



ABORIGINAL
INVESTMENT

Grants Program Guidelines

Opening date:

14 November 2025

These guidelines will apply to the following
Aboriginal Investment NT grants streams:

- Community Quick Response Grants
- Community Impact & Innovation Grants
- Business Start-Up Grants
- Business Growth Grants

Enquiries

The Aboriginal Investment NT Grants Unit can be contacted at
grants@aboriginalinvestment.org.au

1800 943 039

Date guidelines released:

14 November 2025

These guidelines may be changed from time to time.

For the latest information on Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Program, please check the
Aboriginal Investment NT website www.aboriginalinvestment.org.au where the latest version
of these guidelines are available to download.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Program

The objective of Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Program is to:

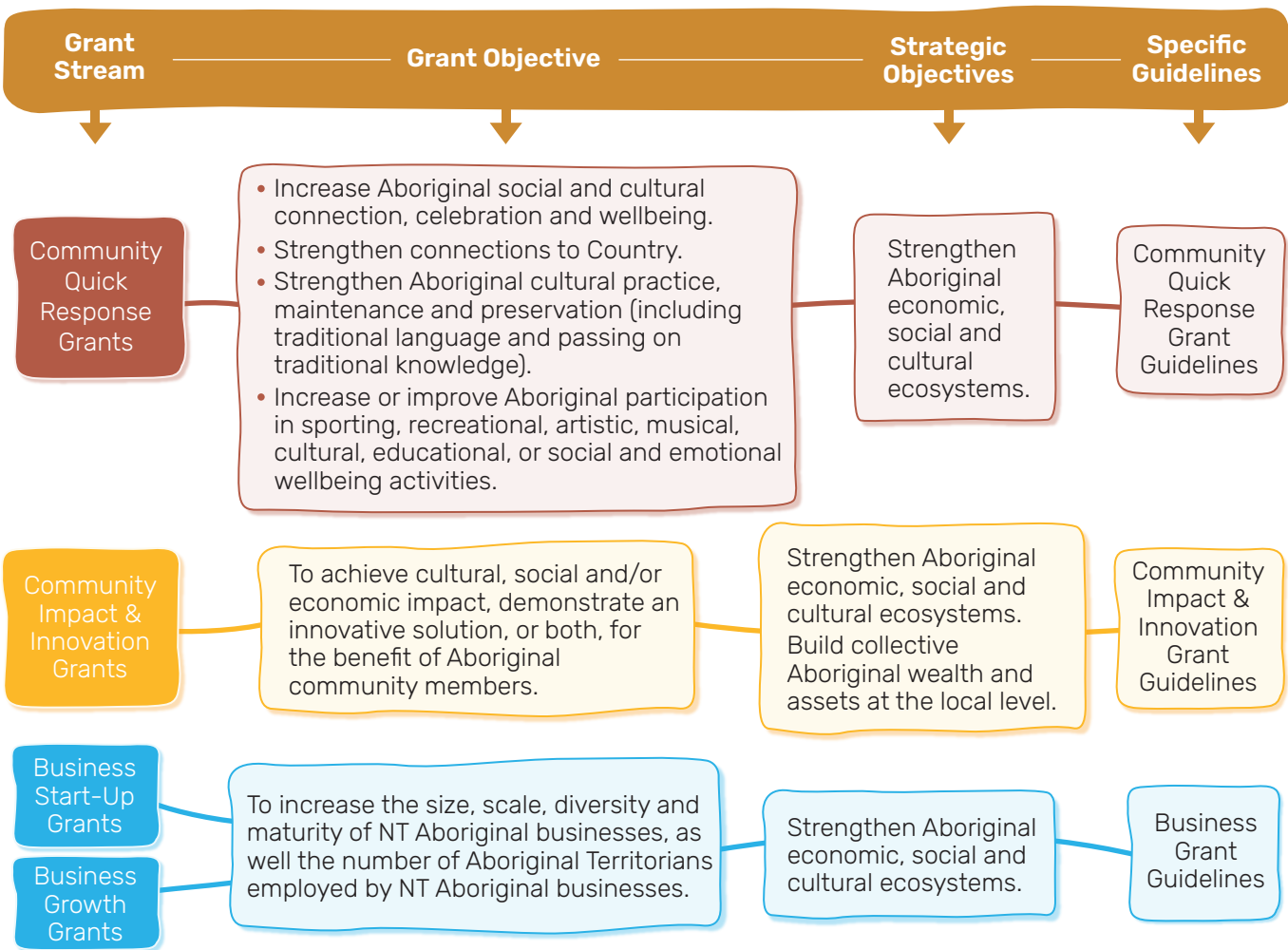
- Strengthen Aboriginal economic, social and cultural systems.
- Build collective Aboriginal wealth and assets at the local level.

