

YOUTH GRANT **2026**

INFO KIT

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 2026 Youth Grants program thanks to the Bequest of the Allen and Cecilia Tye Fund, with grants valued up to **\$2,500** each. The Johnsen Family Youth Grant is also available to fund an education (science and music) related grant up to **\$1000**.

Applications close 11:59pm, Thursday 1st October 2026

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 2024 or 2025, 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)**
- 5. Science (eg. STEM, Applied Sciences, Social Sciences)**

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. New applicants receive priority. See Youth Grant schedule below.

**1ST JULY -
1ST OCTOBER 2026**

Youth Grant applications open on Wednesday 1st July and close strictly at 11:59pm on Thursday 1st October 2026. Any applications submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.

16TH OCTOBER 2026

You will be notified on the outcome of your Youth Grant application by Friday 16th October 2026.

12 MONTHS

You must start your project in 2026 and you have 12 months to finish.

18TH JUNE 2027

All claims must be made by Friday 18th June 2027.

RECORD KEEPING/EXPENSES

If you are awarded a Youth Grant, you will complete your project at your own expense (as described and agreed to in the successful application). Careful record keeping is important so you can make your claims at the end of your project.

- 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, or \$1,000 for the Johnsen Family Youth Grant).
- 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.

CLAIMS:

- All claims must be written in English and 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 **Friday 18th June 2027**.
- DCA reserves the right to reject any claims made after the final cut-off date of Friday 18th June 2027.

REPORTS:

- You must submit a report to DCA before 18th June 2027. 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.**

SHARING YOUR STORY:

- 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.

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.

Here are some 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?

What advice or strategies would you give to another deaf or hard of hearing person?

Restrictions

Below are types of applications that WILL NOT receive a Youth Grant from DCA, and claims that will not be considered.

- 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.
 - If you received a Youth Grant in 2024 or 2025, you are not eligible to apply this year.
 - We will not be accepting any applications for visiting family members overseas.
 - 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 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.
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What to include:

All applications must include proof of age **and** proof of permanent hearing loss to be considered. You can use the following checklist to make sure you have included everything with your application.

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

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.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Proof of age
- ☐ Proof of permanent hearing loss
- ☐ Completed Application Form including 2 referees and signed authorisation
- ☐ Photograph of applicant

Email us your application

1. First, download the Application Form on the Youth Grants page of our website, or contact us to request a copy. This is a fillable form so you can type your answers in, save it and email as an attachment.
2. Send your completed Application Form, proof of age, proof of permanent hearing loss and photograph in one email.
3. 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).
4. If you are sending your application as a video, you still need to email us your details and referees, the signed authorisation at the bottom of the application form, your proof of age and your proof of permanent hearing loss and photograph via email.

Email your application and supporting documents to:

youthgrants@deafchildren.org.au

If possible, please edit the file names of documents you send us to include YG26 and the name of the applicant.

When you email us your application please use in the subject line:

'Youth Grant Application 2026'

If you have any questions, please contact the Youth Grants Team at Deaf Children Australia:

T: **03 9539 5308**

E: **youthgrants@deafchildren.org.au**