

VICTORIAN LEGAL SERVICES BOARD GRANTS PROGRAM

2018 Grants Funding Round

Application Guidelines

Closing date: Friday 2 March 2018

Applications are now open for the 2018 Grant Round.

Application forms are available for download at [Victorian Legal Services Board Website](#)

About the Victorian Legal Services Board

The Victorian Legal Services Board is an independent statutory authority, responsible for regulation of the legal profession in Victoria. Originally established under the *Legal Profession Act 2004*, the Board's role and functions now come under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 (Vic)*.

The Board's aims are to:

- ensure the effective regulation of the legal profession and the maintenance of professional standards;
- address the concerns of clients of law practices and lawyers through the regulatory system and provide for the protection of consumers of legal services;
- ensure the adequate management of trust accounts;
- ensure that the Legal Profession Uniform Law is implemented effectively in Victoria.

About the Board Grants Program

The Grants Program was established in 2007 to distribute funding to projects that aim to:

- improve the administration of laws;
- increase access to justice;
- improve legal services; and
- inform and educate the wider community about legal services.

The grants are available from the Board administered Public Purpose Fund, which includes funds from a number of sources including the interest on solicitors' trust accounts and income from investments.

With the approval of the Attorney-General, the grants can be used for:

- law reform;
- legal and judicial education;
- legal research; and
- any other purpose relating to the legal profession or the law that the Board considers appropriate.

Grant Priorities

Priority will generally be given to:

- non-profit organisations;
- projects that improve access to justice and equity; and
- specific and finite projects.

Preference may also be given to applicants who do not have any other access to the Public Purpose Fund; projects in rural and regional Victoria and projects that have not received Board funding in the past.

Selection Criteria

Applications may be submitted on a range of themes pertaining to the legal system and legal services. Activities should address an area of pressing need and the response should have clear demonstrated strategies, a well-developed plan and outcomes that are able to demonstrate and deliver an improved legal and social environment.

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Applicants that incorporate the following guiding principles are encouraged:

- *Partnerships* – Building partnerships between legal and non-legal services to address the clustering of complex social issues such as health, housing, family violence, and their intersection with the law.
- *Early Intervention/Education* – Effective approaches to building capacity of individuals and communities to prevent negative interaction with the legal system. Undertaking preventative approaches and addressing underlying issues.
- *Systemic Change/Advocacy* – Undertaking policy and law reform work to address systemic issues identified through evidence and case work.

Applications should:

- be based on evidence and practice experience;
- be clear on strategies to implement;
- provide evidence for why these strategies will deliver the desired outcomes;
- provide reasons for why these strategies are appropriate to the issue you are trying to address;
- be sustainable and have a long term vision;
- integrate rigorous evaluation methods that will demonstrate the outcomes of the project

The applicant will have:

- experience, skills and capacity to undertake the proposed project;
- a strong track record in successfully completing programs/research; and
- financial stability and rigour.

Who can apply?

Any individual or organisation with a program for the purposes outlined under the Uniform Law, and providing benefit to the people of Victoria, is eligible to apply for a grant. Where individuals apply, strong preference will be given to those projects that are auspiced by an incorporated organisation.

Budget

The level of funding available for individual projects will vary depending on the nature of the initiative. Budgets should be realistic and suit the scale and complexity of the initiative being proposed. Multi-year funding over 3 years is available.

Generally, the following will not be funded:

- activities that are not relevant to Victoria;
- studies to obtain a degree or diploma;
- litigation costs;
- government organisations/statutory authorities (unless for exceptional work that is not part of their primary responsibility);
- the delivery of practical legal training courses;
- school and TAFE-based educational programs that are normally part of the curriculum;
- capital works;
- recurrent costs or core operational costs;
- commercial or fundraising activities;
- international travel costs;
- prizes, awards, competitions, or conferences.

Funding is unavailable for activities that start before the approval of funding.

Reporting and Evaluation

Evaluation should be built into your project plan and you may be required to participate in evaluation workshops. Specific details on all monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements for successful grantees will be included in the Letter of Offer. Applicants should note that additional requirements are applicable for greater grant values and/or longer program periods. For example, successful applicants for grants of longer than 12 months will be required to submit an annual work plan and 12-monthly checks against the work plan. All grantees will be required to provide interim reports and an evaluation of completed projects.

Conditions of applying

Successful applicants must adhere to all State and Commonwealth regulations, statutes and policies regarding equal opportunity, standards of conduct, health and safety requirements, privacy, and freedom of information. The Board may require that reports, research and other work enabled by grants be published and made publicly available. The Board's support should be acknowledged in all published materials.

Further information

All applicants are advised to take the opportunity to discuss their proposal with Grants Staff prior to submitting an application. Phone 96798001 or email: grants@lsbc.vic.gov.au no later than **Friday 16 February 2018** to arrange a meeting.