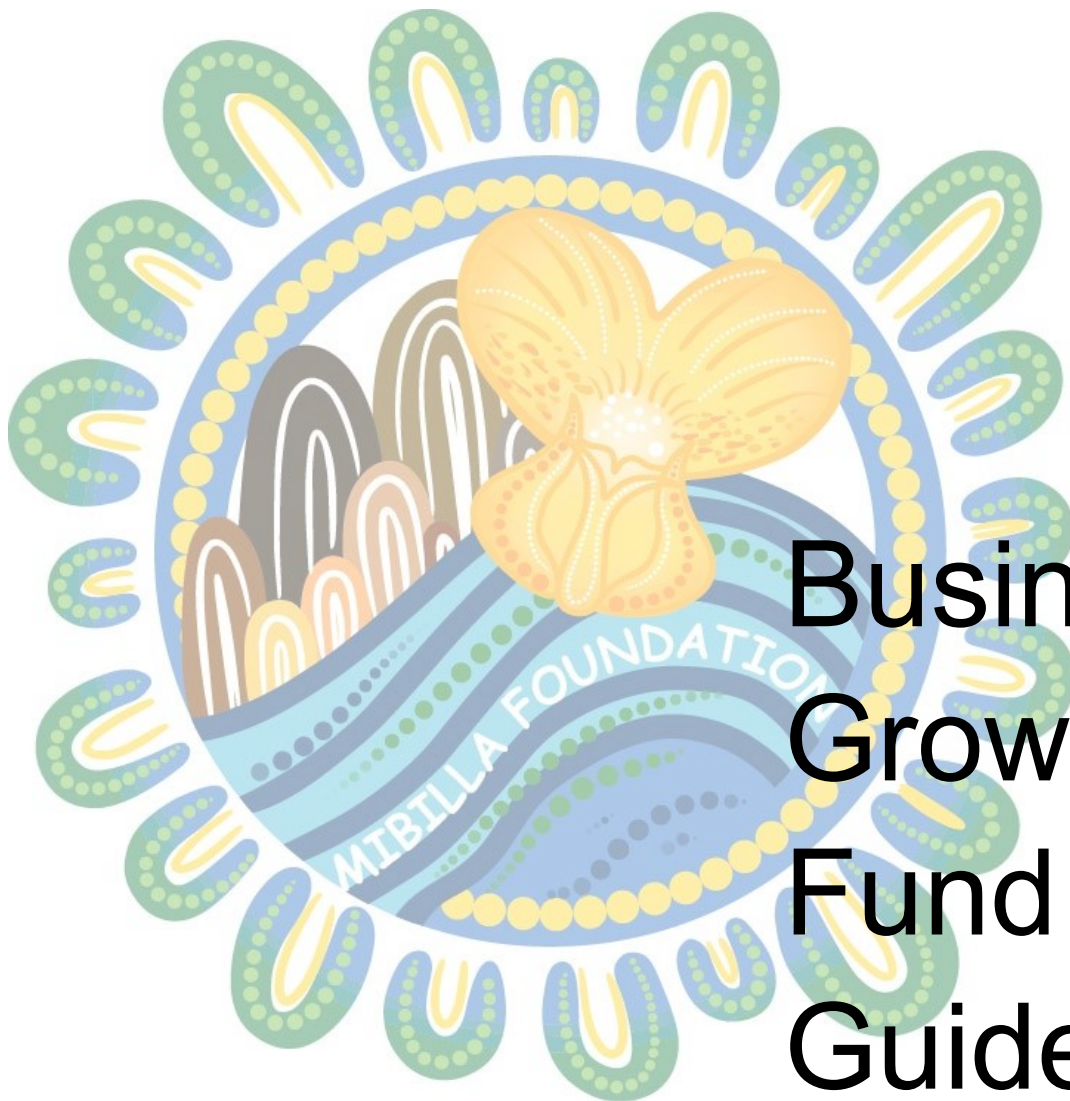




Business Growth Fund Guidelines

Opening Date	01/10/2025
Closing Date	14/11/2025
Enquiries	0400 076 048 / connect@mibilla.org
Date guidelines released	1st October 2025

For the latest fund information and to view any updates to the guidelines please go to mibilla.org.au to download the latest version of these guidelines.

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ABOUT THE GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose

The Mibilla Foundation's Business Growth Fund supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entrepreneurs, businesses and community organisations with the funding and support they need to grow, innovate, and create lasting impact.

Available Funding

- A total of \$100,000 is available through the Business Growth Fund.
- Grants can range from \$1,000 up to \$40,000.

Key Dates

Applications open	1st October, 2025
Applications close	14th November, 2025
Panel meetings	1st week December, 2025
Funds released	As per Grant Agreement

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for Mibilla Foundation grant funding, your application must meet the eligibility criteria and be seeking funding for an eligible purpose outlined in the guidelines.

