

# Algal Bloom Support Program

2025-2026  
Guidelines



**Government of South Australia**  
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

## Minister's Message

It is with great pleasure that I invite eligible organisations to apply for funding through the Algal Bloom Support Program.

This additional grant program forms part of the Malinauskas Government's comprehensive \$102.5 million Algal Bloom Summer Plan, providing \$500,000 in assistance to beach-based sport and active recreation clubs and associations to help them continue delivering the valuable programs and services that keep South Australians active, healthy and safe around the water.

The Algal Bloom Support Program supports South Australian beach-based sport and active recreation organisations to strengthen their activities and ensure communities can continue to enjoy the social, health and lifestyle benefits that come from participation. This dedicated program will assist affected clubs to maintain their programs and events and respond to additional needs that may arise during the summer season.

Funding may be used to support essential costs such as medical and first aid supplies, equipment that assists with program delivery, event costs or to help offset temporary expense shortfalls. It can also be used for initiatives that promote wellbeing and inclusion, along with other measures that provide safe, high-quality experiences for their members, participants and community.

This initiative reinforces our commitment to supporting the vital role these beach-based organisations play across South Australia. Through their efforts, we can continue to foster participation, safety and wellbeing in and around the water.

Thank you to the workforce and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to delivering sport and active recreation opportunities across our beaches. Your commitment ensures South Australians can continue to lead active, healthy and connected lives.

Applications close at midday on 17 December 2025.

**Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP**

**Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing**



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## Introduction

These guidelines set out the funding requirements for the Algal Bloom Support Program (ABSP). The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) is responsible for administering the program.

## Objectives

The ABSP supports South Australian sport and active recreation organisations to continue to deliver inclusive, safe, and engaging activities throughout the summer season, despite the environmental challenges posed by the algal bloom.

This program is specifically designed to support organisations such as surf lifesaving, sailing, surfing, beach volleyball, open water swimming, triathlon, canoe, dragonboat, rowing and other beach-based activities impacted by the algal bloom.

The program will help these organisations maintain operations, adapt to environmental disruptions, and support community participation in sport and active recreation.

By assisting with essential costs, organisations will be better placed to maintain their programs and events over the summer season and continue to deliver valuable social, health and lifestyle benefits for their members, participants and communities.

## Important dates

The following dates apply to this funding round:

Applications open	Friday 21 November 2025
Applications close	Midday, Wednesday 17 December 2025
Applicants notified	December 2025
Agreements offered	December 2025/January 2026



## Funding streams

### The ABSP offers funding through two streams:

#### State Sporting Organisation Support Stream

The State Sporting Organisation Support Stream provides targeted funding to eligible State Sporting Organisations (SSOs) to maintain and enhance the delivery of beach-based programs, events and activities impacted by the recent algal bloom event. This stream aims to reduce financial pressures associated with decreased participation, and enable SSOs to continue offering safe, inclusive and high-quality opportunities for their affiliated clubs and broader communities.

#### Clubs and Associations Support Stream

The Clubs and Associations Support Stream provides funding to eligible beach-based sport and active recreation clubs/associations, community organisations and recreational fishing clubs to help them continue delivering valuable programs and services throughout the summer season. This stream aims to support the ongoing operation of club activities, enable responses to additional needs arising from the impacts of the algal bloom, and assist with essential costs that ensure safe, welcoming and enjoyable participation opportunities for members, participants and local communities.

Eligible clubs are strongly encouraged to apply directly for funding under the ABSP. However, eligible associations may apply on behalf of their affiliated clubs.

## Budget

The budget for the ABSP is \$500,000.

\$130,000 will be allocated to the State Sporting Organisation Support Stream and \$370,000 allocated to the Club and Associations Support Stream.

Allocation	Stream
<b>\$130,000</b>	State Sporting Organisation Support Stream
<b>\$370,000</b>	Clubs and Associations Support Stream

## Available funding

Group 1 organisations listed under the program Eligibility Criteria, outlined on page 8, will receive up to \$20,000. Group 2 organisations will receive \$10,000.

Eligible organisations through the Clubs and Associations Support Stream will receive \$3,000.

# Eligibility criteria

## Who is eligible?

### State Sporting Organisation Support Stream

The following organisations are eligible for the State Sporting Organisation Support Stream:

Group 1:

- Australian Sailing Limited
- AusTriathlon Ltd
- South Australian Volleyball Association Incorporated
- Surfing South Australia Incorporated
- Surf Life Saving South Australia Incorporated

Group 2:

- Canoe South Australia Incorporated (Paddle SA)
- Dragonboat SA Incorporated
- Rowing South Australia Incorporated

### Clubs and Associations Support Stream

To be eligible for the Clubs and Associations Support Stream, applicants must:

- be a not-for-profit beach-based active recreation or sport club/association or community organisation whose primary purpose is the delivery of active recreation or sport programs and services in South Australia; or
- be a not-for-profit beach-based recreational fishing club whose primary purpose is the delivery of recreation programs and services in South Australia; and
- be incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act 1985 (SA), or hold a comparable legal status; and
- be operating for 12 months or longer; and
- be impacted by the algal bloom.