For further details on Aboriginal Investment NT's strategic objectives and priorities as they relate to our grants, see our Strategic Investment Plan.

About these Common Grants Guidelines

These Common Grants Guidelines set out the processes and requirements that you need to follow when applying for opportunities in Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Program.

Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Program is split into several grant streams. These Common Grants Guidelines apply to each of the grant streams set out below. Each grant stream has its own specific guidelines, which you should read together with these Common Grants Guidelines.



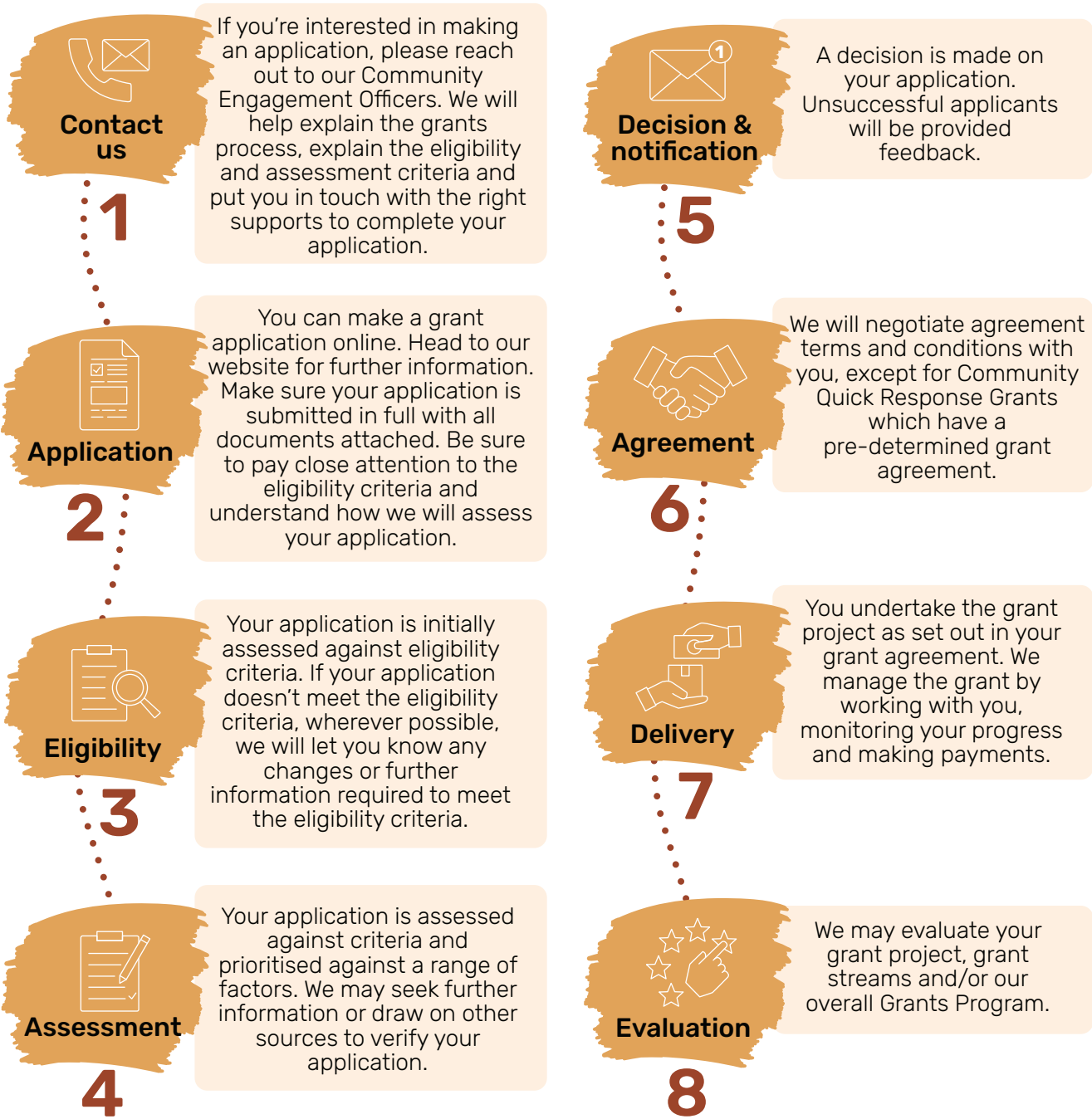
Any alterations and addenda to these guidelines will be published on the Aboriginal Investment NT website.

