

LGBTIQ+ Health Program

2026 Grants

LGBTIQ+ Health Australia

LGBTIQ+ Health Program – Round 1 Advance Notice

Opening date:	March 2026
Closing date and time:	Open for 4 weeks
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Third Party Administrator:	LGBTIQ+ Health Australia
Enquiries:	enquiryLHP@lgbtiqhealth.org.au
Date guidelines will be released:	Mid-March 2026
Type of grant opportunity:	Open competitive

The LGBTIQ+ Health Program is funded by the Australian Government.

About the grant program

This advance notice contains information about grants available through the LGBTIQ+ Health Program (LHP) which is administered by LGBTIQ+ Health Australia on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. The LHP contributes to delivery of the [National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025–2035](#) (The National Action Plan) in line with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA) and Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 (CGRPs).

The first funding round of the LHP will commence in March 2026. Organisations with specialist expertise in LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing are invited to apply for one-off competitive grants to support new and existing initiatives at the local, regional and national level that will foster access to appropriate, culturally sound and inclusive health care.

Background

In 2024, the Australian Government released the National Action Plan, following the largest ever national consultation by a federal government to inform LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing priorities. The National Action Plan emerged in response to persistent and ongoing health disparities faced by LGBTIQ+ people, including higher rates of mental ill-health, substance and alcohol use, experiences of violence and abuse, stigma, discrimination and social exclusion and barriers to accessing safe, respectful and appropriate care¹²³. The National Action Plan was designed to provide significant support to LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations by embedding them as essential partners, leaders, and deliverers of services that are targeted, culturally informed, accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of LGBTIQ+ communities. It reflects a commitment to health equity, acknowledging the need for systemic change across the health and wellbeing sectors for LGBTIQ+ affirming services.

The National Action Plan sets out a 10-year roadmap to achieve equitable health outcomes and improve quality of life for LGBTIQ+ communities. Its vision is underpinned by principles of health equity, preventive care, autonomy, and evidence-based improvement to service delivery. The LHP was announced in 2024 as one initiative to support the Australian Government's vision for the future of an inclusive and effective health and wellbeing system.

Grant program objectives

As noted in the National Action Plan, LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations have historically been under-resourced, despite being critical to meeting the specific health needs

¹ Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University (2023). Rainbow Realities: In-depth analyses of large-scale LGBTQ+ health and wellbeing data in Australia.

² Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University (2020). Private Lives 3: The health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ people in Australia.

³ Australian Government Department of Health (2024) National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025–2035

of LGBTIQ+ communities. The primary objective of the LHP is to support LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations and, where appropriate, generalist organisations to deliver new services or expand existing services, in partnership with LGBTIQ+ communities.

The LHP will prioritise resources and opportunities for LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations, or generalist organisations that have a formal partnership with at least one LGBTIQ+ community-led organisation. Successful proposals must show demonstrated expertise in the delivery of LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing services, genuine partnerships, and build the capacity and leadership of LGBTIQ+ organisations.

The LHP has a specific concentration on Focus Areas 2 and 3 in the National Action Plan (*Strengthen preventive health, protective factors and build health literacy; Enhance accessibility, availability and safety of healthcare services*).

Strengthen preventive health, protective factors and build health literacy	Enhance accessibility, availability and safety of healthcare services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce modifiable risk factors and improve preventive health measures • Improve the health literacy of (and about) LGBTIQ+ people • Foster community connections within and across LGBTIQ+ communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity and scale of health and wellbeing services for LGBTIQ+ people • Support LGBTIQ+ people navigating through the health system • Support LGBTIQ+ people to access appropriate domestic, family and sexual violence supports • Minimise barriers to accessing LGBTIQ+ inclusive care • Ensure mental health and suicide prevention services are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people

Grant scope

Applicants can apply for grants through the LHP under 2 streams. Eligibility to apply for each stream is fundamentally based on annual revenue thresholds for the previous financial year. Applicants will be required to provide a financial declaration or Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) report as part of their application to demonstrate eligibility for Stream 1 or 2.

