

Northern Territory Kindergartens

Supplementary Funding Pathway

Community Benefit Fund – Minor Community Grant

Community Asset & Wellbeing Infrastructure

Funding Schedule

Monthly Rounds (Closes last day of each month)

Grant Description

The Community Benefit Fund (Minor Community Grant) is a Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet initiative. It provides up to \$15,000 to non-profit organizations for projects that improve community facilities and social infrastructure. This pathway is intended for small-scale capital works that deliver a tangible, long-term benefit to the Northern Territory community.

Project Title

Strategic Facility Enhancement: Permanent Inclusive Sensory Infrastructure

Service Overview

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is a community-incorporated, non-profit association that serves as a vital anchor for local families in the [Insert Region/Suburb] area. We provide essential early childhood services with a dedicated focus on maintaining high-quality, inclusive physical environments that exceed the National Quality Standard (NQS). As a community-managed facility, our outdoor learning spaces are a shared local resource, requiring robust, architectural-grade infrastructure that can serve current and future generations of Territory children.

Project Summary

This project involves the procurement and permanent installation of two precision-engineered acoustic sensory instruments: The Explorer and The Composer. These instruments are professional-grade architectural fixtures constructed from 316L marine-grade stainless steel, specifically selected for their resilience in the Northern Territory climate. The project will establish a permanent, weather-proof sensory regulation station, integrating world-class acoustic engineering into the kindergarten's permanent outdoor footprint to provide a dedicated hub for tactile and auditory feedback.

Project Objectives

The primary objective is to upgrade the service's physical infrastructure by installing high-durability, inclusive assets that offer barrier-free access to sensory-rich play. This project seeks to establish a permanent, weather-resilient regulation station that provides equitable engagement opportunities for all children, regardless of their developmental or sensory profile. By utilizing 316L stainless steel, the objective is to secure a 25-year structural lifespan, ensuring the facility meets modern accessibility standards for the next two decades.

Justification of Need

The current outdoor environment at [Insert Kindergarten Name] lacks specialized, permanent infrastructure designed for sensory regulation and inclusive play. Standard playground equipment is often constructed from timber or plastics that degrade rapidly in the extreme Territory UV and tropical conditions, and these materials do not provide the rhythmic, precision-tuned feedback required for effective sensory processing. This installation addresses a critical infrastructure gap, providing a "reasonable adjustment" to our physical environment that standard equipment cannot fulfill, thereby ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our student cohort.

Community Benefit

As a community-managed facility, this upgrade represents a generational investment in the social infrastructure of our region. These instruments are engineered to withstand heavy use and environmental exposure, providing local families with access to inclusive play resources that are typically unavailable in standard public parks. By installing permanent, professional-grade assets with a 25-year structural warranty, this project elevates the standard of local community facilities and significantly reduces the future financial burden of equipment replacement and maintenance for the community management board.

Strategic Alignment

This project directly aligns with the Northern Territory Government's commitment to improving community wellbeing through robust social infrastructure. By investing in permanent, high-quality sensory assets, the kindergarten is contributing to the "Safe Start, Strong Futures" objective of providing world-class physical environments for early learning. The project demonstrates a commitment to sustainable, inclusive infrastructure that supports the NT Government's broader goals of fostering resilient and accessible community networks.

Project Management

The project will be professionally managed by the [Insert Kindergarten Name] Management Committee. The committee will oversee the end-to-end procurement process, from asset selection to final acquittal. To ensure full compliance with Australian Safety Standards (AS 4685) and warranty prerequisites, the committee will engage licensed NT contractors to perform the permanent installation. All works will be conducted in strict accordance with local government regulations and environmental safety standards.

Commencement & Completion

Upon successful funding notification (typically the 21st of the following month), procurement will commence immediately. Installation is scheduled to be completed within 60 days of the equipment arriving on-site, pending contractor availability and weather conditions.

Project Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
Composer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
Mounting Hardware	2	\$600
NT Regional Freight	1	\$850
Professional Permanent Installation	1	\$3,000
Total Project Cost		\$13,450
Total Funding Requested		\$13,450

Budget Justification

The budget represents a complete "supply and install" solution. The \$3,000 installation allowance is a strategic provision for licensed trades to perform permanent works in accordance with Australian Safety Standards (AS 4685). This ensures the project is fully safety-certified and compliant with all warranty conditions without requiring additional school funds.

Sustainability

The choice of 316L stainless steel ensures maximum lifecycle sustainability and resistance to the tropical NT climate. The instruments require no surfacing replacements or ongoing material upgrades, making them a "once-in-a-generation" capital investment that maintains its structural integrity over a 25-year lifespan.

Maintenance Plan

Maintenance is limited to standard, periodic safety inspections as part of the service's existing grounds management routine. No specialized chemical treatments or external service contracts are required, ensuring the asset remains cost-neutral for the life of the instrument.

Evaluation & Acquittal

Project success will be measured by the successful installation of the instruments and their formal addition to the service's asset register. The project will be acquitted via the GrantsNT portal, including a final financial statement and photographic evidence of the completed permanent works.

Appendix: Funding Information & Resources

Pathway: Community Benefit Fund – Minor Community Grant

Governing Body: NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

To assist with the finalization of your application, please refer to the following official resources and submission portals. The Community Benefit Fund (Minor) operates on a monthly cycle; however, it is recommended that the committee verifies their incorporation status and GrantsNT registration prior to the end-of-month deadline.

Official Grant Resources

- **Application Portal:** [GrantsNT \(grantsnt.nt.gov.au\)](https://grantsnt.nt.gov.au) * *Action:* All submissions must be lodged through this portal. Ensure your organization's profile and financial details are verified and active.
 - **Program Guidelines:** [Community Benefit Fund - Minor Community Grant](#) * *Information:* Access the comprehensive guidelines, including a full list of eligible and ineligible items, assessment criteria, and acquittal requirements.
 - **Incorporation Verification:** [NT Associations and Charities](#) * *Information:* Ensure your association's annual returns are up to date, as current incorporation is a mandatory prerequisite for this funding stream.
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Direct Departmental Contact

For inquiries regarding the suitability of your project or technical assistance with the electronic application form:

- **Email:** cbf.cmc@nt.gov.au
 - **Phone:** 1300 650 153
 - **Department:** Community Benefit Fund Secretariat, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.
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Submission Checklist

1. **Grant Deadline:** Ensure the application is submitted before midnight on the last day of the month.
2. **Formal Quote:** Attach a current formal quote detailing both the equipment costs and the professional permanent installation.
3. **Proof of Incorporation:** Have your Certificate of Incorporation or evidence of non-profit status ready for upload.
4. **Site Authority:** Confirm you have a Letter of Consent for the permanent installation from the landowner or the relevant government department if the premises are leased.
5. **Community Support:** While optional for minor grants, a brief letter of support from a local community group or a P&C representative can strengthen the "Community Benefit" section of your claim.