Who Can Apply

- Based in the Northern Territory.
- Funds to be used for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-owned and operated business (new or established), or
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-owned community organisation or not-for-profit that supports Aboriginal economic participation, or
- Non-Indigenous organisation working in active partnership with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people or organisations, where the project demonstrably builds Indigenous economic participation or supports self-determination.
- Operate as a small business or organisation (fewer than 5 employees).
- Currently have, or intend to obtain, an Australian Business Number (ABN) - an ABN is required before funds can be released.
- Seeking funding for a business-related activity that aligns with the Fund's objectives.
- Be able to attend a pitch session (in person or online).
 - Pitch sessions will be held in Tennant Creek and Katherine during the first week of December 2025.

Who Can't Apply

Applications from the following are ineligible for grant funding:

- Applicants with any outstanding debt, underspend, or acquittal relating to a previous Mibilla Foundation grant.
- Applicants who are insolvent or have declared bankruptcy.
- Applicants (including their organisation, business, or key personnel) who are not compliant with their incorporating legislation, or who have breached other applicable laws or regulations.
- Applicants found to have deliberately provided false or misleading information in any previous or current application to the Mibilla Foundation.
- Commonwealth, State/Territory, or local government bodies or agencies.

What We Fund

- Business Start-up & Growth
- Purchase of essential equipment, tools, or technology
- Initial stock or raw materials to launch or expand a business
- Marketing and branding (e.g. website, logo design, promotional materials)
- Professional services (e.g. legal, accounting, business planning), Skills & Capacity Building
- Training, mentoring, and coaching programs for business owners and staff
- Workshops or courses that build technical or business management skills
- Accreditation, licensing, or certifications required for business operations Innovation & Expansion
- Development of new products or services
- Costs related to expanding into new markets or exporting Community Impact
- Initiatives that assist business development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Operational Support (limited, impact-focused)
- Software or systems that improve efficiency (e.g. accounting systems, booking platforms)
- Insurance or compliance-related costs essential to business activity

What We Don't Fund

Applications for the following grant purposes are not eligible for grant funding:

- Projects that don't demonstrate clear business or community impact
- Purposes that do not directly contribute to the outcome/s of the project (i.e. payment of fees, fines or loans, purchase of gifts or debt repayment or refinancing).
- Facility improvements to any community title, body corporate or retirement living scheme or similar entity (as determined by us)
- Money to be set aside for contingencies or costs not yet incurred
- Vehicle costs
- Personal expenses

- Costs for the preparation of the grant application or costs incurred before an application is approved.
- Activities with a high risk of injury or harm (psychological, physical, cultural).
- Expenses and projects that have been or will be grant funded by another source including government bodies

APPLICATION

You can make a grant application:

1. Online

Complete the Expression of Interest form at mibilla.org. Once an application is received, we will contact you and keep you updated during the assessment process.

2. Email

You can download the Expression of Interest, complete, and email to connect@mibilla.org

Support

If you're interested in making an application, please contact the Mibilla Foundation. We can help you with your application, answer questions, or link you to someone who can.

Please keep in mind that discussion or support from Mibilla Foundation staff to prepare or submit an application does not guarantee that your application will be approved and funded.

ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed via a 3 stage Assessment process:

1. Expression of Interest

- Applications are screened for eligibility.

2. Application Assessments

- Shortlist finalised and applicants notified
- Business Development Support/Coaching sessions offered to shortlisted applicant (if deemed appropriate)
 - Pre-pitch coaching or business mentoring sessions: what to expect, how to explain their idea clearly, how funding can be used.
 - Supported by Mibilla Pty Ltd team

3. Pitch Event

- Applicants will then be invited to present their pitch to a funding panel either online or in-person.
- The panel will decide the funding allocation.

Assessment Criteria

The Mibilla Foundation will assess your application based on the following:

- The assessment criteria set out in the guidelines.
- Risk involved at both the applicant and project levels.
- Availability of grant funds.
- Compliance, or ability to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and mandatory requirements if your application is successful.
- Previous grant funding received from the Mibilla Foundation and other funders.

Priority Factors

The Mibilla Foundation may prioritise applications based on the following factors:

- Business Readiness - you've got a plan and the capacity to make it happen.
- Growth Potential - your idea could create jobs, bring in new income, or help your business expand sustainably.
- Community Benefit - your business supports Indigenous Australians through employment, training, or local opportunities.
- Right industry fit - your idea works in sectors that build long-term Indigenous Australians economic empowerment.
- Extra backing - Applications that have additional investment, partnerships, or in-kind support beyond the Foundation's funding.
- Fresh thinking - you've got an innovative idea or approach that makes your business stand out.

These priority factors are only used to determine whether your application should be prioritised for grant funding over other applications under consideration.

Additional Information

The Mibilla Foundation may seek additional information from you to assist in assessing your application and may also draw on other sources to verify claims in your application, including:

- Information from public registers and credit reporting agencies.
- Information about you or your application from other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government agencies, whether or not you nominated them as a referee.
- Representatives from an Indigenous Australian community or organisation, or subject-matter experts, who are on an assessment panel, whether or not you nominated them as a referee.
- Recommendations from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local and regional decision-making groups and organisations.