Stream	Eligibility	Grant Values and Duration
Stream 1	<i>Advancing Organisations</i> – earning an average of \$2 million or less annually in the past 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$150,000 over 12 months, or • Up to \$300,000 over 24 months

Stream 2	<i>Medium-to-Large Organisations</i> – earning an average of over \$2 million annually in the past 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$750,000 over 24 months
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Organisations can submit a **maximum of one application per stream**. This means an organisation eligible for Stream 1 may submit one application in Stream 1 and may also participate in one (and only one) partnership application in Stream 2.

Description of the grant categories

Eligibility criteria

Overall eligibility criteria for the LHP, as well as specific criteria for Streams 1 and 2, are outlined below. An application will not be considered if it does not satisfy all the eligibility criteria, both overall and stream-specific. Partnership applications may only be submitted by the lead partner. Eligibility for streams will be based on the annual income of the lead partner only.

Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

1. To be eligible, the applicant must demonstrate the application is on behalf of an organisation where the service is:
 - a. an LGBTIQ+ community-led health and wellbeing service⁴, or
 - b. a partnership between an LGBTIQ+ community-led health and wellbeing service and other health and wellbeing service, where shared resourcing and decision-making is demonstrated, or
 - c. delivered by a generalist organisation but *primarily* intended to improve the health or wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people and this service has been running within the past 3 years (i.e. was operating for any amount of time between January 2023 to now).

Please note, organisations eligible under option b or c will need to provide specific information supporting their application, including evidence of partnership arrangements and letters of support from LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations.

⁴For the purposes of this grant round, an LGBTIQ+ community-led organisation is an organisation that meets all the following criteria:

- a. has been initiated by, is governed by and operated by LGBTIQ+ people for LGBTIQ+ people,
- b. is based within those communities and delivers culturally appropriate and safe services that build strength and empowerment in LGBTIQ+ communities,
- c. is accountable to its members, who are the LGBTIQ+ community.

2. The organisation's proposed program must address one or more actions of Focus Area 2 or 3 from the [National Action Plan](#).
3. Additionally, applications must be from, or auspiced by, organisations that:
 - a. are a non-government organisation
 - b. are registered with the ACNC
 - c. have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
 - d. are registered for the purposes of GST
 - e. have an account with an Australian financial institution
 - f. are a legal entity with the capacity to enter into a legally binding agreement or contract
 - g. hold current public liability insurance appropriate for the proposed activities (evidence required at application stage)
 - h. have a governing body (e.g., board or management committee) responsible for organisational decision-making
 - i. maintain financial controls, including authorised signatories for expenditure
 - j. have processes in place to manage conflicts of interest and complaints appropriate to the size of the organisation

Stream 1 – Advancing Organisations

This grant opportunity is intended to provide resourcing to smaller, emerging organisations to build capacity and organisational sustainability.

To be eligible for this funding stream, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Have an average annual revenue of less than \$2 million for the past 3 years.
- Meet other LHP eligibility criteria above.

Stream 2 – Medium-to-Large Organisations

This grant opportunity supports medium-to-large organisations with more established governance and operating capability.

To be eligible for this funding stream, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Has an average annual revenue of \$2 million or more for the past 3 years.
- Meet other LHP eligibility criteria listed above.

Partnership applications

If applying as a partnership, only the lead partner submits an application. Stream eligibility for partnership applications will be determined solely by the annual income of the lead applicant in the partnership.

The lead applicant must provide evidence of the partnership at the time of the application. This could include a letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, or contract. The

evidence **must** detail how the partnership will benefit the LGBTIQ+ community-led organisation.

Applications that do not submit evidence of a partnership will not be eligible.

Generalist organisations

If a generalist organisation is applying on the basis of their experience delivering an LGBTIQ+ health and wellbeing service in the past 3 years, they will need to include 2 letters of support from previous or existing partner organisations that are LGBTIQ+ community-led. Each letter must demonstrate LGBTIQ+ community backing of the applicant organisation to deliver quality services to LGBTIQ+ communities. This should include a testimonial referencing the applying organisation's capabilities that would apply to the proposed program or activity and include details of past project partnership/collaboration.

Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

Organisations are not eligible to apply if they are:

- an organisation, or a project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' <www.nationalredress.gov.au>
- a Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises)
- an individual
- an unincorporated association
- an overseas resident/organisation
- any organisation that does not meet the eligibility criteria above.

Auspicing arrangements

Non-legal entities such as an unincorporated association may be able to receive funding where a legal parent organisation, or a legal entity connected to the unincorporated association, can enter into a legally binding agreement on its behalf.

Grant amount and grant period

Grants available

The Australian Government has allocated a total of \$11.939 million until the 2027-2028 financial year for the LHP.

- It is anticipated that most Stream 1 grants will be between \$75,000-\$150,000 per 12-month period, depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity.
- It is anticipated that most Stream 2 grants will be between \$250,000 - \$750,000 over 24 months, depending on the scope of the grant activity and its complexity.

Grant period

The maximum grant period is 2 years. Grants in Stream 1 will be provided for either 12-month or 24-month periods, and this can be indicated in your application. Grants in Stream 2 are for 24 months. If a project or proposal in Stream 2 can be completed in less than 24 months, this timeline can be indicated in the proposal and grants can be acquitted early.

The project, reporting and acquittal must be completed by 30 June 2028. At the end of the grant, the funded organisation will be expected to provide reporting on activities, impact and outcomes and including a financial acquittal.

All grants will terminate at the end of the grant period.

What the grant money can be used for

Eligible grant activities

The LHP can only fund delivery of the following clinical and non-clinical services:

- psychosocial support for treating or preventing mental illness
- peer support for improving mental health
- allied health services limited to physiotherapy, dieticians, psychological supports and pharmaceutical supports
- health literacy and promotion
- drug and alcohol programs
 - alcohol and substance use outreach and support services
- chronic disease programs
 - cancer and sexual health screening programs
 - outreach services relating to specific diseases (e.g. dementia)
- perinatal and antenatal support services, **excluding** assisted reproductive technology services (e.g. IVF). Services are limited to addressing the:
 - mental and physical health of pregnant people during the post-natal period
 - mental health of parents
 - physical health of children.

Eligible expenditure

- Grant money can only be used for costs that directly support the activities in the approved grant application. These costs must be incurred during the approved grant period, between the official start date and end (or completion) date for the grant activity. Any spending outside these dates is not eligible.

What the grant money cannot be used for

The grant cannot be used for the following activities:

- activities already funded or subsidised through other sources, such as Primary Health Network funding, Medicare Benefit Schedule funding or other government funding
- delivery of health care or wellbeing services provided by the eligible organisation, outside of the scope of the grant opportunity
- costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land
- paying ransom for ransomware, cyber-attack or any other type of cybercrime
- redundancies, and spouse employment
- major capital expenditure, major construction/capital works
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application, variations or related documentation
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- staff salaries and related costs and administrative support not directly related to the grant activity
- non-project-related staff training and development costs
- making donations, gifts and sponsorships
- overseas travel
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

Timing of grant opportunity processes

Successful applicants are expected to commence their project from mid-2026.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Grant round is open for applications	March 2026
Assessment of applications	April 2026
Approval of outcomes of selection process and notification of successful applicants	May 2026
Finalising grant agreements	May 2026
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	June 2026
Earliest start date of grant activity	Mid-2026
Latest end date of grant activity or agreement	30 June 2028

Next steps

Grant Opportunity Guidelines are expected to be published on the LHA website in March 2026, <<https://www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/lhpgrants>>. Please ensure your organisation is

subscribed for email updates by registering at
<https://www.lgbtiqhealth.org.au/lhpgrants_subscribe>.

This will be the first round of the LHP, with multiple rounds planned for delivery in 2026.
Details of the grant rounds may be refined in future rounds.

Questions during the application process

Questions during the application period can be directed to: enquiryLHP@lgbtiqhealth.org.au.

In the interest of equity and transparency, all questions received about the LHP will be logged, answered and included in a Frequently Asked Questions document, which will be made publicly available to any interested party on the LHA website.

Please note that other staff across LHA are unable to respond to queries about this grant program and will redirect all enquiries to the grants team. Applicants should direct all questions to the enquiryLHP@lgbtiqhealth.org.au email address.