

Small to Medium Stabilisation Fund 2019 – 2021

AET is privileged to steward a portfolio of charitable trusts where the founder has requested us to guide their giving on their behalf. We manage this via the AET discretionary grants program. Over many years, and through close partnership with the not for profit sector, we have developed a deep understanding of how to provide meaningful support to organisations seeking to build their capacity and achieve their mission. Through consultation and by listening to our partners, we have also learned about the current challenges and instability the sector faces. Our current funding strategy - the Small to Medium Stabilisation Fund - seeks to address some of these challenges by supporting Small and Medium sized organisations who represented the largest, but least funded segment of Australia's not for profit sector. Through partnership, we seek to deliver funding stability, so they can respond to change and be empowered to achieve their purpose.



The problem

- Australian not-for-profit organisations struggle to access 'risk' capital to fund new initiatives and ideas.
- Growth and innovation can be stymied due to organisational capacity constraints.
- The not-for-profit sector is facing significant change including regulatory changes, increased demand on service delivery, technology and revenue growth which requires new thinking and approaches to achieving success.



if we...

Support not-for-profits to be more effective and encourage thinking through focussed investment.



by

Seeking annual and multi-year partners and providing grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per annum for programs and initiatives that stabilise charities and increase staff and organisational capacity and capability.

In FY19, the Committee will distribute to new partners:
 - \$97 000 via the "D Whiting Trust"
 - \$290, 500 via the other trusts



this will lead to

- Enhanced Program Delivery and more sustainable organisations
- Increased philanthropic partnerships and collaborations that support capacity and innovation.
- Examples of organisations to fund new programs and initiatives.



the broad goal

Not-for-profit organisations that embrace change and are well placed to adapt to a changing operating environment.

SME stabilisation fund: How we identify and engage partners

We aim to make the grant application and acquittal process easier for everyone.

Our new process will enable organisations to complete their due diligence before submitting a proposal to our grants committee. We will work closely with potential partners to help assess funding suitability from the outset.

As part of our acquittal requirement, we will seek to convene our funding partners annually, at a discretionary grants program workshop where participants will collectively share their experiences, observations and insights from the projects and initiatives funded via the SME Stabilisation Fund.

What sort of projects or initiatives does the program fund?

The program seeks to support a range of program, capacity building and operational funding requests.

We are keen to partner with eligible organisations that demonstrate a commitment and case for investment that:

- enables access to external expertise and assists their organisation achieve its mission and/or diversify its revenue
- improve operational (systems or technology) capacity
- professionally develop early to mid-career practitioners or volunteers
- increases awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Eligibility criteria
Small to medium size: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual turnover of \$5 million or less, or • Aligned with purposes/terms where specified in a trust (eg ME “Douglas Whiting”)
Preference for funding
Community led, remote indigenous organisations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations with the authority and mandate to work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
Organisations with long-funding relationship with us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charities that have previously been funded through our discretionary grants program and where there is a pre-existing relationship
Professional development opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives aligned with professional development
Funding exclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital works projects • Salaries

Partner engagement process