Guidelines for each grant stream set out applicable amounts, duration and other relevant details.

We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the specific guidelines and the Aboriginal Investment NT website, and in particular, note:

- The maximum and minimum amounts of funding available in each grant stream.
- The application period dates during which you can submit your application (as Aboriginal Investment NT generally does not extend the application period past the stated end date).
- The timings indicated for notification of grant application outcomes if your application is successful.

ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT NT'S GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS



STEP 1: CONTACT US

If you're interested in making an application, give Aboriginal Investment NT a call. We can help explain the grants process, explain the eligibility and assessment criteria and put you in touch with the right supports to complete your application. Contact details for our Community Engagement Officers are on the Aboriginal Investment NT website.

It's important to keep in mind that discussion or support from Aboriginal Investment NT to prepare or submit an application does not guarantee that your application will be approved and funded.

STEP 2: APPLICATION

2.1 How to make an application

You can make a grant application online. Head to our website for further information.

Your application must be submitted in full, including all necessary attachments and supporting documentation. Each of the specific guidelines for your grants stream includes a link to a checklist of the relevant documents that you will need to submit.

If your application is incomplete, we will contact you to provide any missing documents.

You may submit more than one application at a time for the different grant streams, however any outstanding grants will be taken into consideration in the assessment of your application.

2.2 Auspicing arrangements

People and organisations seeking grant funding may need help from an established organisation to apply for and to manage an Aboriginal Investment NT grant on their behalf. This is called auspicing.

An auspicing organisation will need to apply for the grant and provide details of who they are applying and managing the grant on behalf of. The auspicing organisation must be an Aboriginal organisation otherwise eligible to apply for Aboriginal Investment NT grant funding under our Grants Guidelines.

Fees charged by an auspicing organisation may be considered by Aboriginal Investment NT on a case-by-case basis.

2.3 Joint applications

Aboriginal Investment NT does not accept joint applications, unless otherwise stated in specific guidelines for a grant stream.

STEP 3: ELIGIBILITY

An eligibility assessment of grant applications is carried out by Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Unit. Aboriginal Investment NT staff who support you to complete or submit your application will not be involved in assessing your application.

3.1 Eligibility assessment

We'll conduct an eligibility assessment to see if your application meets the eligibility criteria. If your application doesn't meet the eligibility criteria, wherever possible, we will let you know any changes or further information required to meet the eligibility criteria. Your application is not considered to be submitted unless and until you meet the eligibility criteria.

3.2 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for Aboriginal Investment NT grant funding, your application must:

- Be completed in full and attach all necessary attachments and supporting documentation.
- Meet the eligibility criteria set out in the relevant grants stream guidelines.
- Not seek grant funding for an ineligible grant applicant or purpose.

3.3 Ineligible grant applicants

Applications from the following are ineligible for Aboriginal Investment NT grant funding:

- Applicants with a previous debt or underspend or outstanding acquittal of any Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) or Aboriginal Investment NT grant.
- Applicants who are insolvent or have declared bankruptcy.
- Applicants who are not compliant with their incorporating legislation or other applicable laws and regulations (both your organisation/business and key personnel).
- Applicants who are found to have deliberately provided false information in an application to Aboriginal Investment NT for grant funding.
- Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government bodies or agencies.

