



# Local Schools Community Fund Fact Sheet

The Local Schools Community Fund (the Fund) supports the Australian Government's commitment to education by providing a contribution to schools for small scale projects and their associated costs.

## What does the Fund offer?

The Australian Government will provide \$30.2 million in 2019–20 to establish the Fund, with up to \$200,000 available for each federal electorate.

The Fund is open to eligible government, Catholic and independent schools.

Schools can apply for one project between \$1,000 and \$20,000. Where a school is composed of multiple campuses, the school or campus may submit an application for each campus to fund a project between \$1,000 and \$20,000.

The funding amount can be for the total cost of the project, or part of the cost where the school contributes an amount.

## Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply, a school must be in receipt of Commonwealth recurrent funding for 2019.

## What projects are eligible?

Projects will be for small scale capital and non-capital initiatives. Projects may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following components:

- master-planning
- small scale extensions / refurbishments
- installation of computer or ICT facilities / equipment / software
- playground and sporting equipment
- shade structures
- landscaping
- procurement of musical facilities, furniture, computer equipment (e.g. digital whiteboards), library resources
- air-conditioning

- measures to target student wellbeing
- counselling or youth mental health support
- excursions for students from remote areas
- additional English as a second language support for refugee students
- specific facilities for students with a disability in a school.

Applications may include more than one project component. For example, a project may comprise of refurbishments and landscaping, or ICT equipment and digital whiteboards.

## **How do I apply?**

Schools should read the Fund guidelines and notify their approved authority before applying. Schools will also need to provide assurance that the project will be completed by 31 December 2020.

Applications can be submitted online through SchoolsHUB at <https://schools.education.gov.au>. Applications open on 25 July 2019 and close at 5:00 pm AEST on 30 September 2019.

## **What is the assessment process?**

Federal Members of the House of Representatives (MPs) in each electorate will establish a Local Advisory Committee (committee) consisting of at least four members (including the MP), ensuring representation from the government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

The committee will assess applications from schools within their electorate against the assessment criteria and recommend projects for funding to the Minister for Education.

The Minister for Education makes the final decision of which projects will be approved.

## **When will I be notified if my application is successful?**

The Minister for Education will notify MPs of the outcome of project applications within their electorate by early December 2019. MPs will then have the opportunity to notify schools.

The department will also notify schools in December 2019 of the outcome of their application.

Schools with approved projects can commence once formal notification has been received from the department.

## **Where can I find more information?**

Guidelines, frequently asked questions and other information about the Fund can be found on the department's website at [www.education.gov.au/local-schools-community-fund](http://www.education.gov.au/local-schools-community-fund).

The department can be contacted via email at [localschoolscommunityfund@education.gov.au](mailto:localschoolscommunityfund@education.gov.au).