

Queensland Primary and Secondary Schools

Recommended Funding Pathway

Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF)

Grant Information: <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants/gambling-community-benefit-fund>

The Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) is the Recommended external pathway for Queensland schools. Administered by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, it is the state's largest one-off community grants program, distributing approximately \$60 million annually. Standard rounds offer up to \$35,000, with successful applicants generally announced 4 to 5 months after the closing date. This fund is ideal for permanent outdoor installations because it prioritizes tangible infrastructure that provides "community benefit" beyond the student body.

Project Positioning

For this pathway, the project must be positioned as **Permanent Community Infrastructure**. Focus on the "shared" nature of the school grounds—highlighting how the sensory space can be accessed by local families, community groups, or during weekend events. Frame the instruments as a "Long-Term Wellbeing Asset" with a 20+ year lifespan, rather than a classroom resource.

Avoid positioning the project as:

A curriculum-based "music program" or general school equipment. GCBF assessors strictly avoid funding "standard" educational tools that should be covered by the Department of Education. Avoid terms like "classroom supplies"; instead, use terms like **"Capital Improvement"** and **"Community Facility Enhancement"**.

Project Title

[Insert School Name] Community Harmony Project: An Inclusive Outdoor Wellbeing Hub

Service Overview

[Insert School Name] is a [State/Independent] school dedicated to the holistic development and wellbeing of our students and the broader [Insert Suburb/Region] community. As a central hub for local families, we prioritize creating inclusive environments that foster social connection and emotional regulation. Our school operates with a strong culture of community engagement, frequently hosting events that utilize our outdoor facilities.

Project Description

This project involves the construction of a permanent outdoor wellbeing space featuring a four-unit **"Full Sensory Circuit."** Unlike traditional play equipment, these instruments are precision-tuned to provide a low-decibel auditory experience, allowing individuals of all ages and abilities to participate in collaborative, rhythmic interaction. The installation will be post-mounted into [existing hard-stand/garden areas], forming a cohesive environment that serves as a landmark for inclusive play within our grounds.

Community Need

There is a documented lack of inclusive, low-arousal outdoor spaces in the [Insert Region] area that cater to neurodiverse children and those with sensory processing sensitivities. Traditional playgrounds are often high-stimulus and can lead to "sensory fatigue" or exclusion. This project addresses the need for a "quiet, regulated zone" that supports mental health and wellbeing, providing a safe sanctuary for both our students during school hours and local families after-hours.

Community Benefit

As a permanent piece of infrastructure, this project provides a 20+ year benefit to the local community. The space will be actively utilized during school fetes, weekend sports, and community gatherings, providing a unique, inclusive resource that encourages social cohesion. By providing a durable, weather-proof sensory facility, we are enhancing the local built environment and fostering a sense of belonging for residents of all abilities.

Outcomes

The project aims to achieve a measurable increase in **inclusive participation** and a reduction in sensory-related distress during community gatherings. Key outcomes include strengthened social connections through shared musical experiences, improved emotional regulation for youth, and enhanced accessibility of our school facilities for the broader public.

Project Delivery

The project will be managed by the [School P&C / Management Committee] in collaboration with specialised contractors. Following the "Zero-Surfacing" model, the instruments will be installed directly into existing grounds, ensuring no expensive rubber soft-fall is required. This allows the project to be completed efficiently with minimal disruption to the community.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer Acoustic Instrument	2	\$9,000
Composer Acoustic Instrument	2	\$9,000
In-ground Post Mounts	4	\$1,200
Freight and Handling (Indicative to QLD)	1	\$750
Site Works Provision (Indicative Installation)	1	**\$3,500**
Total Project Cost		\$23,450
Funding Requested (GCBF)		\$23,450

Pricing Note

Costs provided are indicative to support funding applications. Final pricing, including freight and installation, may vary depending on location and site requirements. Schools are encouraged to obtain a formal quote to confirm project costs.

Budget Justification

This budget reflects a comprehensive **"Full Sensory Circuit"** designed for high-capacity community use. By installing four precision-tuned instruments, the project creates a complete therapeutic environment that allows multiple users to engage in collaborative play simultaneously. We have included a **provisional sum for indicative installation** to ensure the project is fully funded from delivery to completion.

The use of **"Zero-Surfacing"** technology is a significant cost-saver; a traditional four-item playground installation would typically require an additional \$15,000–\$20,000 in rubber soft-fall. By eliminating this requirement, 100% of the funding is directed into high-quality, 316L stainless steel assets that provide a 25-year lifespan.

Sustainability

The instruments are crafted from **316L marine-grade stainless steel** and require zero ongoing maintenance. This is a "one-off" capital investment that does not require recurrent funding for repairs or surfacing replacement. The 25-year structural warranty ensures the equipment will remain a functional and safe community asset for the next quarter-century.

Evaluation

Success will be evaluated through observation of student engagement and usage, feedback from families, and participation levels during community events. We will monitor informal wellbeing indicators, such as reduced behavioral escalations in the playground, to determine the long-term impact on the school culture. A final report including photos of the "Sensory Circuit" in use will be provided to the P&C and school leadership.

Application Considerations

Projects of this nature are strongest when positioned as long-term community infrastructure. Presenting the installation as a cohesive, purpose-built space rather than individual items helps demonstrate greater impact and overall value for money.

- **State Schools:** Must apply through their **Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association** as the school itself is often ineligible.
- **Independent Schools:** Can apply directly if they operate as a not-for-profit entity.
- **MP Engagement:** It is highly recommended to contact your local State Member of Parliament early in the process to list them as a referee, as the GCBF values projects with demonstrated local support.