3.4 Ineligible grant purposes

Applications for the following grant purposes are not eligible for Aboriginal Investment NT grant funding:

- Any ineligible purposes specified in the specific guidelines for the Aboriginal Investment NT grants stream under which the application is made.
- Purposes that do not directly contribute to the outcomes of the project, typically including, but not limited to payment of fines or loans, purchase of gifts or personal debts.
- Expenses that have been or will be grant funded by another source.
- Expenses and projects for which Commonwealth, state, territory, or local government bodies are currently funding. However, if the project relates to innovation, increasing impact or leveraging additional government funding, then the project may be co-funded via an Aboriginal Investment NT grant.
- Funerals and ceremony. These activities are funded by the Land Councils. Applicants are encouraged to apply for funeral and ceremony financial assistance through their Land Council.
- Ongoing staffing or administration costs for an entity, unless otherwise stated in the relevant grant stream guideline.
- Costs for the preparation of the grant application or costs incurred before an application is approved.
- Costs for overseas travel.
- Debt financing or financial investment purposes.
- Activities with a high risk of injury or harm (psychological, physical, cultural).

3.5 Confirmation of Aboriginality

As part of your application, Aboriginal Investment NT may require supporting documentation verifying Aboriginality.

STEP 4: ASSESSMENT

Assessment of grant applications is carried out by Aboriginal Investment NT's Grants Unit. Aboriginal Investment NT staff who support you to complete or submit your application will not be involved in assessing your application.

4.1 Assessment criteria and factors

Your application will be assessed with regard to the standard criteria and priority factors identified below.

A. Standard assessment criteria

Aboriginal Investment NT will assess your application based on the following:

- The assessment criteria set out in the specific guidelines for the relevant Aboriginal Investment NT grants program under which the application was made.
- **Risk** involved at both the **applicant** and **project** levels.
- Availability of grant funds.
- Compliance, or ability to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and mandatory requirements if your application is successful.
- **Previous grant funding received** from Aboriginal Investment NT and other funders, including under the former ABA Grants Program.
- **More appropriate funding** sources.

Your application will be rated on whether it 'fully meets', 'partially meets' or 'do not meet' the standard criteria.

B. Priority factors

In addition to the standard criteria, Aboriginal Investment NT may prioritise applications based on the following factors:

- **Equity:** Delivery of outcomes across geographic regions of the NT and in areas of Aboriginal Investment NT underinvestment, and provision of grant funding to applicants with varying organisational resources and capacity.
- **Leveraged Funding:** Demonstrated co-funding or other secured funding for the grant project (including your contribution, in-kind or cash).
- **Innovation or Impact:** Greatest opportunity to deliver sustained and/or scalable innovation or impact to Aboriginal Territorians beyond Aboriginal Investment NT grant funding.

These priority factors are only used to determine whether your application should be prioritised for grant funding over other applications under consideration. These factors are not used to assess your suitability to receive grant funding.

4.2 Additional Documentation or Information

Aboriginal Investment NT may seek additional information or clarification from you to assist in assessing your application. We will let you know how long you have to respond. If there are unreasonable delays in responding, Aboriginal Investment NT may continue to assess your application (without the additional information or clarification).

Aboriginal Investment NT may also draw on other sources to verify claims in your application, which may include:

- Information from public registers and credit reporting agencies.
- Information from within Aboriginal Investment NT available through the normal course of business such as knowledge about your previous performance.
- Information about you or your application from other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies, whether or not you nominated them as a referee.
- Representatives from an Aboriginal community or organisation, or subject-matter experts, who are on an assessment panel, whether or not you nominated them as a referee.
- Recommendations from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local and regional decision-making groups and organisations.

STEP 5: DECISION & NOTIFICATION

Aboriginal Investment NT’s Grants Unit will provide assessment advice on your application to the relevant decision-maker for its consideration. To ensure probity, any Aboriginal Investment NT staff who provide support in developing your application will not be involved in the assessment of your application.

