



sustainable connection grants guidelines

An initiative from **HUMANS:CONNECTING** to support the long-term sustainability of organisations strengthening meaningful human connection.



HUMANS:CONNECTING



Document control

Owner: Humans:Connecting

Approved: August 2026

Version: 1.0

Next review: August 2028

purpose

The Sustainable Connection Grant is an initiative of **HUMANS:CONNECTING** that supports organisations strengthening meaningful human connection.

Many startup support opportunities are available to organisations during their first year of operation, including grants, incubator programs and founder investment. These opportunities come to an end at a time when organisations often enter a more challenging stage. Early funding is running low, revenue streams are still developing, but the costs of operating an organisation continue.

The Sustainable Connection Grant supports organisations as they move beyond the startup phase and begin building long-term sustainability.

Each time the Sustainable Connection Grant Fund reaches A\$5,000, **HUMANS:CONNECTING** awards a Sustainable Connection Grant to an eligible organisation.

These Guidelines should be read alongside the **HUMANS:CONNECTING Social Enterprise Framework** and the **Sustainable Connection Grant Policy**.

eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be able to demonstrate that the organisation is creating positive social impact
- be a registered business, social enterprise, charity or incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) or equivalent legal business or organisational registration in their country of operation
- have been operating for between 12 and 36 months at the close of applications
- demonstrate that the organisation is actively operating
- have a clear purpose that strengthens meaningful human connection, belonging, social health or addresses loneliness
- not discriminate access to their services on the basis of race, gender identity, sexuality or religion
- agree to the conditions of the Sustainable Connection Grant.

Organisations may submit one application per funding round.

Previous recipients are not eligible to receive a second Sustainable Connection Grant.

what the grant can support

The Sustainable Connection Grant is designed to strengthen the sustainability of an organisation rather than fund the delivery of programs or services.

Funding may be used for expenses including:

- website development, hosting and maintenance
- software subscriptions
- email and communication platforms
- customer relationship management (CRM) systems
- governance and compliance
- insurance
- accounting and bookkeeping services
- marketing and communications
- impact measurement and evaluation
- professional services
- organisational development
- other operating expenses that contribute to long-term organisational sustainability.

what the grant can not support

Funding is generally not available for:

- salaries or wages
- direct program or service delivery
- capital purchases
- repayment of debt
- political activities
- activities that are inconsistent with the purpose and values of **HUMANS:CONNECTING.**

how to apply

Applications will open when announced by **HUMANS:CONNECTING**.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- information about their organisation
- evidence of legal registration
- a brief overview of their work
- how the grant would be used
- how the funding would strengthen the long-term sustainability of the organisation
- the impact they expect the funding to have.

HUMANS:CONNECTING is committed to keeping the application process straightforward, practical and proportionate.

assessment

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- alignment with the purpose of the Sustainable Connection Grant
- contribution to organisational sustainability
- potential for lasting positive social impact
- clarity and practicality of the proposed use of the funding
- the potential for the grant to create lasting organisational benefit beyond the funding itself
- alignment with the values of **HUMANS:CONNECTING**
- contribution to strengthening the broader human connection ecosystem.

HUMANS:CONNECTING may also consider maintaining diversity across recipient organisations, communities and areas of work over time.

The decision of **HUMANS:CONNECTING** is final.

grant partners

Successful applicants become Sustainable Connection Grant Partners.

Grant Partners receive:

- a grant of A\$5,000
- recognition as a Sustainable Connection Grant Partner through **HUMANS:CONNECTING**'s communication channels
- opportunities to share their work with the **HUMANS:CONNECTING** community
- opportunities to participate in stories, interviews or case studies that demonstrate the collective impact of the grant.

partnership commitments

The Sustainable Connection Grant is intended to be more than financial support.

Grant Partners agree to:

- use the funding for the purpose described in their application
- share a Grant Partner Impact Story (approximately 500 words) describing how the grant contributed to the sustainability of their organisation
- provide photographs or other material, where appropriate, that **HUMANS:CONNECTING** may use to share the story of the grant
- participate in reasonable storytelling opportunities, where appropriate
- acknowledge the support of the Sustainable Connection Grant where appropriate.

These commitments are intended to celebrate the work of Grant Partners, strengthen the broader human connection sector and demonstrate the positive social impact created through the Sustainable Connection Grant.

questions

For further information about the Sustainable Connection Grant, please contact **HUMANS:CONNECTING** via the details on our website.

Further information is available in the **HUMANS:CONNECTING Social Enterprise Framework** and the **Sustainable Connection Grant Policy**.



let's get started



www.humansconnecting.org/grants



HUMANS:CONNECTING