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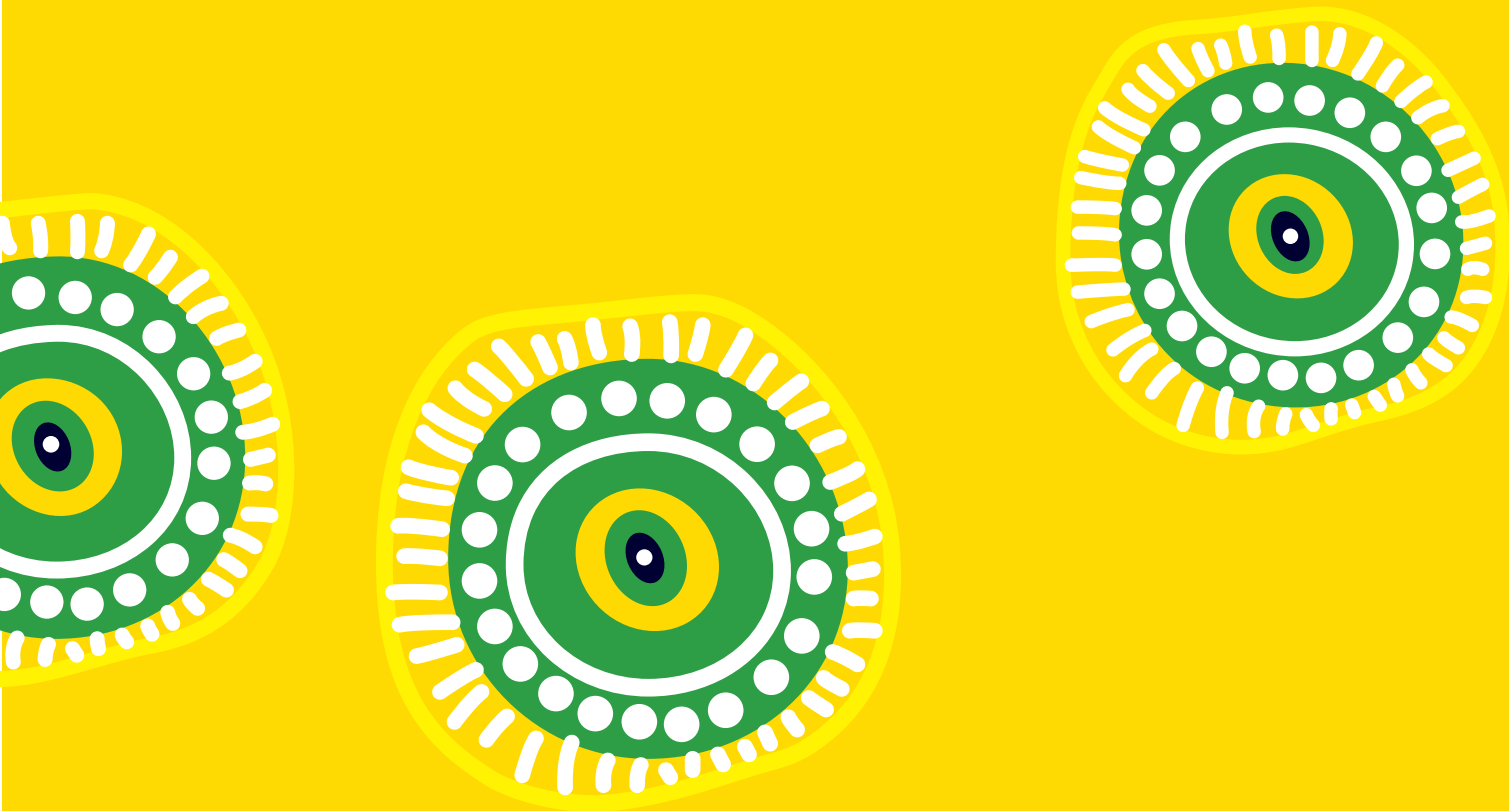


**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**



# Para Athlete Barriers Fund Guidelines

<b>Opening date and time:</b>	11:00am AEDT on 21 March 2025
<b>Closing date and time:</b>	2:00pm AEST on 5 May 2025
<b>Enquiries:</b>	Contact the ASC Performance Systems and Paralympic Partnerships area via email: <a href="mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au">ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au</a>
<b>Grant opportunity type:</b>	Open competitive



### **Australian Sports Commission Acknowledgement of Country**

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where its offices are located, the Ngunnawal people and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the people of the Yugambah Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

The ASC extends this acknowledgment to all the Traditional Custodians of the lands and First Nations Peoples throughout Australia and would like to pay its respects to all Elders past, present and future.

