

## The Direct Aid Program

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a flexible, small grants program funded by the Australian Government, available to non-government organizations (NGOs) and community groups engaged in development projects.

The program aims to support projects with a strong development focus that complement Australia's broader aid program. DAP supports projects that provide direct benefits to those most in need in the local community, including vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, women, children and youth and people with disabilities. From time to time, DAP also supports one-off initiatives to community groups with discrete inputs such as books for libraries or school furniture.

**Important note:** *DAP program and application requirements can change from year-to-year. Please do not rely on information that does not appear on this website or that you did not receive directly from the High Commission.*

### Who can apply?

DAP is available on a not-for-profit basis to community groups, NGOs and other entities engaged in small scale development projects, such as religious groups and schools.

### How much can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for a maximum of AUD10,000 over the life of the project.

### What activities are eligible for DAP Support?

DAP is able to fund projects that have a direct, practical and immediate impact. **Favourable consideration** will be provided to projects:

- in the areas of gender equality, disabilities, community and/or rural development, education, health, sport (particularly if supporting a disadvantaged group), youth, human rights, the environment, small scale infrastructure such as water tanks, and economic empowerment;
- where applicants and/or communities make a contribution in labour, materials, transport or cash;
- that pursue innovative approaches, projects and partners;
- that are achievable and have sustainable outcomes; and/or
- that provide educational or occupational/skills training and have a clear plan for measuring the success of training.

Projects that would generally **not be funded** include:

- micro credit schemes or projects that involve the return of money;
- commercial ventures;
- purchase or rental of property or land;
- routine, recurring running costs and administrative expenses including office rental and utility costs, spare parts, routine maintenance purchase of major assets eg vehicles, boats, computers, air conditioning units etc;
- staff salaries;
- Australian or overseas study tours;
- international travel;
- sponsorship of major sporting tournaments or cultural displays that do not have a clear developmental benefit; and
- freight of goods, except where the applicant demonstrates that it is not possible to source the same items locally.

Projects should be small-scale, self-contained and with finite timelines. Projects in which the applicant or community themselves makes a significant contribution in terms of labour, materials or cash are particularly well received.

Eligible projects would normally be implemented over a relatively short period, generally up to one (1) year.

### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

All projects should be completed within a year of receiving funds. Funded projects must proceed expeditiously. Where the commencement of a project is delayed by more than three months, the Australian High Commission may, at its discretion, require the return of the entire amount of the DAP grant.

We require a high degree of transparency and accountability in all projects. Applications must demonstrate that the risk of wastage, administration costs and other costs not delivering direct benefit to the target community will be minimised.

Should your project be successful, you will be required to:

- sign a contract specifying the terms and conditions of the grant;
- keep full financial records of all expenditure, including receipts;
- submit a progress report within six months of receiving your funding (for projects lasting longer than six months);
- submit a final report at the project's completion, which includes an acquittal report accounting for all funds with copies of all receipts; and
- allow and facilitate a visit by Australian High Commission representatives to the project site.

In exceptional circumstances, the Australian High Commission may approve prior written requests to reallocate unspent funds to a related project if said project is within the timeframe of the signed contract.

## **Media**

Publicity for approved projects must be cleared with the Australian High Commission, Funafuti. Where possible, any media release is to be cleared with the Australian High Commission before releasing to local media.

Suitable recognition must be given to the Government of Australia for any publicity activity. All projects must reference the Australian Aid identifier (logo) which can be found here:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/Pages/logos-and-style-guides>

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **When can I apply?**

Applications for the Australian High Commission's Tuvalu DAP program for 2021 will be open for applications from Monday 15 Feb to Sunday 7 March.

We will not be able to accept applications outside these timeframes.

### **How will applications be assessed?**

After the submission deadline, the DAP Committee will assess the applications against the following criteria:

- conformity with the objectives and guidelines of the DAP;
- the costs and developmental benefits of the application;
- the appropriateness of the expenditure proposed;
- achievable and sustainable outcomes; and
- soundness of the project's objectives and design.

During this process, we may ask the applicant for more information.

### **How can I apply?**

All applications for the 2021 DAP program must be submitted through [Smartygrants](#), our online grants management system. Smartygrants operates on a web-based platform and can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection.

**Apply here** - follow the link to begin your application process - [DAP Smartygrants - Funafuti Direct Aid Program 2020-21](#)

Paper based applications are not available. If you are having problems accessing the internet please let us know and we'll try to find a solution.

All applications must be accompanied by a fully costed project budget.

### **What do I do if I need help?**

If you have any questions while completing your application, please contact us on 20043 or at [dap.funafuti@dfat.gov.au](mailto:dap.funafuti@dfat.gov.au) during business hours. Make sure to include your application number in your email subject.

**Notes:**

1. DAP building and construction related projects should meet or exceed Australian Work Health and Safety (WHS) standards wherever reasonably practicable to do so. Departure from Australian WHS standards on the basis that meeting such standards is not “reasonably practicable” will only be accepted where it is defensible to do so, supported by a clear, persuasive and documented explanation. In such cases, the project should meet the highest standard that is reasonably practicable, with hazard mitigation measures supported by a hazard identification and risk assessment report identifying the residual risks of injury and illness to any workers or third parties, and proposed mitigation strategy.
2. If the project involves working with children, the organisation must have a current child protection policy or code of conduct to be eligible.
3. Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that no support or resources are provided to any entity subject to sanctions by the United Nations Security Council or the Australian Government.
4. Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that the work conducted in relation to this project is undertaken in a safe manner and complies with all applicable local laws, standards and policies that relate to health and safety.