



2026 NUDGEE TRUST APPLICATION GUIDELINES

FOR THE BENEFIT OF MERCY PARTNERS MINISTRIES

Nudgee Trust Application Guidelines

The Nudgee Trust Fund ('Trust') supports Mercy Partners ministries to deliver meaningful social impact through evidence-based and community focussed initiatives.

We have designed our application process to identify projects that align with the Trusts objectives while demonstrating strong potential for sustainable measurable outcomes.

Eligibility Requirements

Your ministry must meet the following requirements to proceed with a grant application.

- Be a registered Australian charity with appropriate ATO endorsements (DGR, PBI or TCC status).
- Operate within the funding scope and align with Trust objectives.
- Have the governance, capacity and experience to successfully delivery the proposed project.
- Demonstrate community engagement and co-design in project development.

Grant Scope

The Nudgee Trust fund projects that demonstrate the following.

- Direct service delivery to the identified beneficiaries.
- Mission extension that enhances organisation impact.
- Measurable social impact with clear evaluation frameworks.
- Community co-design with meaningful stakeholder involvement.
- Evidence informed approaches based on research are the best practice.
- Environmental responsibility and sustainability practices.

We do not fund the following.

- Individual requests or personal expenses.
- Ongoing operational cost or general administration.
- Projects already completed or activities before grant commencement.
- For profit activities or commercial ventures.

How To Apply



Review Guidelines and Criteria

- Download and carefully review the assessment criteria in the Nudgee Trust Grant Purpose document

Prepare Your Application

- Develop your Theory of Change – Download the framework template.
- Gathering Evidence – Collect research, data and community feedback that supports your approach.
- Prepare your Budget – Download the grant budget template and populate with a detailed and realistic budget that balances income and expenses.
- Collect supporting documents.

Complete the Application Form

- Access the online form via the Mercy Partners Ministry Portal.
- Ensure you complete all sections of the application form.
- Ensure you stick to the word limits.
- Check calculations – ensure your budget balances and financial information is accurate.
- Review your application thoroughly before submission.

Submit your Application

- Applications can be submitted online via the Mercy Partners Ministry Portal.
- ADF applications need to be submitted via email to info@mercypartners.org.au.

After Submission

- Acknowledgement: You will receive an email confirming your application has been received within two business days.
- Questions: The Nudgee Trust may contact you for clarification during the assessment period.
- Decision notification: The Nudgee Trust will notify all applicants of the outcome in writing.

Applying for Nudgee Trust Grant

Grant Timeline



Review Process

Stage 1: Eligibility Check

- All applications are reviewed for completeness and eligibility requirements.

Stage 2: Grant Review Committee Assessment

- The Grant Review Committee conducts detailed assessment against the published criteria, with external expert input where appropriate.

Stage 3: Trustee Decision

- The Trustees of the Nudgee Trust make the final funding decisions, considering the Grant Review Committee recommendations.

Assessment Criteria

Trustee assess the applications against the published criteria with specific attention to:

- Alignment with Trust objectives and community needs
- Quality of project design and evidence base
- Organisational capacity to deliver outcomes
- Value for money and sustainability planning, and
- Strength of evaluation and learning approach.

Application Support

Contact the Nudgee Trust for guidance on eligibility criteria or any process questions.

Contact: Chris Townend
Email: nudgeetrust@mercypartners.org.au
Mobile: 0404 821 772

Applying for a Nudgee Trust Grant

Successful Grant Applications

If your grant application has been successful, you will be receive the following:

- Grant Agreement – A formal grant agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant.
- Reporting Requirements – You will be required to provide the Nudgee Trust with regular progress reports and financial acquittals.
- Relationship Management – The Nudgee Trust will work in partnership with the ministry applicant through the project lifecycle.
- Knowledge Sharing – The Nudgee Trust may invite you to share learnings with other ministries.

Unsuccessful Applications

If your grant application has been unsuccessful, you will receive the following:

- Feedback – Specific feedback to strengthen future applications.
- Reapplication – Encouragement to reapply in future rounds with a revised proposal.

Applying for a Nudgee Trust Grant

Tips for Success

Writing your Application

Be specific and concrete

- Use data and evidence rather than general statements.
- Provide concrete examples and case studies.
- Quantify your expected outcomes wherever possible.

Tell a compelling story

- Start with a clear problem statement backed by evidence.
- Show how your solution addresses the root causes.
- Demonstrate the difference your project will make.

Show your expertise

- Highlight relevant experience and successful outcomes.
- Demonstrate understanding of your community and issue.
- Show you have learned from challenges and adapted approaches.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Weak problem definition

- Vague descriptions without supporting evidence.
- Focusing on organisational needs rather than community needs.
- Not demonstrating genuine community consultation.

Poor project logic

- Activities that don't clearly lead to stated outcomes.
- Unrealistic timelines or overly ambitious scope.
- Missing links between inputs, activities and results.

Inadequate evaluation planning

- No clear success measures or data collection plan.
- Evaluation treated as an afterthought rather than integral design element.
- Focusing only on outposts rather than meaningful outcomes.

Budget issues

- Income and expenses do not balance.
- Cost seems unrealistic (too high or too low).
- Insufficient detail to understand how funds will be used.

Strengthening Your Application

Community voice

- Include quotes, feedback or testimonials from beneficiaries.
- Show how community input shaped your project design.
- Demonstrate ongoing community involvement in implementation.

Evidence and learning

- Reference relevant research and best practice examples.
- Show how you have adapted successful models to your context.
- Demonstrate commitment to learning and continuous improvement.

Partnership and collaboration

- Show how partnerships add value rather than just tick boxes.
- Demonstrate clear roles and genuine collaboration.
- Include letters of support that add substance to your application.

Sustainability thinking

- Show how benefits will continue beyond the funding period.
- Demonstrate diversified funding strategy.
- Build capacity and systems that outlast the project.