The ASC recognises the outstanding contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to society and sport in Australia and celebrates the power of sport to promote reconciliation and reduce inequality.

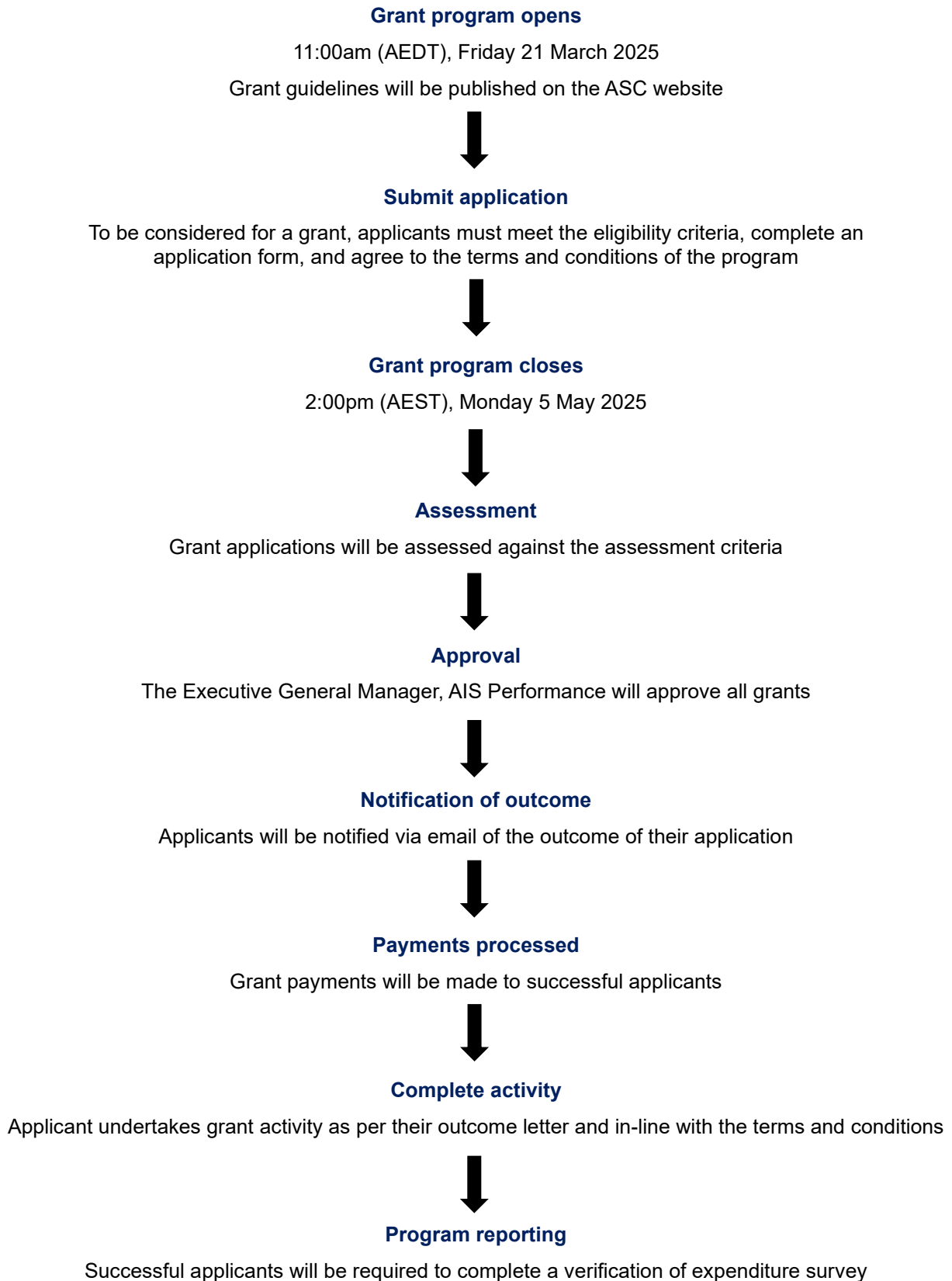


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## 1. Para Athlete Barriers Fund overview





