



South Australian Community

Grants Guidelines

National Science Week is a program of Inspiring Australia, a national strategy for getting Australians engaged with science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) and is an initiative of the Australian Government.

National Science Week 15-23 August 2026

www.scienceweek.net.au

National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of STEM. Running each year in August, it features more than 1000 events around Australia, including those delivered by universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums, and science centers.

Grants available

\$3000 (inc GST) for events and activities in metropolitan Adelaide

\$3500 (inc GST) for events and activities in regional and remote areas

Purpose of the grant

- Inspire wide community participation in STEM, in line with the Government's commitment to diversity in STEM.
- Provide an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge.
- Encourage an interest in science pursuits within the community.
- Encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in.
- Encourage new and innovative ways of engaging with audiences.

Who can apply for a grant?

- The Grants are open to any sole trader, community group, organisation, business, industry body or university.
- Event or activity producers/hosts must have their own public liability insurance cover.

- Schools are ineligible for this National Science Week Grant, however there are grants available to schools through the Australian Science Teachers Association.

Target audiences for the grant

Grants will be given to projects targeting groups currently underrepresented in STEM, including, but not limited to:

- First Nations people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
- Women and girls
- People with disability
- People from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Neurodivergent people
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People who face age-based discrimination
- Regional and remote communities

Types of events and activities eligible for a grant

You are encouraged to consider innovative ways of bringing STEM to new audiences. The types of events and activities may include but are not limited to:

- hands-on science workshops or field activities
- science fairs, expos, shows or exhibitions
- science through the arts activities
- interactive online events
- podcasts
- video productions
- virtual tours
- webinars
- citizen science activities
- digital storytelling
- content creation
- live streaming of presentations and lectures
- performances

Funds may be used for direct project delivery. For example:

- resources and materials related to the event
- venue hire
- hire of equipment such as AV equipment
- presenter / speaker / creator fees and their travel

- paid advertising, up to 10% of the grant amount, this may include printing flyers or paid social media advertising
- catering or supply of refreshments for audiences at the funded event, up to 20% of the grant amount.

Ineligible activities for a grant

The funding may not be used for the following:

- activities for only school students (either in class or off site)
- research projects
- conferences – delivery or attendance
- curriculum development
- permanent infrastructure
- surveys
- teacher training
- payment of wages or salaries of staff within your organisation
- software development

Science Alive! main stage opportunity

As part of the National Science Week grant application process, applicants are also invited to express interest in participating in the National Science Week Coordinating Committee's presence at Science Alive!. Please see the [Science Alive! website](#) for more information about the event.

This year, the Coordinating Committee aims to give Science Alive! attendees a preview of the exciting STEM events and activities that will take place during National Science Week.

If you are interested in presenting on the Science Alive! Main Stage (7–9 August), please include a brief pitch outlining your proposed activity or presentation in the relevant section of the application form. Please note that this must relate to your National Science Week event of activity.

Main Stage activities will be sponsored by the National Science Week Coordinating Committee and will therefore require some promotion and acknowledgement of National Science Week as part of the delivery.

You may also indicate preferred dates and/or times for your presentation if relevant. These preferences will be considered during scheduling.

Please note that receiving a National Science Week grant does not guarantee a Main Stage opportunity at Science Alive! and that no additional funding is available for participation in

this activity. It is intended as a promotional opportunity and should represent a smaller-scale presentation or demonstration of your National Science Week project.

Grant Assessment Criteria

All grants will be assessed against the following criteria.

1. The event must be held in August 2026
2. Does the event or activity do any of the following?
 - Harness curiosity or broaden scientific literacy.
 - Encourage an interest and participation in STEM related pursuits (hobbies, study, and careers).
 - Engage underrepresented group(s) in STEM (see list above).
3. Does the application have the following?
 - A clear description of the event or activity.
 - Is the requested grant amount appropriate for the number of participants/audience size?
 - Are the objective(s)/outcome(s) of the event or activity clear?
 - Is there a clear promotion and marketing plan?
 - Is the budget clear and does the projected expenditure appear accurate?

An evaluation survey will be provided to grant recipients and must be submitted by 25 September 2026.

Grant Assessment Process

All applications will be assessed by members of the South Australian National Science Week Coordinating Committee. The Committee is not able to fund all applications. It is usual to receive more applications than can be funded.

To enable the committee to support more projects, some applications may receive partial funding.

All decisions made by the South Australian National Science Week Coordinating Committee are final, and not negotiable.

By accepting a grant, you agree to the following:

- To include the following Audience Survey questions in the registration for your event or activity and provide a summary of the answers to these questions as part of your Post Event Report.
 - your postcode
 - your age
 - gender (male, female, non-binary, other)
 - are you attending with children (under 18 years)?
 - do you currently work/study in a science, technology, engineering, maths or medicine related field?
 - how did you hear about the event/activity? (social media, email newsletter, word of mouth, print, radio, other)
- Register your event on the National Science Week website www.scienceweek.net.au.
- Submit an invoice for your grant no later than 12 June 2026.
- Provide a promotional image, links to registration (if used), text for use on social media and in the Inspiring SA newsletter no later than 12 June 2026.
- Use National Science Week and Inspiring Australia logos on all marketing and event promotional materials <https://www.scienceweek.net.au/resources/logos-graphics/>.
- Submit a Post Event Report by Friday 25 September 2026.
- If photos or video are shared online, please tag #scienceweek.
- Seek feedback from audience/participants (suggestions on how to do this will be provided if you are successful).
- If you were successful in receiving a spot on the Science Alive! Main Stage, you are required to:
 - Deliver your proposed activity at Science Alive! on the date and time outlined to you.
 - Promote National Science Week as part of your delivery.
 - Outline how people can get involved with your activity during National Science Week.

As a grant recipient you will be able to:

- Order free National Science Week merchandise (exact merch available is TBC).
- Be invited to an exclusive 'We Survived National Science Week' event to meet other grant recipients and the SA National Science Week Coordinating Committee.

Key dates for National Science Week grants:

- Applications open 23 March 2026
- Applications close 3 May 2026
- Grant recipients announced end of May 2026
- Successful applicants submit a valid tax invoice by 12 June 2026

- Promotion text image sent by 12 June 2026
- Project must be delivered in August 2026
- Post project report and evaluation submitted by 25 September 2026

If you have any questions about the grants and the application process, contact:

Inspiring SA Program Manager, inspiringsa@sa.gov.au.

Please complete the grant application form on the [Inspiring SA website](#) by 5pm Sunday 3rd May.