



The Business Development Journey sees a business develop from a bright idea, through to an established and sustainable business.

Aboriginal Investment NT's **Business Grants** provide grant funding to help Aboriginal Territorians to start or grow their business.

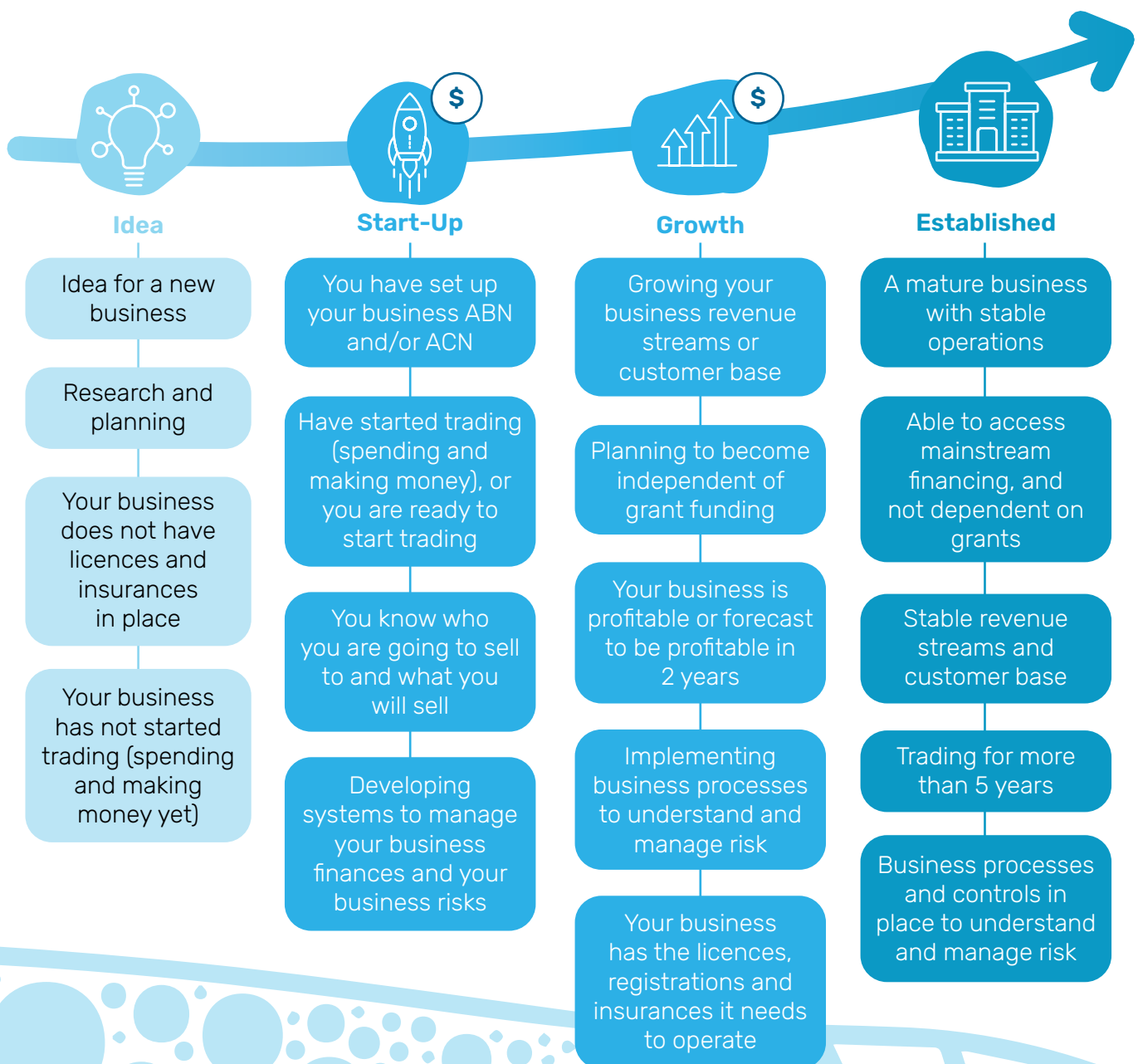
Aboriginal Investment NT was established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Under that Act, grant funding provided through this program must be for the benefit of Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory.

## Our Business Grants

Aboriginal Investment NT offers two types of business grants for Aboriginal Territorians:

- \$ Business Start-Up Grant**  
– up to \$100,000 (GST exclusive)
- \$ Business Growth Grant**  
– up to \$150,000 (GST exclusive)

## Business Development Journey





## 1 Grant overview

The objective of our Business Grants is to increase the size, scale, diversity and maturity of NT Aboriginal businesses, as well as the number of Aboriginal Territorians employed by NT Aboriginal businesses.

**\$7.5 million in grant funding is available each financial year to support the delivery of a business project in the two grant streams.**

**\$ Business Start-Up Grant:**  
You can apply for up to  
**\$100,000 (GST exclusive).**

You can only receive a Business Start-Up Grant once.

**\$ Business Growth Grant:**  
You can apply for up to  
**\$150,000 (GST exclusive).**

You can only receive a Business Growth Grant once every three years for a specific project.