Wherever possible, we will give you an opportunity to clarify any concerns or questions raised if your application is at risk of not being funded.

Decision-makers

Decision-makers for the Business Growth fund are as follows:

Business Growth Fund	Panel
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and may:

- Approve your application in principle, subject to negotiation of a grant agreement.
- Approve your application in principle with changes or conditions, subject to negotiation of a grant agreement.
- Not approve your application.

The decision-maker's decision is final in all matters, including any conditions and grant funding amount to be awarded.

AFTER YOU APPLY

Notification

The Mibilla Foundation will notify you of the outcome of your application via the email address for the contact person nominated in the application form.

Unsuccessful applicants

The Mibilla Foundation will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants on the reasons why their application was unsuccessful. Where it is possible for you to address feedback given, we will provide an opportunity for you to resubmit your application or to submit a new application.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

If your application is successful, you will need to enter into an agreement with the Mibilla Foundation. The Agreement sets out the terms and conditions under which the Foundation will provide funding to the successful applicant for the delivery of an approved project.

Commencement and Payments

Funding will only commence once this Agreement has been signed by both parties. No retrospective claims will be accepted.

Grant payments will be made either in full, in installments, or on achievement of milestones, as outlined in the Agreement Schedule. Payments are subject to the Foundation receiving all required documentation, reports, and compliance evidence.

Any unspent funds must be returned to the Foundation within 30 days of project completion or termination of this Agreement.

Conditions

Applications may be approved subject to you meeting certain conditions such as evidence of all relevant approvals, permits, insurances and external support (financial or in-kind).

You must notify the Mibilla Foundation of any changes to the project scope, timing, or viability.

Acknowledgement of the Foundation

Funding granted by the Mibilla Foundation must be acknowledged in all promotional materials, media releases, and publications relating to the funded project.

Reporting and Acquittal Requirements

The Agreement will outline the reporting and acquittal requirements (which may be linked to funding payments) you are required to provide which may include -

- financial acquittals
- details of project outcomes,
- expenditure, and
- supporting evidence such as invoices, receipts, or proof of payment.

Monitoring

The Mibilla Foundation uses a number of approaches to monitor grants including:

- Reporting on grant delivery against milestones that are identified in the grant agreement.
- Evidence that funds have been expended for the purposes identified in the grant agreement.
- Performance and financial reporting to acquit the grant.
- Community visits by Directors and/or staff.

Record Keeping

Accurate financial and project records must be kept for at least 7 years. The Mibilla Foundation reserves the right to request access to these records and to audit the use of grant funds.

Compliance

In circumstances of non-compliance with the grant agreement, we'll work with you and assist in accordance with the grant agreement. This may include varying your agreement if:

- Unexpected event(s) are impacting grant delivery.
- Results or outcomes are not consistent with what is identified in the grant agreement.

Examples of variations may include:

- Changing key performance indicators.
- Extending the timeframe for completion.
- Reducing funding.

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant project or organisation by contacting the Mibilla Foundation as soon as possible.

Termination & Recovery of Funds

The Foundation may terminate this Agreement and require repayment of funds if:

- funds are misused or used for ineligible purposes;
- reporting or compliance obligations are not met
- the organisation/business becomes insolvent or unable to deliver the project.

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute, both parties agree to attempt resolution in good faith. If unresolved, the matter will proceed to mediation before any legal action is taken.

EVALUATION

The Mibilla Foundation may evaluate individual projects and/or the overall grants program to ensure funding aligns with our strategic objectives (see our website).

Evaluations may consider outcomes, impact, and economic benefits using information from your application, reporting, or additional details we request. Full evaluation requirements will be outlined in your grant agreement.

ETHICS

Conflict of Interest

The Mibilla Foundation Board, members, staff, and representatives must declare and manage any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest when assessing applications. Examples include personal, professional, political, or commercial relationships that could:

- Influence the assessment process;
- Affect the applicant's ability to deliver the project fairly and independently; or
- Result in personal gain from a funding decision.

Applicants are also required to declare any such conflicts (for themselves, personnel, shareholders, or partners) as part of the application and throughout the grant process.

Collection & Use of Personal Information

Information collected from you by the Mibilla Foundation during the application and assessment process will be used for the purposes of assessing and administering grants.

The Mibilla Foundation's Privacy Policy is located on our website and contains further information about the way we manage your information, how you can access your information held by us, seek correction of the information, or make a complaint.

Confidential Information

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and confidential if it meets all of the three conditions below:

- Information is identified as confidential and explains why it should be treated as confidential.
- Information is commercially sensitive.
- Revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

Disclosure

We may disclose your personal and confidential information to any agencies such as the:

- The Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner.
- Employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, compliance, research or service delivery.
- or as required by law.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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