## 2. About the grant program

### 2.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Para Athlete Barriers Fund (**the Fund**).

Applicants must read the guidelines before filling out an application, this document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected for funding
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated, and
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the grant.

This grant program and process will be administered by the ASC Performance Systems and Paralympic Partnerships area with specialist advice and oversight provided by the ASC Grants Team.

### 2.2 Background

The lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games is one of the great periods of opportunity in Australian sporting history, with actions over the next eight years to impact generations to come. The sector is united through Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy (HP 2032+ Strategy) to reduce inequity of opportunity for Para athletes to make the most of their talents.

The HP 2032+ Strategy and its vision, "we win well to inspire Australians", has driven work to uncover the barriers that Para athletes face when entering and progressing through high performance pathways. The Australian Government has doubled their investment to support high performance Para sport in 2025 and 2026 in an effort to reduce these barriers for athletes, and the high-performance sport system is implementing a range of initiatives to do so, collectively termed the Para System Uplift.

The positive impacts of most Para System Uplift initiatives will be felt over the medium and long term and are collectively designed to create a sustained positive change. Whilst these new systems are being built, the HP system recognised there is a need to provide short-term support for the current high performance Para athletes to help them address immediate needs.

The Fund offers a one-off grant to support categorised athletes to overcome individual barriers to their progression or performance in Para sports. The Para Athlete Barriers Fund underscores the commitment of fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for Para athletes, ensuring they have the resources needed to excel in their respective sports. Whether it's to overcome barriers related to training, coaching, equipment, travel or their essential needs, the Para Athlete Barriers Fund is dedicated to empowering athletes to break through challenges and reach new heights in their athletic careers.

### 2.3 Purpose

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support to current Australian high-performance athletes competing in Para sport.

The Fund will assist them in overcoming barriers to their performance or progression in their chosen sport.



## 2.4 Timelines

Activity	Key Dates
Applications Open	11:00am AEDT, Friday 21 March 2025
Applications Close	2:00pm AEST, Monday 5 May 2025
Assessment of applications	May 2025
Notification of outcome	June 2025
Complete funded activity	By 30 June 2026

Table 1. Key dates for the Fund

## 3. Grant amount

The total funding pool for the Fund is \$225,000.

The maximum total grant amount available is up to \$4,000 per applicant.

## 4. Eligibility criteria

### 4.1 Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply for the Fund applicants must:

- be an athlete supported by an ASC recognised National Sporting Organisation (NSO) or National Sporting Organisation for people with Disability (NSOD) in a para sport
- be categorised into one of the following disciplines as per the Athlete Categorisation Framework:
  - Podium
  - Podium Ready
  - Podium Potential
  - Developing
  - Emerging
- be actively participating with a recognised NSO/D in training and competition within their para sport;
- have no anti-doping rule violations at any time; and
- have no match fixing offences at any time.

### 4.2 Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an individual or athlete that is not supported by an ASC recognised NSO/D, as listed in the ASC Sports Directory, and/or is not categorised as per the Athlete Categorisation Framework
- not in a Para sport discipline; or
- an organisation.



## 5. Use of grant funds

### 5.1 Eligible applications

To be eligible, the grant activity must support the applicant in overcoming any barriers that limit or inhibit their ability to perform or progress in their sport.

One application can be submitted per applicant.

Applicants will be required to describe the following in their application:

- What barrier/s are preventing the applicant from progressing and/or performing in their sport?
- What impact will the reduction/removal of the barrier have on their performance/progression?
- If the barrier was reduced/removed, how this would influence their performance/progression?

