

## South Australian Primary and Secondary Schools

Recommended Funding Pathway

### Grants SA: Community Grants (Department of Human Services) Example: Medium Grants Round

**Grant information:** <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/grants/available-grants> The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides the "Grants SA" program, which is the primary external funding vehicle for community and school-based inclusion projects in South Australia. The program offers tiered funding (Minor, Medium, and Major rounds) designed to support projects that improve community participation and wellbeing. For sensory spaces, the **Medium Grants (\$5,001 to \$20,000)** or **Minor Grants (up to \$5,000)** are the most common pathways. Eligibility typically requires the applicant to be a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. Government schools often apply through their **Governing Council** or an associated **Parents and Friends (P&F) Association** to meet these criteria. Grant rounds open multiple times per year, focusing on "disadvantage and exclusion," making this an ideal fit for sensory-regulation infrastructure.

**Project Positioning** For this funding pathway, the project should be positioned as:

- an **inclusive infrastructure project** reducing barriers for neurodiverse students
- a **wellbeing intervention** specifically designed for emotional regulation and calm
- a **community-accessible asset** that supports diverse learners and their families
- a project that addresses **social isolation** by providing non-verbal social play opportunities

Avoid positioning the project as:

- general curriculum material or standard classroom furniture
- a luxury or "aesthetic" landscaping upgrade
- a project solely for the use of high-performing students

## Project Title

[Insert School Name] Inclusive Sensory Hub: A Dedicated Space for Regulation and Wellbeing

## Service Overview

[Insert School Name] is a South Australian educational institution committed to the holistic development of our students. Our school serves a diverse community and recognizes that traditional outdoor environments can be overwhelming for some learners. This application is submitted by the **[Insert School Governing Council/P&F Association]**, a not-for-profit body dedicated to enhancing the school's facilities and supporting the wellbeing of all students and local families.

## Project Description

This project involves the development of a dedicated "Outdoor Sensory Hub" within the school grounds. It features high-quality, acoustic-engineered instruments designed to provide a low-arousal, tactile, and auditory experience. The instruments allow for "Active Resets," where students can engage in self-directed sensory play to regulate their emotions. Unlike traditional play equipment, these elements are permanently installed and designed to meet the specific needs of students requiring sensory support, providing a calm alternative to high-stimulus playground areas.

## Community Need

With an increasing number of students requiring sensory and emotional regulation support, there is a clear need for "quiet zones" that facilitate inclusion. Data from our wellbeing team suggests that transitions and break times can be challenging for neurodiverse students. Existing outdoor areas are often loud and physically demanding, leaving a gap for students who need a more controlled, harmonious environment. This project addresses this need by providing a specialized space that lowers stress and prevents sensory overload, ensuring every student has a safe place to participate.

## Community Benefit

The Sensory Hub will provide long-term benefits to the broader [Insert Suburb/Region] community:

- **Student Wellbeing:** Direct support for students with autism, ADHD, and sensory processing disorders.
- **Family Support:** A resource that can be utilized during school events, playgroups, and transition programs to support family inclusion.
- **Community Resilience:** By fostering emotional regulation skills early, we are developing more resilient and socially engaged future citizens.
- **Inclusive Facilities:** This project creates a benchmark for inclusive design in our local area, demonstrating a commitment to "Design for All."

## Outcomes

The project aims to achieve:

- a reduction in sensory-related playground incidents
- increased student engagement during post-break learning times
- measurable improvement in the "sense of belonging" for neurodiverse students
- a functional, all-abilities outdoor learning space for teachers to utilize

## Project Delivery

The project will involve:

- selection and procurement of 316L stainless steel acoustic instruments
- professional installation on existing hard-stand or garden areas (no soft-fall required)
- staff professional development on using the space for "Tier 2" regulation strategies

All installations will comply with Australian Standards for playground safety while maintaining the specialized "acoustic engineering" required for a quiet zone.

## Budget

Item	Quantity	Total
Explorer Outdoor Musical Instrument	2	\$7,900
Composer Outdoor Musical Instrument	1	\$4,150
In-ground Post Mounts	3	\$900
Freight (indicative to SA)	1	\$650
Installation & Site Prep	1	\$1,500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>\$15,100</b>
<b>Funding Requested</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>School/P&amp;F Contribution</b>		<b>\$5,100</b>

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*All costs are GST exclusive*

## Pricing Note

Costs are indicative and subject to final site assessment and shipping quotes. The school is committed to covering any shortfall to ensure the project's successful completion.

## Budget Justification

This request focuses on the procurement of high-durability, professional-grade assets. By investing in "Zero-Surfacing" equipment, the school avoids the \$10,000+ cost of rubber soft-fall, ensuring 100% of the grant funding is spent on the therapeutic instruments themselves. The school's \$5,100 contribution reflects a strong commitment to the project and ensures its viability.

## Sustainability

The instruments are crafted from marine-grade stainless steel with a 25-year structural warranty. They are designed to withstand the South Australian climate with minimal maintenance. This project is a "one-off" capital expense that provides value for over two decades without requiring ongoing council or government funding for surfacing repairs.

**Evaluation** Success will be evaluated through:

- Pre- and post-installation surveys of staff regarding playground "calmness"
- Wellbeing data tracking the use of the "Sensory Hub" as a regulation tool
- Feedback from the school's Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)

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## Application Considerations

Grants SA applications are most successful when they emphasize **inclusion** and **disadvantage**. If your school has a high Index of Educational Disadvantage (ICSEA) or a significant population of students with disability (NCCD data), ensure these statistics are highlighted to strengthen the "Community Need" section.