governance

For example:

- Contracting business specialists to increase an ACCO's success rate in competitive grant or tender processes
- Contracting business specialists to work with the ACCO to develop and publishing key business documents e.g. strategic planning, operational direction, quality assurance
- Contracting governance specialists to build the skills and capability of Board members
- Contracting Finance and HR specialists to build core administrative systems
- Supporting collaboration between ACCOs e.g. upskilling, information sharing, shared service systems etc.

## Infrastructure/equipment

For example:

- Developing new or improved systems e.g. information technology, information or data management, reporting systems
- Upgrading, repairing and refurbishing buildings
- Specialised equipment and/or repairs
- Hiring or purchasing vehicles including buses, trailers etc.



Note:

- a.) where applications include building or refurbishment works, confirmation of building owner and owner consent will be required as part of the application process.
- b.) where the submission includes infrastructure or equipment there must be a clear and defined link to a service or program indicating how this will improve and further strengthen outcomes in Closing the Gap.

### Staff development

For example:

- Upskilling staff and volunteers e.g. technical skills, financial management, contract management, human resources, business administration, mentoring etc.
- Enabling staff to attend workshops and training that are relevant to the core business (for example, community health, childcare, mental health services etc.)

### What types of projects will not be supported by the Fund?

- Activities that might require ongoing funding
- Recurrent maintenance or operational costs (salaries and wages) for day-to-day operations
- Other general operational or 'business as usual' costs e.g. rates, taxes, insurances etc.
- Interstate and overseas travel, unless special circumstances exist and the travel directly relates to the wider project.

## Applications

### Who can apply for funding?

Organisations applying for grants must be a South Australian ACCO delivering services or programs that build strength and empower Aboriginal people and their communities. The ACCO must be:

1. Either incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit or an unincorporated association of Aboriginal people (or provide evidence of a comparable legal status, such as Australian Public Company limited by guarantee)
2. controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
3. connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services
4. governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.



ACCOs must also:

5. have an Australian bank account in the name of the legal entity
6. agree to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement
7. ensure the projects they are seeking funding for support Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement – Building the Community-Controlled Sector.

South Australian ACCOs that are not a legal entity can apply to the fund through a partnering (auspicing) body that is prepared to administer the grant on their behalf, and:

- the partnering body must be an incorporated ACCO that meets the abovementioned criteria, and
- the unincorporated ACCO must be based in South Australia, delivering service or programs that support the South Australian Aboriginal community.

If you are interested in an auspicing arrangement and would like further support, please contact SAACCON on [contact@saacson.org.au](mailto:contact@saacson.org.au)

### How to apply

1. Complete the online application form at SmartyGrants online portal <https://dcsi.smartygrants.com.au/ACCO-Round1>
2. Ensure all sections are complete
3. Attach supporting documents
4. Ensure the application is signed by the authorised delegate of your organisation (or partner/auspicing organisation)
5. Submit the application by 11.59pm of the closing date of each round.

During the assessment process you may be contacted for further information.





## Application assessment

### Assessment criteria for Round 1

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

Number	Assessment criteria	Weighting
1	The project supports Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement – Building the Community-Controlled Sector.	MUST be demonstrated. Assessed as Confirmed = eligible grant funding. Assessed as Not confirmed = not eligible for grant funding. <i>Note: non-eligible applications have the opportunity for feedback and review to resubmit in subsequent, open grant rounds.</i>
2	The project supports the priority sector strengthening plans for Health, Disability, Early Childhood Care and Development and Housing.	10%
3	The project is delivered by ACCOs that operate in the local government areas of Port Adelaide/Enfield, Charles Sturt, and West Torrens, and is aligned to the Place-based Partnership project and Community Data project.	10%
4	The project has a positive impact on the local Aboriginal community, e.g. better services or better outcomes.	30%
5	The project is well planned, has a sound budget and is likely to succeed. A detailed budget will be required, including awards for wages and quotes where relevant.	30%
6	The organisation (and project partner, where applicable) has demonstrated the capability to carry out the proposed project, with required expertise and has project partners in place (where relevant).	20%

For future grant rounds (i.e. rounds 2 to 5) the assessment criteria will be adjusted to match identified funding priorities.



### Assessment and notification

All applications will be considered against the assessment criteria outlined above by the grant assessment panel. This panel consists of two SAACCON representatives and two government officers.

The information included in your application is confidential, with staff and assessment panels bound by the policy and procedures of the Attorney General's Department.

The final funding decisions will be endorsed by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome by email. Unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to contact Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation for feedback on their application using details provided below.

### Successful applicants

If your application is successful, you will receive an agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the grant. This will include requirements such as confirming relevant insurances (e.g. public liability insurance minimum is \$1M).

### Reporting requirements

Reporting requirements will be tailored to the size and nature of the project. All projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving funds.

You will be required to sign a grant agreement and comply with the conditions which include reporting requirements, such as:

- A project acquittal detailing project activities and outcomes
- A statement of income and expenditure, certified by the Chairperson, CEO or another authorised representative from the organisation

Note: If a situation arises where an organisation needs to alter or vary their project they should discuss the matter with staff from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.



## Acknowledgement

Organisations who receive grants from the Fund are required to acknowledge the ACCO Fund as a source of funding in any publicity or media releases relating to the project. Example of wording:

*'This project has received funding from the South Australian Government's ACCO Fund to support Closing the Gap'.*

You are required to notify Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation of any acknowledgements that may occur.

## Enquiries and feedback

If you have any questions about applying for this grant or would like to discuss a project proposal, please contact:

Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Attorney-General's Department:

Email: [acco-grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:acco-grants@sa.gov.au)

General number: 08 8226 8900  
(during business hours)

Toll free number: 1800 127 00