Applicants should work with their coaches and/or Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement Manager, to consider how access to the Fund may be beneficial to their performance and/or progression.

Applicants may only apply for the grant funding to offset expenses that will be incurred between 5 May 2025 and 30 June 2026.

### 5.2 Examples of eligible expenditure

Eligible expenditure items include, but are not limited to costs associated with:

- travel to attend training or competition/events
- obtaining athlete classification
- carer support
- performance support
- accessing training facilities
- accessing coaching services
- competition entry fees
- childcare whilst training or travelling for sport
- high performance equipment, engineering, or equipment maintenance
- professional development opportunities

See [Appendix 2](#) for eligible expenditure scenarios and further examples.

### 5.3 Ineligible expenditure

Applicants cannot use the grant for the following activities:

- expenses that do not align with the objectives of the Fund;
- retrospective expenses that were incurred prior to 5 May 2025; or
- expenses that are covered by funding received through organisations, sponsors or other Commonwealth programs (e.g. NSO/D, National Institute Network (NIN), National Disability Insurance Scheme, sponsors).



## 6. The assessment criteria

### Criteria 1. Demonstrated need

Applicants should demonstrate this by identifying:

- What their barrier/s are; and
- How the barrier/s are limiting their performance and/or progression.

### Criteria 2. Value for money

Applicants should demonstrate this by identifying:

- How the grant funding will be spent to assist in overcoming the described barrier/s.

### Criteria 3. Outcomes

Applicants should demonstrate this by identifying:

- How the financial assistance will impact the applicant's performance and/or progression.

All criteria have equal weighting.

## 7. How to apply

Before applying, applicants must read and understand these guidelines, the application form, and the terms and conditions in [Appendix 1](#).

As per [Section 3](#), applicants may submit one application up to \$4,000.

Applications are to be completed online on the ASC website at:  
[https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants\\_and\\_funding/para-athlete-barriers-fund](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/para-athlete-barriers-fund) by the closing date.

To complete the application, applicants must:

- provide all the information requested, including current athlete categorisation details, personal bank account details, and residential address details
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria; and
- provide contact details of a parent/guardian if under 18 years of age.

If the applicant is under 18 years of age, agreement of the applicant's parent or guardian is required to apply. The applicant's parent or guardian must read and understand these guidelines, the application form and the terms and conditions in [Appendix 1](#).

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their submitted application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth). The ASC will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application from further consideration for the Fund, or any other grant program managed, operated, facilitated or funded by the ASC submitted by the applicant.





## 7.1 Application form

When applying, applicants will be able to select between a written and video response for certain components of the form.

If selecting to respond via written application, applicants will be asked to submit responses to each question within 300 words or less.

If electing to respond via video, the recorded response must:

- address one question per video submission;
- be a maximum of two minutes in length per question/response; and
- be in a format that allows an accessible link to be submitted in the application form.

If applicants elect to answer the application questions via a video response, the ASC will transcribe the responses to allow the application to be assessed against assessment criteria.

Applicants should keep a copy of the submitted application.

An automated email from the ASC grant management system confirming receipt of the application should be received upon submission. Please note this can be received into a junk email folder.

If the applicant does not receive an email, require further guidance about the application process, or if unable to apply online, contact the ASC at [ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au](mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au).

If there are errors or missing information in the application, the ASC may contact the applicant for clarification or to request further information.

However, the ASC can refuse to accept any additional information that would change the applicant's submission after the application closing date.

Application changes after the closing date and time are not permitted.

## 7.2 Timing of grant application processes

Applications must be submitted between the published opening and closing dates.

Late applications will not be accepted.

## 7.3 Questions during the application process

If you have any technical difficulties using the system, please contact the ASC Grants Team immediately at [funding@ausport.gov.au](mailto:funding@ausport.gov.au). Please note the ASC may not accept any late requests to assist with technical issues if the issue has not been reported prior to the published application closing time.

If you require further guidance with the application process, find an error in your application after submission, are unable to submit an online application or wish to withdraw a submitted application, please contact the ASC at [ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au](mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au).

The ASC will respond to emails within three working days.