Decision-makers for grant funding are as follows:

Grant Stream	Decision-maker
Community Quick Response Grants	Aboriginal Investment NT CEO or COO
Community Impact & Innovation Grants	Aboriginal Investment NT Board
Business Start-Up Grants	Aboriginal Investment NT CEO or COO
Business Growth Grants	Aboriginal Investment NT CEO or COO

After considering the assessment undertaken by the Aboriginal Investment NT Grants Unit, the decision-maker can:

- Approve your application in principle, subject to negotiation of a grant agreement.
- Approve your application in principle with changes or conditions, subject to negotiation of a grant agreement.
- Not approve your application.

The decision-maker’s decision is final in all matters, including any conditions and grant funding amount to be awarded.

Aboriginal Investment NT will notify you of the outcome of your application via the email address for the contact person nominated in the application form.

5.1 Reapplication for unsuccessful applicants

Aboriginal Investment NT will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants on the reasons why their application was unsuccessful. Where it is possible for you to address feedback given, Aboriginal Investment NT will provide an opportunity for you to resubmit your application or to submit a new application.

If a resubmitted application does not contain material changes addressing the feedback given, you will be advised of this and given a further opportunity to improve your application.

If any subsequent application still does not contain material changes addressing the feedback given, it will not proceed for further assessment or decision. Aboriginal Investment NT will advise you of this outcome.

STEP 6: AGREEMENT

6.1 Agreement before guaranteed payment

If your application is successful, you will need to enter into a grant agreement with Aboriginal Investment NT. A signed **grant agreement** with Aboriginal Investment NT is required before we will make any payments of grant funding. There is no guarantee of funding until both parties have signed the grant agreement.

If you choose to start your grant project before you have an executed grant agreement, you do so at your own risk (including incurring financial and other costs should an agreement not be reached, or costs are not covered by the grant agreement).

We will tell you how long you have to accept the grant offer by Aboriginal Investment NT. If there are unreasonable delays in finalising a grant agreement, Aboriginal Investment NT may withdraw or amend its grant offer to you.

6.2 Conditions

Your application may be approved in principle, subject to you meeting certain conditions. These conditions may include but are not limited to:

- Evidence, such as qualifications, permits, registrations, checks and licences required for the lawful performance of the grant project.
- For applications that relate to developing assets on land, applicants must provide evidence of their right to use the land for the project purpose.
- Sourcing and/or evidence of co-funding from third parties.
- Feasibility, independent evaluations, or other evidence of project viability.

6.3 Agreement terms

The type of grant agreement and its terms and conditions will depend on the size, complexity and intended outcomes of your grant project, as well as the level of risk associated at both the **applicant** and **project** levels.

For Community Quick Response Grants, Aboriginal Investment NT's online application includes the terms and conditions on which we will provide grant funding, should your application be successful. As part of the application, you will be asked to acknowledge and accept these terms and conditions. You should read the application form carefully before signing, as these terms and conditions will be countersigned by Aboriginal Investment NT and become legally binding if your application is approved.

For all other grants, agreement terms and conditions will be consistent with the amount of the grant, the scope of the grant project, risk factors and any conditions approved by the decision-maker. To understand the types of terms and conditions contained in Aboriginal Investment NT's grant agreements, including how we will monitor your grant project, see our template agreements available on our website.

6.4 Publication of grants

Once your grant agreement is executed, it will be listed on the Aboriginal Investment NT website within 21 calendar days after the grant execution date.

Information about your grant may also be published on the Australian Government's GrantsConnect platform.

Aboriginal Investment NT may also promote your grant on the Aboriginal Investment NT website and other forms of media.

STEP 7: DELIVERY

7.1 Monitoring delivery of your grant

Aboriginal Investment NT uses a number of approaches to monitor grants depending on the level of risk.

You may be required to provide:

- Periodic reporting on grant delivery against key performance indicators that are identified in the grant agreement.
- Evidence that funds have been expended for the purposes identified in the grant agreement, such as through financial reports.
- Performance and financial reporting to acquit the grant.

Aboriginal Investment NT may also monitor how your grant is going as part of our community and stakeholder engagement activities, such as community visits by Aboriginal Investment NT staff.