## Who is ineligible?

The following organisations will be considered ineligible for ABSP funding:

### State Sporting Organisation Support Stream

- Organisations not listed under the State Sporting Organisation Support Stream.
- Pursuant to Direction of the Premier under section 10 of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, organisations named by the National Redress Scheme's Operator that have declined to join the Scheme or have been unresponsive (to the Scheme's Operator).

### Clubs and Associations Support Stream

- Organisations listed under the State Sporting Organisation Support Stream who are not applying on behalf of an affiliate.
- Organisations that have been operating for less than 12 months.
- For-profit, commercial organisations.
- Local Councils (Local Government Authorities).
- Educational institutions.
- An organisation whose primary purpose is not the delivery of beach-based active recreation or sport programs.
- An organisation that has overdue Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) grant acquittals as at the time of funding recommendations.
- An organisation that cannot demonstrate a level of financial sustainability.
- Pursuant to Direction of the Premier under section 10 of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, organisations named by the National Redress Scheme's Operator that have declined to join the Scheme or have been unresponsive (to the Scheme's Operator).

## Applicant location

The applicant's physical location must be within South Australia.

## Eligible project costs

If you are successful, an ABSP grant can be used to cover program, equipment, service delivery, event and operating costs associated with the algal bloom.

### State Sporting Organisation Support Stream

Eligible Project Costs	Examples	
<b>Program and event delivery</b>	Costs associated with delivering beach-based programs, competitions and events.	✓
<b>Essential equipment</b>	Wash down bays, safety and medical equipment, communication equipment.	✓
<b>Participation initiatives</b>	Development and implementation of new or improved activities to attract and retain participants.	✓
<b>Affiliated club support</b>	Contributions to club programs, services or event delivery.	✓
<b>Marketing and promotion</b>	Additional promotional activities to support participation engagement and safety messaging (e.g. social media, campaign materials).	✓
<b>Membership subsidies</b>	Assistance to reduce financial barriers for members and participants.	✓
<b>Administration expenses</b>	Temporary administrative staffing and increased operational costs.	✓

Other algal bloom associated costs may be considered by ORSR. Please contact Funding Services on 1300 714 990 or [ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au) to discuss these costs prior to applying.

### Club and Association Support Stream

The following list includes example costs that the grant may be used for. The list is by no means exhaustive, other costs that meet the objectives of the program are welcome.

Eligible Project Costs	Examples	
<b>Basic operating costs</b>	Administration costs, utility bills.	✓
<b>Specialised equipment</b>	Wash down bays, portable showers, cleaning products.	✓
<b>Sporting equipment</b>	Competition and training equipment.	✓
<b>Medical equipment</b>	Asthma kits, tape, first aid equipment, transportable weather protection.	✓
<b>Medical training</b>	Trainer courses, first aid courses and injury prevention courses.	✓
<b>Professional development</b>	Coaching or officiating courses.	✓
<b>Club promotion</b>	Developing websites, social media, traditional print media.	✓

## Ineligible project costs

Upon expending your funds, you will be required to submit an online acquittal. At that time, you will be required to report to ORSR on how the grant was expended. The following project costs will be considered ineligible:

Ineligible Project Costs	Examples	
Costs incurred before 1 July 2025		✗
Projects that do not provide a benefit to sport or active recreation		✗
Food, catering costs and catering utensils	Cutlery, crockery, glassware, coasters, perishable items.	✗
Furniture	Chairs, tables, shelving, cupboards and benches.	✗
Prizes	Trophies, including plaques, honour boards, prize money.	✗
Wages	Applicable to the Club and Association Support Stream only. Playing, coaching, instructing or honorarium wages (e.g. paid coaches).	✗
Stationery	Pens, paper, notebooks.	✗
Subscriptions	Magazines, digital media and software, websites, newspaper.	✗
Motor vehicles		✗

Please note this list includes example costs that the grant may NOT be used for. If you are unsure if a cost is eligible, please contact ORSR.

## How to apply

Carefully read these guidelines to determine whether your organisation and project meets the eligibility criteria.

The following steps briefly describe the process to apply.

