

## Confident Girls Foundation Bushfire Recovery Fund Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

### **Q: What will the Confident Girls Foundation Bushfire Recovery Fund support?**

A: The Confident Girls Foundation Bushfire Recovery Fund application process is designed to be deliberately flexible, so that it can fund the various needs identified in communities, because every community is different.

So, it will depend on what a community needs, but from the Foundation's experience, initial needs are likely to focus on infrastructure, purchasing equipment, covering the cost of registrations and fees for participants, holding clinics and special community events, supplying uniforms, the list goes on.

Broader netball and community activities could include:

- Bringing the netball community together to support social skills, connectedness and build networks and friendships through group activities, e.g. community barbecues, regular coffee mornings, community meetings;
- Projects that are recovery focused and aim to build on the netball community's and members' resilience, healing and capacity building;
- Initiatives offering comfort, reassurance and assistance to communities and individuals to address practical needs and return to normal routines; and/or
- Practical advice and skills development, e.g. for parents to help provide support for their children, addressing particular needs of isolated older women, or future netball club bushfire planning and preparedness.

Applications must align with at least one of the Foundation's granting philosophy:

- Community need and impact: programs that meet a genuine, identified need and that have the potential for significant or direct community impact and benefit, and broader implementation;
- Innovation and sustainability: programs that offer innovative and creative solutions to issues and programs that have the potential to be sustainable over the longer term;
- Linkages: the Foundation will support and embrace organisations and individuals that work in cooperation and partnership within their program work and that actively encourage collaboration with key stakeholders in a given field.

### **Q: How will funds be distributed to communities?**

A: The grants will support netball community-identified and community-led initiatives.

Funds from the Confident Girls Foundation Bushfire Recovery Fund will go out primarily via a grants application process. Once applications are received, they will be assessed, considered by an Advisory Committee and endorsed by the Confident Girls Foundation Board, and the outcome notified.

### **Q: Who can apply for funding?**

A: The Confident Girls Foundation encourages applications from local not-for-profit netball community organisations in bushfire-affected locations, who work closely with their local community. However, the Foundation may also support groups, including councils, schools and universities that are based outside the directly affected areas but are delivering services into affected areas, if that support is requested by or strongly endorsed by local community leaders.

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Organisations do need either an ABN or incorporation certificate and will be required in the Application process to demonstrate how grant funding will be of broad community benefit.

**Q: What are the timelines for the Grants Application process?**

The grants application process will commence on 22 June 2020 and will close 31 July 2020.

Once applications are received, they will be assessed, considered by an Advisory Committee and endorsed by the Confident Girls Foundation Board by 30 September 2020, and the outcome will be advised from 7 October 2020.

The funds received from this Grants process need to be expended within 12 months of the executed Agreement.

As the current relief efforts are still very much underway, the Foundation will monitor the situation and donations received to see what additional support is required in coming months and years.

**Q: How much can I apply for?**

A: There will be two tiers of grants available, providing small grants up to \$1,500 and larger grants up to \$10,000.

Don't build your budget based around the maximum amount that is available for each grant. Think about the budget your project realistically requires and write your application around this amount.

**Q: Is there a minimum amount to apply for?**

No there isn't. The Foundation can help fund small projects.

**Q: What Assessment Criteria will the Advisory Committee apply?**

Applications are considered against the points listed below. Applicants are strongly encouraged to bear these in mind when writing their applications.

Grant Assessment Criteria are as follows:

1. Evidence that netball organisation grant recipient is located in a bushfire affected area.
2. Projects that strengthen social connectedness, emotional wellbeing and resilience, and assist netball communities to recover and heal from the recent bushfires.
3. Projects that offer a clear public benefit for some or all of the netball and broader community impacted by the bushfires.
4. Projects that offer value for money - both to the netball and broader community and the Confident Girls Foundation.
5. Projects that have outcomes or performance indicators against which the project can be evaluated.

**Q: What information should I put in the budget?**

A: Be realistic and show value for money. The Foundation wants to maximise the number of projects it can support so be realistic about your requirements. If you are in a regional area and are having trouble getting quotes, let us know in your application. You can guesstimate to your best ability or ask for a verbal quote or online quote. You won't be marked down for this!

Give a reasonable level of detail. The Foundation wants the Application process to be as easy as possible, we do not want this to take a great deal of time to complete, but please give enough information so that the Application can be accessed.

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**Q: Can I include indirect, overhead and administrative costs in my application?**

A: The Foundation recognises that some overhead and administrative costs may be directly attributable to the projects or activities being funded. In such cases, the Foundation will consider funding these expenses to a reasonable level, usually not more than 20% of the total amount requested.

**Q: Do I include GST in the budget?**

A: Do not list GST as a stand-alone line item. If you are paying GST on goods and services, include it for that line item. If you are not paying GST on other items, do not include it. There is no need to indicate the total amount of GST in your budget, or indicate which items include GST.

**Q: Are there any exclusions?**

A: Projects that fall into any of the following categories will not be considered for funding.

