Victorian Fisheries Authority

Small Grants Program

Guidelines and Conditions

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| **Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account** |



# Small grants program

The Small Grants Program provides funding of **up to $5,000 (GST exclusive)** for small recreational fishing projects which benefit public recreational fishing in Victoria.

The Victorian Government recognises that recreational fishing is a major social and economic contributor to Victorian communities, and, as such, the Government supports actions or programs which aim to boost participation in recreational fishing and related activities.

The Small Grants Program is continuously open for applications, year round, subject to the allocation of available funds for any given period. An 'easy-to-complete' form has been developed for grant applications to be made.

The Small Grants Program is not reliant on any matching cash contribution for an application to be successful.

# Conditions

**Eligibility**

Your proposed project must provide a benefit to public recreational fishing in Victoria. You must provide information in your application to demonstrate that your proposed project or activity meets this criterion.

Community not-for-profit organisations, angling clubs/associations, schools, statutory bodies/government agencies and incorporated bodies/associations in Victoria are eligible to apply if they:

* Involve community members at the local level;
* Are an incorporated body, co-operative or association; and
* Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or have written advice from the Australian Taxation Office that the Withholding Tax does not apply to the grant payment.

Unincorporated organisations may apply through a sponsoring organisation, which is an incorporated body, cooperative, or association that has an ABN.

## What will the Small Grants Program fund?

**Recreational fishing access and infrastructure**

Examples of what can be funded:

* installation of solar lighting above fishing platforms
* fish cleaning tables
* directional, educational and information signage
* fence-stiles, gates, access paths, stairs and/or walkways to improve access to public fishing locations
* pontoons or jetties

\*Projects providing all abilities access are encouraged where appropriate.

**Community fishing events**

Funding is available for events or programs that:

* promote responsible recreational fishing practices
* improve angling skills and knowledge amongst participants
* seek to increase participation in recreational fishing

As a guide, events could include:

* a workshop or training session on aspects of recreational fishing such as knot- or fly-tying, rig-setting, bait collection and application, fish catch and release techniques,
* 'Come and try' fishing days, Fish-a-thons, or club promotion days
* displays at shows and expos

\*Funding for guest speakers at events may be considered

**Education projects**

Funding is available for education projects that:

* promote responsible and sustainable recreational fishing practice

As a guide, education projects could include:

* the preparation of educational material such as brochures, reports, digital and social media, DVDs, radio programs

Any queries about what the program will or will not fund should be discussed with The Secretariat, Recreational Fishing Grants Working Group who can be contacted on (03) 8392 6872 or email: [rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au) – before you proceed to complete the on-line grant application form.

## The Small Grants Program is unable to fund:

* Natural persons (refer - Who can apply and how to apply?);
* The purchase of equipment for a group's exclusive use, competitions and prizes, give-aways, or alcohol for any events. Reasonable purchases of equipment will be considered for events where it is value for money compared with the cost of renting the same equipment;
* General operating or travel costs not directly associated with a project/event;
* The stocking of fish (including the purchase, transportation and/or the release of fish for an event);
* Excessive advertising costs and promotion;
* Projects assessed as having little value or no benefit to public recreational fishing in Victoria; and/or
* Recreational boating-related infrastructure including, but not confined to boat ramps/pontoons and/or related jetties, ramp access dredging, boat wash-down facilities, boat berthing, boat trailer access and/or car parking that may be funded from recreational vessel registration fees under the control of the Department of Transport, or an alternative source. Enquiries about the Department of Transport Boating Safety & Facilities Program should be directed to the Grants Administration Team on (1800 337 222, or via email: [boating.grants@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:boating.grants@ecodev.vic.gov.au).

## The Application Process

The Small Grants Program is continuously open for applications, year round, subject to the allocation of available funds for any given period.

Applications for the grant must be submitted using the Victorian Fisheries Authority SmartyGrants portal. <https://fisheriesvictoria.smartygrants.com.au/>

All enquiries and communications regarding a project proposal or related matter should be referred directly to the Secretariat, Recreational Fishing Grants Program on Tel. (03) 8392 6872 or email [rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:rec.fishinggrants@vfa.vic.gov.au)

Only proposals submitted the prescribed template will be accepted. The receipt of grant applications will be acknowledged in writing by the Victorian Fisheries Authority.

Past performance in the delivery of a Small Grant project may be considered by assessors when evaluating each application.

Following approval to disburse funds to eligible projects, grant applicants will be informed of the success or otherwise of their proposal. 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
* Provide a suitable invoice
* Notify the Victorian Fisheries Authority of any proposed variations or extensions to the project objectives, timetable, work plan or budget. The proponent will need to submit and have approved a Project Variation Application form; and
* Submit a Final Report and Grant Acquittal within 30 days of completing the project.

## 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.
* Refer to Appendix A for the purchasing thresholds and design drawings and work permit requirements that apply to the grants program.

## Promotion and Branding

A common condition of Victorian government funding for services or project activity is that recipients must agree to follow the Department’s guidelines for acknowledging the government’s funding. Aligning with the current Victorian government branding and funding acknowledgment guidelines.

Successful applicants are also 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.