7.2 Compliance

Where necessary, Aboriginal Investment NT may also carry out a compliance visit, where Aboriginal Investment NT staff visit you during or after completion of your grant project to formally review your compliance with the grant agreement. If necessary, we may also inspect, copy or remove and retain the records you are required to keep according to the grant agreement.

Aboriginal Investment NT will work with you to achieve the intended outcomes of your grant. In circumstances of non-compliance with the grant agreement, Aboriginal Investment NT will consider an appropriate response in accordance with the grant agreement.

This may include varying your agreement if:

- Unexpected event(s) are impacting grant delivery.
- Results or outcomes from grant delivery are not consistent with what is identified in the grant agreement.

Examples of variations may include:

- Changing key performance indicators.
- Extending the timeframe for completion.
- Reducing funding.

7.3 Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant project or organisation by contacting the contact officer listed in your grant agreement as soon as possible.

STEP 8: EVALUATION

We may conduct an evaluation of individual grant projects, grant streams and/or the overall Grants Program to help ensure grant funding is being allocated to achieve meaningful objectives and outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians. This may include process, outcome and/or economic evaluation of your grant.

We may use information from your application and grant reporting for this purpose. We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us evaluate how effective your grant project has been.

Terms and conditions relating to evaluation of your grant will be set out in your grant agreement.

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

9 PROBITY

9.1 Conflicts of interest

Aboriginal Investment NT Board and Committee members, staff and others acting on our behalf have an obligation to declare and manage conflicts of interest – whether actual, perceived or potential – including when assessing or deciding on a grant application. This includes conflicts of interest relating to:

- Professional, political, commercial or personal relationships with a party who or is perceived to be able to influence the application selection process.
- Relationships with, or interests in, an organisation or individual, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the successful applicants from carrying out the proposed projects fairly and independently.
- Relationships with, or interests in, an organisation or individual that may receive a personal gain as a result of an organisation or individual receiving an Aboriginal Investment NT grant under this Grants Program.
- Any other relevant set of circumstances that may create an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.

As part of your application, we ask that you also declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest that you or key management personnel for your organisation have (or may have to the best of your knowledge). This includes, for example, directors, CEOs, founders, shareholders or partners (where the organisation is a partnership legal structure). If you do not believe you have any conflict of interests, this should also be declared to us.

Your responsibility to declare conflicts of interest is an ongoing responsibility. You must inform us in writing if you later identify any conflict of interest and provide further information to the satisfaction of Aboriginal Investment NT.

An application is considered incomplete and ineligible if the conflict of interest declaration is not complete.

9.2 Complaints

If you would like to make a complaint about a grant process please email complaints@aboriginalinvestment.org.au.

If you do not agree with the way Aboriginal Investment NT has handled your complaint, you may wish to contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually investigate a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with Aboriginal Investment NT.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

10. PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

10.1 Collection and use of personal information

Personal information collected from you by Aboriginal Investment NT during the grant application and assessment process will be used for the purposes of assessing and administering grants. [Aboriginal Investment NT's Privacy Policy](#) is located on Aboriginal Investment NT's website and has more detail about the way Aboriginal Investment NT manages personal information. It also contains information about how you can access the personal information held by Aboriginal Investment NT, seek correction of the information, or make a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles.

10.2 Confidential information

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and confidential if it meets all of the three conditions below:

- You clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential.
- The information is commercially sensitive.
- Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

10.3 Disclosure of personal information and confidential information

We may disclose your personal and confidential information to:

- The Aboriginal Investment NT Board, as a review panel and decision-maker. This may also include Aboriginal Investment NT officials, community representatives and/or subject matter experts, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively.
- Employees and contractors of Aboriginal Investment NT outside the Aboriginal Investment NT Grants Unit so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our funded programs and projects.
- Employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, compliance, research or service delivery.
- Other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies in our program reports and consultations.
- The Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner.
- The responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
- A House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes including government administration, research or service delivery and according to Australian laws.

10.4 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of Aboriginal Investment NT, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by Aboriginal Investment NT. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All freedom of information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing, via info@aboriginalinvestment.org.au.