

Queensland Primary and Secondary Schools

Supplementary Funding Pathway

Aurizon Community Giving Fund

Grant Information: <https://www.aurizon.com.au/sustainability/community/community-giving-fund>

The **Aurizon Community Giving Fund** is a **Specialist Supplementary** pathway. Administered by Aurizon, Australia's largest rail-based freight company, this fund provides grants between **\$1,000 and \$20,000** for practical projects that deliver lasting benefits. Because Aurizon prioritizes Health & Wellbeing and Community Safety, this is a powerful option for funding a 3-unit "Therapeutic Hub" that focuses on the mental health and sensory regulation of the student body. The current round for 2026 is open now and closes on Friday, 24 April 2026.

Project Positioning

For this pathway, the project should be positioned as a **"Sensory Health and Wellbeing Initiative."** Frame the instruments as therapeutic tools that improve the mental health and social-emotional wellbeing of the community. Aurizon values "tangible, high-impact projects," so emphasize the 316L stainless steel durability and the 25-year structural warranty, positioning this as a "one-off" investment that will serve the region for a generation.

Avoid positioning the project as:

A standard curriculum-based music program or a playground beautification project. Aurizon looks for projects that address specific community needs in Health, Safety, or Education. Avoid general academic terms; instead, focus on **sensory regulation, anxiety reduction, and inclusive play.**

Project Title

[Insert School Name] Sensory Health Hub: Improving Wellbeing through Inclusive Outdoor Design

Service Overview

[Insert School Name] is a dedicated educational service and community pillar in the [Insert Region]. We are committed to fostering a supportive environment where every student, regardless of their sensory needs, can feel safe and included. Our school community places a high value on mental health and social-emotional learning, and we continuously seek innovative ways to support the wellbeing of our students and their families.

Project Description

This project involves the installation of three professional-grade, precision-tuned sensory instruments (two Explorer and one Composer models) to create a dedicated outdoor **"Therapeutic Hub."** These instruments are specifically designed to facilitate **"Active Resets,"** providing a low-decibel, tactile, and harmonic outlet for children to manage sensory overwhelm during the school day. Constructed from sustainable 316L stainless steel, these assets are weather-proof, vandal-resistant, and built for 20+ years of active use.

Community Need

Our school has identified a significant increase in children requiring sensory adjustments to manage anxiety and remain engaged in learning. For many neurodiverse students, traditional high-stimulus playgrounds do not provide the necessary "safe space" for regulation. This project addresses the urgent need for a high-quality, inclusive resource—an outdoor "anchor" that supports emotional resilience and reduces playground-based distress incidents.

Community Benefit

This project provides a permanent wellbeing resource for the families and residents of [Insert Suburb/Region]. As a permanent infrastructure piece, the Sensory Hub will be accessible during community events and school functions, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive design. Because the equipment requires **no specialized surfacing**, it represents an exceptionally efficient use of community funds, ensuring 100% of the grant is spent on the high-quality therapeutic assets themselves.

Outcomes

The project aims to achieve a measurable reduction in sensory-related incidents and an increase in student wellbeing observations during outdoor play. We expect to see children utilizing the instruments for self-directed regulation, leading to improved classroom focus and social harmony. Success will be measured through staff feedback and student wellbeing data collected over the initial 12-month period.

Project Delivery

The project will be managed by the School Leadership Team and the [P&C/Management Committee]. We will procure the instruments and arrange for their permanent post-mounted installation via licensed contractors. The "Zero-Maintenance" nature of the equipment ensures it remains a functional asset for the community for decades without placing any future financial burden on the school.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer Sensory Instrument	2	\$9,000
Composer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
In-ground Post Mounts	3	\$900
Freight and Logistics (indicative to QLD)	1	\$650
Site Works Provision (Indicative Installation)	1	\$1,800
Total Project Cost		\$16,850
Funding Requested (Aurizon)		\$15,000
School/P&C Contribution		\$1,850

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 investment in student mental health through the creation of a three-unit **Therapeutic Sensory Hub**. We have included a provisional sum for indicative installation to ensure the instruments are professionally and safely secured. The \$15,000 requested from Aurizon covers the primary equipment costs, with the school contribution ensuring all logistical and site requirements are met. The "Zero-Surfacing" requirement significantly improves the project's value for money compared to traditional playground upgrades.

Sustainability

The instruments are crafted from 316L marine-grade stainless steel, requiring zero ongoing maintenance or chemical treatments. This "once-only" capital investment provides a sustainable, long-term wellbeing tool that will remain a fixture of the community for 25 years, making it a highly responsible choice for the Aurizon Community Giving Fund.

Evaluation

Success will be evaluated through staff observations and student feedback. We will track the usage of the "Sensory Hub" as a proactive regulation tool during break times and its impact on inclusive participation for students with additional needs. A final report, including photographs of the project in use, will be provided to the school board and shared with the local community.

Application Considerations

- **DGR Status:** This grant strictly requires **DGR Item 1 status**. Independent schools generally hold this; state schools must confirm their P&C Association's status or apply via an auspice arrangement.
- **Geographical Focus:** Aurizon prioritizes areas where their employees live and work, particularly regional hubs and rail corridors. Highlight the school's proximity to these areas in the application.
- **Timeline:** Applications for Round 1 close **24 April 2026**. Successful applicants must spend the grant within 12 months.