



Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program

Guidelines and conditions



STRONGER FISHING CLUBS GRANTS

In 2022 the Victorian Government committed funding to improve recreational fishing through a range of programs and initiatives, including the provision of a grants program to fishing clubs across Victoria to help them increase membership and promote participation in recreational fishing.

The Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program provides funding of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) towards eligible projects.

The following guidelines and conditions are provided to assist grant applicants in preparing and submitting applications.

- Grants will be available to incorporated angling clubs and associations with a limit of one application per club/association.
- All projects must demonstrate how they will strengthen the club, increase membership, and/or promote participation in fishing.
- Individual clubs will be responsible for public liability insurance and Working with Children checks, in cases where funding is provided for a public event.
- The Victorian Fisheries Authority will provide assistance to clubs wishing to develop applications. Feedback will be provided on unsuccessful applications and clubs will be encouraged to reapply. Successful clubs will be notified with a letter of offer and information on what is required to obtain funds.
- All funded projects must be completed within 12 months of receiving funds. Variations and extensions may be sought where unforeseen circumstances arise.

Additional guidelines

- Funding for uniforms is capped at \$2,500 and uniforms should be provided to club members at no charge (remaining available funding may be spent on other projects provided this is detailed in the application).
- Funding for fishing equipment (rods, reels, tackle, fly tying equipment, etc.) is capped at \$2,500, and will only be provided where the club will use the equipment to run public participation or education events. The equipment must always remain the property of the club.

What is eligible for funding?

- Programs or events that provide recreational fishing tuition and/or experiences for women, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups, first nations people and all-abilities.
- IT upgrades such as installing Wi-Fi and improving connectivity.
- Website development and other forms of promotion.
- Club room improvements.
- Member uniforms and other merchandise with club branding.
- Equipment that will benefit all club members and will be housed at the club.
- Membership drives and open days.
- Come and Try Fishing events (including single event public liability costs).
- Guest speaker nights (open to the public).
- Training for members (e.g., first aid, inclusiveness).

What will not be funded

- Payment of utility bills, rental charges etc.
- Trips for existing members.
- Purchase of alcohol.
- Fish stocking.
- Projects already completed/retrospective funding.
- Non fishing related entertainment.
- Recreational fishing competitions and other events that are primarily of a commercial nature.
- Prizes and giveaways.

The application process

Applications will be called for in rounds that will be opened and promoted in each of the four consecutive years of the program. We encourage and welcome all clubs to apply.

Only applications submitted in the prescribed template will be accepted.

To discuss a potential project, or for assistance with an application please contact the Victorian Fisheries Authority on 0417 038 775 or rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au

All eligible applications will be assessed by a panel of Victorian Fisheries Authority staff.

We will contact you as soon as practicable to notify you of the outcome of your grant application.

There is no right of appeal in respect to any decision made to fund or not fund any proposed project.

Successful grant applicants will be required to:

- enter into a Project Funding Agreement with the Victorian Fisheries Authority
- submit a Tax Invoice or Invoice, made out to the 'The Victorian Fisheries Authority' or 'VFA' for payment of the grant
- operate public liability insurance as required, covering the project's activities
- submit an Acquittal/Final Report within 60 days of completing the project
- return any unspent funds back to the department within 60 days of completing the project, and
- keep records of all expenditure associated with the grant for a minimum of five years.

Goods and Services Tax

- With the exception of any grant that qualifies as an 'appropriation' by way of payments made between 'government related entities' for general funding arrangements or non-commercial transactions, grant payments made under this program will be inclusive of GST and project costings should also be inclusive of the GST.
- Withholding tax will apply where grant recipients are unable to provide an ABN and the supplier does not satisfy reason/s for their exemption from the tax as stated on the Australian Taxation Office's Statement by supplier – Reason for not quoting an Australian Business Number (ABN) to an enterprise.

Promotion and branding

A common condition of Victorian government funding for services or project activity is that recipients must agree to follow the Victorian Fisheries Authority's guidelines for acknowledging the government's funding.

Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge the government's funding support on signage, in published or printed materials, speeches, or other forms of presentations.

Detailed guidelines on Promotion and Branding will be provided as part of a funding agreement.

Getting in touch

For further information on the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants Program, or to discuss potential applications, please contact the Program Manager on 0417 038 775 during normal business hours or email: rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au