

# YOUTH GRANTS INFORMATION KIT 2024

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Applications close 11:59pm, Friday 04 October 2024.

## Background of Youth Grants

The Youth Grants program was established in 2000 and is now available Australia-wide. The purpose of the grants is to assist, inspire and encourage deaf and hard of hearing young people in Australia to realise their potential. Your application needs to illustrate how receiving a Youth Grant will assist in breaking down the barriers you've experienced associated with hearing loss and how YOU will be a positive role model for future generations of deaf and hard of hearing young people.

Deaf Children Australia (DCA) is excited to be offering our 2024 Youth Grants program, with grants valued up to **\$2,500 each**.

## Who is eligible?

- Deaf or hard of hearing young people between the ages of 12 and 23 are eligible for a Youth Grant.
- You must not be 24 years old by the end of your project.
- You need to provide proof of your age when you submit your application. Please include a copy of **one** of the following documents with your application: your birth certificate, Australian passport, or Australian driver's licence. Applications without proof of age will not be accepted.
- Only Australian residents and citizens can apply for a Youth Grant.
- You need to include a current audiogram – no more than 2 years old – when you submit your application. If you do not have a current audiogram, we will also accept an official letter from the Cochlear Clinic, an ENT, or a GP. Applications without medical proof of permanent hearing loss will not be accepted.
- Only deaf and hard of hearing young people who have **not received** a Youth Grant from DCA in the last **two years** may apply. This means if you received a Youth Grant in 2022 or 2023, you are not eligible to apply this year.

## What projects can you apply for?

Your project needs to fall within one of the following categories to be eligible to apply:

1. Sport and Recreation
2. Art and Music
3. Education
4. Skill Development (including driving lessons)

\*Please note we will not be accepting any applications for visiting family members overseas.

## How does it work?

- DCA Youth Grants are awarded once a year to support deaf and hard of hearing young people from 12 to 23 years of age.
- The most money you can receive is **\$ 2,500**.
- The Youth Grant application period will be between Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 and will close strictly at 11:59pm on Friday the 04<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. Any applications submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.
- You will be notified on the outcome of your Youth Grant application by Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- You must start your project this year (2024) and you have 12 months to finish. For example, from November 2024 – October 2025.
- You must keep receipts and invoices of your expenses. All invoices and receipts must be itemised so that each item purchased is clearly listed on the receipt. EFTPOS receipts will not be accepted.
- At the end of your project, send your itemised receipts and invoices to DCA with the claim form and we will then pay you for that amount, but within the limitations of the Youth Grant you received (not exceeding \$2,500).
- Please note that you strictly cannot claim for alcohol, food and beverages, entertainment costs, items of a personal nature, everyday items, medical fees (including physiotherapy and speech therapy), support worker fees and associated costs of a support worker, or any costs not directly associated with your project. You also cannot use your project funds to cover costs for family members and/or friends (accommodation, transport, entertainment, etc.) DCA reserves the right to decline claims that are deemed inappropriate based on your approved project.

- In the case that your Youth Grant project is approved for you to use DCA funding for accommodation, DCA will only cover the cost of accommodation for a single room and any parents, family, friends, or support workers travelling with the Youth Grant recipient need to cover the costs of their own accommodation. DCA is not able to finance other people travelling with a grant recipient or visiting a grant recipient.
- All claims must be in Australian Dollars. DCA is an Australian organisation and cannot pay out based on foreign currencies due to the variability of exchange rates.
- In the case of submitting multiple receipts and invoices, you need to organise them into a **single** document (e.g. PDF or Jpeg) in date order from oldest to newest and clearly label them. DCA reserves the right to reject receipts and invoices that are not clearly related to the approved project.
- All claims must be made by 31 October 2025.
- DCA reserves the right to reject any claims made after the final cut-off date of 31 October 2025.
- New applicants receive priority. If you received a Youth Grant in 2022 or 2023, you are not eligible to apply this year.
- You must submit a report to DCA within thirty days of finishing your project (see Project Report guidelines below). The report must include photos and/or video. The report can be sent in the form of an Auslan video.
- Please note you will only receive payment for your claims **after** DCA has received your report. No report = no payment.
- By applying for a Youth Grant, you are agreeing to DCA writing a story about your project on our website, newsletters, social media, and the DCA Annual / impact report. We will consult with you about the information we share.
- We may get in contact with you about sharing your project through external media coverage. You do not have to participate in external media coverage and can opt out the external media coverage if you want.

## Reporting on your project

After your project is finished you must write a project report telling us about your project and how it helped you reach a goal or work toward one. Please note you need to submit your report before you may claim money from DCA for your project.

Below are questions to help get you started:

- What did completing this project mean to you?
- What did you learn from the project?
- What did this project allow you to achieve?
- Why did you decide to apply for this project? Is it an activity offered at your school or sports club, or your own idea?
- What went well with the project?
- What obstacles did you face with the project? How did you overcome them?
- What would you do better next time?
- Would the project have been as successful without DCA awarding you this grant?
- What do you want to achieve next?

You can send us an Auslan or spoken English video or send us a written report. You will need to include photos and/or a video of your project with your report.

## Applications that will not be considered

The following types of projects WILL NOT receive a Youth Grant from DCA:

- Applications by or on behalf of an organised group such as schools, voluntary groups or youth clubs. If you are part of a group or youth club and want to apply for a personal Youth Grant for your project, you are welcome to do so. Your group cannot apply for everyone.
- Applications for assistance that should be covered by health, education or employment services, or the NDIS.
- Computers (including laptops), hardware and software and all associated accessories (USBs, cables, chargers, hard drives, keyboards, computer mouse, etc) will not be provided unless the applicant has an additional disability and can show its need for their education.
- Any applicants who have received a Youth Grant from DCA in the last two years.



## How to complete your application:

All questions must be answered. **We do not accept applications that haven't been fully completed.**

All applications must include proof of age and proof of permanent hearing loss to be considered.

It is important to keep the following things in mind when completing the application form:

- Have a good understanding of the project – do your research.
- Understand how you will benefit personally, and how the community will benefit from your project.

## How to send us your application:

1. First, download the application form on the Youth Grants page of our website, or contact us to request a copy.
2. You can email your completed application, proof of age and proof of permanent hearing loss to: [youthgrants@deafchildren.org.au](mailto:youthgrants@deafchildren.org.au)
3. You can print the application form and complete it by hand. Please make sure your writing is clear and easy to read. Send your completed form, proof of age and proof of permanent hearing loss to us via post:

Youth Grants Coordinator

Deaf Children Australia

PO Box 6466

Melbourne 8008

4. If you'd like to submit your application as a video, please answer every question from the application form in a spoken English or Auslan video. If you are providing a video, please ensure you caption it. Upload your video to YouTube and provide us with the link or send us the video via WeTransfer ([www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com)).

If you are sending your application as a video, you still need to send us your referees, the signed authorisation at the bottom of the application form, your proof of age and your proof of permanent hearing loss via email or post.