## 8. The grant selection process

### 8.1 Assessment of grant applications

The assessment process will comprise:

- reviewing all applications against the eligibility criteria as per Sections 4.1 and 5.2 to ensure all applicants are eligible;
- considering eligible applications through an open competitive grant process; and
- assessing eligible applications against the assessment criteria (see Section 6) and against other applications. The assessment process will consider each application on its merits, based on:
  - how well it meets the criteria
  - how it compares to other applications, and
  - whether it provides value with relevant money.

The assessment process will consider:

- the overall objective to be achieved in providing the grant, and
- the relative value of grant funding.

The ASC may discuss eligible applications with a key contact at the nominated NSO/D or other HP system partner (e.g. Paralympics Australia) to verify that the expenses identified are aligned with the performance and/or progression needs of the athlete and are not already being funded by other organisations. Applicants will be asked in the application form whether they consent to the details of their application being shared with the NSO/D or other HP system partner before contact is made. Applicants may choose not to consent to this, and their application will still be considered equally.

### 8.2 Who will assess and approve applications?

ASC staff will review all applications against the eligibility criteria.

Applications will then be assessed by ASC staff on merit, in line with the assessment criteria. A list of applications recommended for grant funding will be provided to the Assessment Panel.

The Assessment Panel will comprise of ASC staff members and a sport sector representative and will review all applications in line with the grant program objectives. The Panel will provide a list of recommended applications to receive grant funding to the Grant Approver.

The Grant Approver for the Fund is the ASC's Executive General Manager, AIS Performance. They decide which grants to approve, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Assessment Panel and the availability of grant funds.

The Grant Approver's decision is final in all matters, with no review or appeal process, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded, which may differ from the grant amount requested; and
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

The ASC reserves the right to:

- not assess an application, should insufficient information be provided, including responses to assessment criteria; and
- negotiate a lower than requested funding amount for submitted applications.



## 9. Notification of application outcomes

The ASC will notify all applicants of the outcome of their application via email, including whether they have been successful or unsuccessful in receiving grant funding.

If successful, notification will include:

- the funding amount awarded
- any specific conditions attached to the grant
- the terms and conditions of the grant, and
- the timeframes for payment.

### 9.1 Application feedback

Unsuccessful applicants may ask for feedback within two weeks of being advised of the outcome.

The ASC will provide feedback within one month of your request.

## 10. Successful grant applications

### 10.1 Terms and Conditions

Applicants must agree to comply with the terms and conditions to receive their grant through the Fund.

Terms and conditions are available at Appendix 1.

### 10.2 How we pay the grant

As per the terms and conditions in Appendix 1, the grant will be paid in one single upfront payment.

The ASC may require further information from the applicant to release the payment.

## 11. How the ASC monitors grant activity

### 11.1 Keeping us informed

Applicants should let us know if anything is likely to affect your grant activity.

Applicants must inform the ASC of any changes in circumstances, such as changes to:

- name
- address
- nominated contact details
- bank account details.

If you become aware of a breach of the terms and conditions under the grant program, you must contact the ASC in writing, immediately via [ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au](mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au).



## 11.2 Verification of expenditure

Successful applicants will be required to complete a verification of expenditure survey declaring that the grant funding was spent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Fund.

The verification of expenditure survey will be email to grantees and must be completed by 31 July 2026.

Successful applicants may be asked to provide evidence of the use and expenditure of the approved grant through an audit process. Applicants will be contacted by the ASC if they have been selected for an audit and will be required to submit appropriate documentation, which may include receipts for expenditure of the grant. The ASC may request evidence of expenditure up to one year after receiving the grant.

## 11.3 Variations

The ASC recognise that unexpected events may affect the progress of a grant activity. In these circumstances, applicants can request a variation to the grant and grant activities. You can request a variation by emailing [ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au](mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au) and explaining the circumstances.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. The ASC will consider your request based on provisions in the original grant application and the likely impact on achieving outcomes.

## 11.4 Record keeping

The ASC may inspect the records you are required to keep under the terms and conditions.

## 11.5 Evaluation

The ASC will evaluate the grant program to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application for this purpose.

We may also interview you or ask for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to one year after you finish your grant for more information to assist with this evaluation.