- Initiatives that duplicate existing activities and services.
- Activities that are covered under an insurance claim.
- Communities that were not impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires.
- Activities that, in the Foundation's reasonable opinion, are unrelated to bushfire recovery.
- Initiatives that would require ongoing funding.
- Alcohol purchases for community or other events.
- Projects that subsidise commercial activities (e.g. ongoing business operational costs).
- Retrospective funding – projects which are already completed are not eligible for consideration.
- Applications for activities taking place outside of Australia.
- Applications for projects that have previously been declined by the Foundation cannot be resubmitted unless there are material changes to the project.
- Applications will not be accepted from organisations that have not successfully acquitted previous grants from the Foundation.

**Q: What do you mean by demonstrated need?**

To help you think about this in relation to your application, identify what are the problems / issues you are trying to solve / improve.

- Why is your project necessary?
- Can you demonstrate how this project will fill a gap?
- Will it benefit a broad group of people, and not just an individual?
- What will happen if the project does not proceed?
- We need you to tell us about the problem and how your project will fix or address the issue or initiate positive change.

**Q: Does the Confident Girls Foundation support individuals affected by the fires?**

A: The Confident Girls Foundation provides grants for broad community benefit and does not provide grants to individuals directly. This does not mean that individuals cannot benefit from grants (for example, where an organisation applies for funding to pay for registration fees and uniforms for participants).

**Q: Will all applicants receive funding?**

A: No. The Foundation expects that the application process will be competitive. It is anticipated that there will be multiple applicants competing for the funding available. Successful organisations will be those that best demonstrate a need for the project, provide a cost-effective budget and can demonstrate that the organisation applying has the capacity to deliver the project.

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Nothing in the Foundation's grant process should be construed to give rise to any contractual obligations or rights, express or implied, by the issue of this grant application or the lodgement of a proposal in response to it. No contract will be created unless and until an Agreement is executed between the Foundation and an Applicant.

Applicants will not be considered approved until they have signed the Foundation's Grant Agreement. Refer to the example Agreement on the website.

**Q: Can I get assistance with my Application?**

A: The Foundation is run by a small number of staff. Due to the large number of Applications we expect to receive, unfortunately it is not possible for us to provide assistance.

**Q: What if my Application is successful?**

**You will be contacted by the Foundation if your Application has been successful from 7 October 2020.**

All grants are subject to the Foundation's Grant Agreement. The Agreement outline obligations for grantees, such as reporting and evaluation, after a grant has been awarded. Payment will be processed following execution of the Agreement and receipt of an Invoice(s).

Successful organisations will be required to lodge a report, detailing the achievements and evaluating the success of activities for which funding was given. The Foundation will provide a template to complete to assist you in this process.

**Q: What if my Application is unsuccessful?**

A: There are no appeals for unsuccessful Applicants. You may wish to apply again in the next round of the program.

**Q: Do you have deadlines for Expressions of Interest?**

Yes. The Foundation strictly enforces closing dates. Applications received after the closing date of 31 July 2020 will not be accepted.

**Q: Do you provide feedback if my Application is unsuccessful?**

A: The Foundation is run by a small number of staff. Due to the large number of Applicants we receive, unfortunately it is not possible for us to provide formal feedback for unsuccessful Applications.

**Q: Does The Confident Girls Foundation support wildlife affected by the fires?**

A: The Confident Girls Foundation charitable purposes do not allow funds to directly support animal welfare.

**Q: Who will make decisions about where the money goes?**

A: The Confident Girls Foundation has a very thorough due-diligence process to ensure that funds make the greatest impact possible. Applications are assessed by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the Foundation, Netball Australia and a community organisation. The Advisory Committee is chaired by the CEO of the Foundation. All grants are endorsed by the Foundation Board.

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The Advisory Group can seek information about an Application from Netball Australia's State and Territory Netball Member Organisations and Suncorp Super Netball Clubs.

The Advisory Group can seek information about an Application from the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and equivalent state and territory government organisations.

The Foundation reserves the right to engage a third party to carry out assessments of an applicants' financial, technical, planning and other resource capability.

**Q: Where is the funding for the Grants coming from?**

The Foundation is collecting donations specifically for the Bushfire Recovery Fund. The Foundation also receives funding from a variety of sources - a full overview of funding can be viewed within the Confident Girls Foundation Donor Report which can be found at [confidentgirlsfoundation.com.au](http://confidentgirlsfoundation.com.au).

**Q: What are the Confident Girls Foundation administration fees?**

A: Traditionally, Foundation programs have a maximum of 20% administration fee to support the operations of the Foundation and invest in reserves for future grants programs.

The Foundation's priority focus is on:

- Natural Disaster Relief, including fire, flood, drought, hail, storm, cyclone and other.
- Indigenous girls and women.
- Girls from socio-economic disadvantaged areas.

**Q: Something has changed with our project - what should we do?**

A: If your project has been delayed and you need an extension, your group can't run the project that you have been funded for, or some other unforeseen obstacle has come up, please get in touch with us by email [info@confidentgirls.com.au](mailto:info@confidentgirls.com.au).

If something has gone wrong, please contact the Foundation as soon as possible. We'd rather hear from you and talk about the situation as we may be able to provide assistance.

**Q: What if I can't find the answer to my question?**

A: If you can't find the answer, please email your question to [info@confidentgirls.com.au](mailto:info@confidentgirls.com.au).

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