

How to enter the Optus Regional Community Grants program 2011

Optus is calling on regional Australia to apply for the 2011 Optus Regional Community Grants program. Grants of up to \$10,000 each are available for projects that support regional Australian communities across the areas of sport, arts, the environment, local community development, social inclusion and supporting disengaged youth. So whether it's new facilities for a community hall, equipment for the local sporting team or landscaping for a habitat regeneration program you're looking for, apply today and you could make a difference to your local community!

The 2011 program will provide a total of \$100,000 of funding to regional communities across Australia. The following entry guidelines are designed to assist non-for-profit organisations in developing their applications. Before submitting your entry make sure you also read the Grant Guidelines, Selection Criteria and Terms and Conditions, these can be downloaded from the Optus website: regionalgrants.optus.com.au

What type of project can I submit?

Optus Regional Community Grants funding will be awarded to projects aimed at supporting regional Australian communities through the following key areas:

- Supporting disengaged youth: focus on under 25s building education, life skills & knowledge
- Building social inclusion: by providing access to communication
- Protecting the environment: focusing on endangered species
- Regional Sports: by developing and assisting local and grassroots sporting projects
- Regional Arts
- Local Community Development Projects

Please note that Optus will only award grants to fund programs that are aligned with the above categories and that support regional Australia.

How do I find out if my community project is eligible?

Individuals and for-profit organisations are not eligible to apply for a grant. Optus will only accept applications from or on behalf of Australian incorporated organisations that have been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as Tax Concession Charities (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR). If you are unsure of your organisation's tax status, check with your financial advisor and the Australian Government's ABN website: www.abr.business.gov.au.

When do applications close?

Entries must be received by Monday 31st October 2011, 5.00pm (AEST).

Where do I enter?

Applications can only be submitted through the online application on the Optus Community Grants homepage: regionalgrants.optus.com.au

How do I submit a compelling application?

- Stay within the specified word limit for each question and be specific and concise with your responses
- Ensure your project matches the funding categories listed in the Optus Community Regional Grant Guidelines
- Clearly show how you will deliver your project within the specified timeframes
- Ask someone unrelated to the project to read your application and make sure they understand the program and its benefits

If my project is awarded a grant how long will it be funded for?

Grant amounts will be distributed by 1 December 2011. Expenditure of funds granted must be completed by 31 March 2012.

How do I find out more and apply?

For more information and for full terms and conditions, please visit regionalgrants.optus.com.au

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Optus Regional Community Grants funding will be awarded to projects aimed at supporting regional Australian communities through the following key areas:

Supporting disengaged youth

Helping young people under 25 to build their education, life skills and knowledge.

Building social inclusion

Providing access to communication for individuals or groups that are currently excluded. Optus seeks to help these regional Australians and communities to overcome the barriers of distance and disadvantage.

Protecting the environment

Focusing on endangered species projects, we are seeking initiatives that protect or enhance the local environment so that it may be enjoyed by future generations.

Regional Sports

Developing and assisting local and grassroots sporting projects.

Regional Arts

Providing assistance towards localised arts initiatives including indigenous art, music programs and more.

Local Community Development Projects

Supporting local community centres and spaces that are used by the local community and require funding to ensure the livelihood of the venue or to provide new facilities to enhance the local community.

Please note that Optus will only award grants to fund programs that are aligned with the above categories and that support regional Australia.

If you are interested in applying, please download and read the [Optus Regional Community Grants Guidelines, Selection Criteria and Terms & Conditions](#). These Guidelines are here to assist not-for-profit organisations in developing their applications for funding from the Optus Regional Community Grants program.

[Terms and conditions](#)

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The Optus Regional Community Grants program provides funding aimed at assisting regional communities. Please note that individuals and for-profit organisations are not eligible to apply for a grant.

Optus will only accept applications for the Optus Regional Community Grants program from or on behalf of Australian incorporated organisations that have been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as Tax Concession Charities (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR). If you are unsure of your organisation's tax status, check with your financial advisor and the Australian Government's ABN website www.abr.business.gov.au

Activities Not Funded

The following projects will not be considered for funding:

- Individuals who are looking for support or fundraising
- Events such as community/school fetes, golf days or charity dinners
- Religious or political activities
- General fundraising appeals
- Activities, loan repayments, operational deficits
- Retrospective or deficit funding requests, e.g. funding of past activities
- Operating or administration costs
- Projects outside of regional Australia

How much will the grant provide?

Optus Regional Community Grants provide a minimum of \$1000 and a maximum of \$10,000 (including GST) to each successful applicant. Optus will be providing up to a total of \$100,000 of funding towards local regional Australian communities in 2011. Optus will determine the amount granted to each successful applicant in its sole discretion.

How many applications can be submitted?

Optus will consider one application per project per round. Two or more parties cannot submit applications for the same project.

How do I apply for an Optus Regional Community Grant?

Applications can only be submitted through the online application on this site and must be received by Monday 31st October 2011, 5pm (AEST).

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Assessment of applications will be made by a panel made up of Optus employees representing different parts of the organisation.

Preference will be given to projects that are:

- Submitted online with a fully completed Application for Grant Form.
- Demonstrate a well defined project with clear goals, objectives, outcomes and evaluation.
- Clearly demonstrate how the project relates to:
 - Supporting disengaged youth
 - Building social inclusion
 - Protecting the environment
 - Developing and assisting local and grassroots sporting projects
 - Regional Arts
 - Local Community Development Projects
- Realistically budgeted for with all resources identified including sources of additional funding.
- Demonstrate a capacity to be self sustaining beyond the funding period.

Confidentiality Statement

The Optus Regional Community Grants program will respect the confidentiality of any information that directly relates to the business activities of a Not For Profit organisation.

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Application opening date

Opening date for applications is Thursday 1st September 2011. Applications can only be submitted via the online application process.

Application closing date

Closing date for applications is 5pm (AEST), Monday 31st October 2011.

Notification

All applicants will be notified in writing by 1 December 2011 regarding the outcome of their application. Projects completed between the application close date and grant notification period will not be funded.

Successful applications

Successful applicants will receive notification of the amount of funding the Optus Regional Community Grants program will provide.

Period of funding

Grant amounts will be distributed to not-for-profit organisations by 1 December 2011. Expenditure of funds granted to the not-for-profit organisation must be completed by 31 March 2012.

Important note

Recipients must comply with the Optus Regional Community Grants program terms and conditions which include agreeing to be part of any advertising, marketing, and public relations activity associated with winning a grant.

For further information

Visit [your local Optus 'yes' Shop or Optus retailer](#)

Email: regionalgrantsapplication@optus.com.au

[Apply Now](#)

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