## 12. Probity

The ASC will ensure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct.

### 12.1 Conflict of interest

Actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant program. There may be a conflict of interest, if ASC staff, any member of the Assessment Panel, the Grant Approver or other personnel involved:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an employee of the ASC or member of the Assessment Panel;
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently.



Conflicts of interest for ASC staff will be handled in accordance with the ASC's Conflict of Interest Policy. Prior to the assessment process, panel members will also be required to declare any conflict of interest.

## 12.2 Privacy

The ASC treats your personal information according to the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles. This includes letting you know:

- what personal information the ASC collects
- why the ASC collects your personal information; and
- who the ASC may give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies. The details of ASC's Privacy Policy can be found at: [https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal\\_information/privacy\\_policy](https://www.sportaus.gov.au/legal_information/privacy_policy).

The ASC may also use and disclose information about grant applicants and grant recipients under this grant opportunity in any other Australian Government business or function. This includes disclosing grant information on the ASC website as required for reporting purposes.

We may share the information you give us with other Commonwealth entities for purposes including government administration, research or service delivery, according to Australian laws.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the ASC would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

## 12.3 Confidential information

The ASC will keep any information in connection with the grant application and/or terms and conditions confidential to the extent that it meets all of the three conditions below:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- revealing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

The ASC will not be in breach of confidentiality if the information is disclosed to:

- the Assessment Panel or other Commonwealth employees and contractors to help us manage the program effectively, including for an integrity purpose
- employees and contractors of the ASC so we can research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities
- employees and contractors of other Commonwealth agencies for any purposes, including government administration, research or service delivery
- other Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government agencies in program reports and consultations
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman, Privacy Commissioner or National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, or staff of their agencies
- the responsible Minister or Parliamentary Secretary; or



- a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The terms and conditions may also include specific requirements about special categories of information collected, created or held.

## 12.4 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing at [foi.officer@ausport.gov.au](mailto:foi.officer@ausport.gov.au).

## 13. Contact us

Matter	Contact
Program enquiries	<a href="mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au">ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au</a>
Application enquiries	<a href="mailto:ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au">ParaAthleteBarriers@ausport.gov.au</a>
Technical issues	<a href="mailto:funding@ausport.gov.au">funding@ausport.gov.au</a>
Payments and funding	<a href="mailto:funding@ausport.gov.au">funding@ausport.gov.au</a>

Table 2. Contact us details

The ASC will respond to emails within three working days.

## 14. Complaints and feedback

The ASC welcomes your feedback.

All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant program should be submitted online to <https://www.ausport.gov.au/contacts/feedback-and-complaints>

If you do not agree with the way the ASC has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the ASC.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au)

Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.gov.au)



## Appendix 1. Terms and Conditions

1. If the Australian Sports Commission (**ASC**) decides to issue a grant (**Grant**) to the applicant under the Para Athlete Barriers Fund (**Program**), the Grant will be made subject to any terms the ASC sets out in the applicant's outcome letter, these terms and conditions, and the Program Guidelines (as updated from time to time (**Agreement**)).
2. Any personal information that is submitted via the application form is collected by the ASC for the purpose of considering applications for grants and administering the Program. The information collected may be disclosed to other agencies and industry representatives for this purpose.
3. The ASC will make a single payment of the Grant amount to the successful applicant (Recipient) subject to sufficient funding being available to the Program and the Recipient complying with these terms and conditions.
4. The Recipient must:
  - a. complete the project or activity (**Activity**) as detailed in their outcome letter;
  - b. promptly notify the ASC if the Recipient becomes aware that they no longer fulfils the Eligibility Criteria (as set out in the Guidelines) for receipt of the Grant;
  - c. only use the Grant for the purpose of the Activity, and where expenses are incurred between 5 May 2025 and 30 June 2026;
  - d. keep records detailing the use and expenditure of the Grant, for a period of at least 2 years, and make them available to the ASC or its authorised representatives on request; and
  - e. provide by 31 July 2026 a declaration and accompanying evidence (if requested) in the form required by the ASC, verifying that the Grant has been spent in accordance with this Agreement. This may include production of receipts as evidence of expenditure of the Grant.
5. The Recipient:
  - a. declares and warrants, at the date of agreeing to these terms and conditions, that they have not at any time been found to have breached any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient and has not engaged at any time in any conduct that constituted a breach of any anti-doping rule or policy applicable to the Recipient;
  - b. agrees to maintain a high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
  - c. agrees not to do anything to bring the Recipient, the ASC or the Recipient's National Sporting Organisation or National Sporting Organisation for people with Disability into disrepute.
6. Without limitation to any other rights of the ASC, if the ASC reasonably believes, at any time following the award of the Grant, that:
  - a. the Recipient has provided false or misleading information in the application process;
  - b. the Grant has been spent other than in accordance with the Agreement; or
  - c. the Recipient will not complete the Grant Activity or has otherwise breached any of their obligations under this Agreement,