The Business Grants are open for application all year round. The grants are non-competitive, which means you don't have to compete with other applicants. Each application is assessed on its own merit to ensure it meets the eligibility and key assessment criteria. Successful applicants will need to sign a funding agreement that explains the conditions of the funding.

## 2 Application Process

The Business Grant application process has two steps:

### Step 1: Eligibility Application (up to 6 weeks to assess)

Fill in and submit the [Eligibility Application Form](#). Our team will assess to see if you meet all the Eligibility criteria.

### Step 2: Grant Application (up to 12 weeks to assess)

If you are eligible, we will then send you the link to the application form to apply for the grant.

**NOTE: Only one grant application is allowed each financial year**



## 3 Eligibility criteria - who can apply

### You must meet all of the following:

- ✓ Be a corporation, sole trader or partnership trading under a business name registered in the NT and holding a valid Australian Business Number (ABN).
- ✓ Have at least 51% Aboriginal ownership, control and active involvement in the business.
- ✓ Have operations based in the NT.

See the full [Eligibility Checklist](#) for ALL the Eligibility criteria

### AND

#### For Business Start-Up Grants:

- ✓ Have been trading (spending and making money) for less than 2 years at the time of the application
- ✓ Be in the Start-Up stage of your business, as identified using the [self-assessment tool](#)
- ✓ Your business has not received grant funding with a total value of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) or more from Aboriginal Investment NT or the Aboriginal Benefits Account.
- ✓ Have not received a Business Start-Up Grant before.
- ✗ A Director of an ASIC-registered corporation, partnership, or sole trader who has previously received a Business Start-Up Grant from Aboriginal Investment NT under a different entity name.

#### For Business Growth Grants:

- ✓ Have been trading (spending and making money) for at least 12 months.
- ✓ Be in the Growth stage of your business, as identified using the [self-assessment tool](#)
- ✓ Your business has not received grant funding with a total value of \$250,000 (GST exclusive) or more from Aboriginal Investment NT or the Aboriginal Benefits Account, in the previous three years.
- ✓ Have not received a Business Growth grant in the last three years.
- ✗ A Director of an ASIC-registered corporation, partnership, or sole trader who has previously received a Business Grant from Aboriginal Investment NT under a different entity name, in the last 3 years.

#### What can be funded

- ✓ Property, plant and equipment.
- ✓ Base Model/Entry level Vehicles ONLY.
- ✓ Staff wages (capped at one position to a maximum of 38 hours per week, for 26 weeks at the National Minimum Wage).
- ✓ Fit-out costs.
- ✓ Direct business and administration costs (e.g. insurances).
- ✓ Essential professional services and consultancy costs (e.g. taxation, legal, financial) to a maximum of 10% of the grant funding sought.
- ✓ Trading stock and consumables (capped at a 50% contribution, where you demonstrate that you can and will fund the other 50% of the cost of trading stock and consumables).

#### What can't be funded

- ✗ Established businesses
- ✗ Non-essential professional services, project management and consultancy costs.
- ✗ Luxury or High-End vehicles.
- ✗ Community infrastructure.
- ✗ Non-trading, speculative businesses, including the trading of stocks or other financial instruments (although financial service businesses such as stock broking or financial consultancy will be considered).
- ✗ Land banking and property development (e.g. purchasing greenfield sites for future developments).
- ✗ Loan repayments and statutory obligations (e.g. Australian Taxation Office (ATO) overdue payment).



## 4

### Before you apply

- Use the [Supporting Document Checklist](#) to help you gather all the documents you need to apply
- Get formal itemised quotes and include with your application.
- Read our Aboriginal Investment NT [Common Grants Guidelines](#), which set out further guidelines and eligibility criteria that apply to your application.

## 5

### How Aboriginal Investment NT will assess your application

#### Key assessment criteria that we will assess your application on are:

#### 1. Outcomes:

- Will the proposed use of grant monies help your business develop in size, scale, diversity and/or maturity?
- Will any Aboriginal employment opportunities be created by the proposed use of grant funding?

#### 2. Value for money:

- Is the proposed use of grant funding good value for money considering the:
  - Cost,
  - Quality,
  - Purpose, and
  - Intended outcomes?
- Will the proposed project create any opportunities for Aboriginal businesses?

#### 3. Capability and Business Viability:

- Does your business have effective plans and procedures in place to operate the business and achieve the grant outcomes?

##### **Additional criteria for Business Start-Up**

- Do you or other business owners and staff have experience in, or relevant to, running a business?
- Do you or other business owners and staff have experience in, or relevant to, the industry your business is operating in?
- Does your business have developing revenue streams?
- Does your business have a developing customer base?
- Is your business developing business processes and controls to understand and manage risk?

##### **Additional criteria for Business Growth**

- Does your business have revenue streams?
- How is your business planning to mature, diversify, and/or grow your revenue streams?
- Does your business have a customer base?
- How is your business planning to mature, diversify, and/or grow your customer base?
- How is your business implementing processes and controls to understand and manage risk?
- Is your business profitable, or forecast to be profitable, in the next two years?

#### 4. Financial Health (N/A if Start-Up and not Trading):

- Does your business demonstrate strong corporate compliance and sound financial health?