then the ASC may by written notice, terminate this Agreement and/or require the Recipient to repay to the ASC, at the ASC's absolute discretion, all or part of the Grant. The amount notified must be repaid within 30 days of any such notice.



7. The personal details of the Recipient (including their name, home state, sport, the value of the Grant awarded and a brief description of the purpose of the Fund) may be released by the ASC to the public and the media for promotional and educational purposes.
8. The Recipient agrees to cooperate with the ASC, as reasonably requested, in relation to any evaluation of the Program. This may include participation in an interview, or the provision of additional information related to the impact of the Program.
9. If the Recipient is under 18 years of age, they must also obtain agreement of their parent or guardian to these terms and conditions and the Guidelines prior to entering this Agreement.
10. The Recipient is responsible for obtaining all appropriate insurances with respect to undertaking the Activity and complying with these terms and conditions.
11. The Recipient agrees to indemnify the ASC and its officers, employees and contractors against any claim, loss or damage arising in connection with undertaking the Activity, or a breach of this Agreement. This obligation to indemnify the ASC will reduce proportionally to the extent that any act or omission involving fault on the part of the ASC, contributed to the claim loss or damage.
12. This Agreement does not create a relationship of employment, or agency between the Recipient and the ASC.
13. This Agreement is governed by the law of the Australian Capital Territory.





## Appendix 2. Eligible Expenditure Examples

The following are some examples of eligible expenditure:

- Gary competes in the sport of Para archery. Gary is currently categorised as Podium Potential and has been travelling interstate regularly to connect with his coach. Gary would like to be able to have more face-to-face time with his coach. Gary applies for an amount of \$2,750 to cover airfare, accommodation and transportation expenses to be able to access his coach an additional four times this year. This would allow Gary to have greater access to coaching and positively impact his performance.
- Georgia competes in Para athletics and is classified as Developing. Georgia is currently completing a traineeship in mechanics. Georgia lives a distance away from her SIS/SAS gym and applies for a \$1,500 grant to be able to purchase a membership to a gym that is closer to home and work. This would allow Georgia to focus on her priorities of work, training, and recovery, leading to enhanced performance outcomes.
- Nick competes in Para alpine skiing and is categorised as Podium Potential. Nick has just been categorised after starting the sport only a couple of years ago. Nick would like to compete in an international event as identified by his coach that his NSO is unable to fund. Nick and his coach feel this would be beneficial as it would allow Nick an opportunity to compete and familiarise himself with the international travel and race day preparation processes. These are areas he and his coach identified requires additional support. Nick applies for \$4,000 to contribute to flights to Italy, accommodation and ground transport costs during a series of competitions. This tour would help him access high level competition, giving Nick further experience with travel and race preparation.
- Karrie competes in Wheelchair rugby and is categorised at Podium ready. Karrie has a Wheelchair rugby chair that was pre-owned and not suited to her and has been causing her hip pain as it isn't suited to her disability. Karrie would like to be able to have assistance to fund a new chair that would better suit her and her needs. She has a quote for a new chair totalling \$12,000. Karrie would like to apply for a \$4,000 grant to contribute to the cost of the new chair. By allowing Karrie to access part-funding for her chair, this will allow Karrie to have better outcomes as her equipment would be more specific to her requirements.



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