- Register for the online application process ([SmartyGrants](#)) available through the ORSR website, or log in to an existing account – (<https://orsr.smartygrants.com.au/applicant/login>).
- Complete the online application in full and submit prior to the closing time of the program. Any late or incomplete applications may not be assessed.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should notify ORSR immediately via email: [ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au). ORSR will reopen your application to amend and resubmit.

ORSR may not be able to accept additional information or requests to change your submission after the closing date.

If you need further guidance about the application process, are unable to submit the SmartyGrants application or wish to withdraw a submitted application, you can contact ORSR via email: [ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au).

## Mandatory attachments to the application

The following documents are required for an application to be considered eligible:

- The applicant's most recent Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) or Statement of Financial Performance (Income and Expenditure Statement) covering a period of 12 months. Statement(s) must be either audited, certified (signed by the club Treasurer) or electronically certified within the application form by an authorised member of the organisation.

## Key specifics to get correct

Applicants must ensure the following;

- The applicant's legal name is entered exactly how it appears on the ASIC Registers [website](#).
- The applicant's Australian Business Number (ABN) is entered correctly and matches the legal name.
- If you do not have an ABN, you will need to submit a completed Australian Taxation Office (ATO) [Statement by Supplier](#) Form with your application. If you haven't provided your ABN or Statement by Supplier, ORSR is required to deduct withholding tax at the top marginal personal income tax rate. Download the Statement by Supplier form from the ATO website.
- Check that all the questions have been answered and all essential documentation is attached.
- Press submit once you have completed the application. Upon request, amendments can be made prior to the closing date.

Ensure you follow the helpful hints on each question within the application form.



# Assessment process

## Eligibility screening

ORSR conducts a preliminary assessment of all applications to ensure the following criteria are met:

- The applicant organisation is eligible to apply, and
- The application has been completed in full, and all essential information has been provided (incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible).

If an application fails to pass eligibility screening the applicant will be contacted via email, using the details provided in the application. The online application form will be reopened for the applicant to update and resubmit.

If an application is not resubmitted before the date that is requested, ORSR will utilise the latest submitted version for eligibility screening and assessment.

During the screening process, ORSR may request further information.

## Assessment

- Where an application is deemed eligible through the Clubs and Associations Support Stream, a funding recommendation of \$3,000 will be provided.
- Where an application is deemed eligible through the State Sporting Organisation Support Stream, a funding recommendation of up to \$20,000 will be provided for Group 1 organisations and \$10,000 for Group 2 organisations.

ORSR recognises that conflicts of interest may arise with staff, technical experts, and others assessing the applications and forming recommendations. All employees of the Government of South Australia must comply with:

- The Code of Ethics of the South Australian Public Sector issued under the *Public Sector Act 2009 (SA)*.
- *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Regulations 2010 (SA)*.

The assessment processes within ORSR are additionally governed by the following:

- ORSR Interests Management Policy.
- ORSR Grant Management Policy and Procedures.

Please note, it is anticipated that the number of eligible applications may exceed the funds available and therefore, ORSR does not guarantee applicants will receive the full amount of funding requested.

## Recommendation

Once the assessment is completed, the ORSR Chief Executive will provide funding recommendations to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing for consideration.

## Final approval

The Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing will provide final approval.

## Notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant application.

The details of successful applicants (grantees) may be provided to the applicant's local Member of Parliament, who may decide to contact the grantee to congratulate them.

## Unsuccessful applications

All unsuccessful applicants will receive notification through SmartyGrants.

# Successful applications

## Grant agreement

Successful applicants (grantees) will be sent a Grant Offer detailing the terms and conditions of the funding.

Effective from 1 January 2019, public authorities are required to use the standard funding agreements. For the ABSP Clubs and Associations Support Stream, the Not-for-Profit Low Value Grant – a simple letter agreement for low value grants of up to \$10,000 (GST exclusive) will be used. For more information regarding the grant agreements, click [here](#).

Grantees will have at least 14 days, from the date of a written offer, to execute a funding agreement with ORSR. The offer may lapse if both parties do not execute the grant agreement within the specified timeframe.

Approval of grant funding is based on information provided within the application. Any changes to details may be reviewed to consider any potential impacts.

The Funding Period for the project will be specified in the Grant Offer.

## Payment

Payment of grant funding will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Approved grant funding will be transferred electronically into the Australian bank account nominated within the application.

Should a successful applicant become overdue with any obligations, reporting or acquittals, payments may be placed on hold until those are met.

## Monitoring and compliance

All grantees will be required to:

- Only use the funding for eligible costs as detailed within the grant agreement.
- Comply with the relevant laws in force in South Australia.
- Comply with the reporting and acquittal requirements of the grant agreement. Failure to comply may result in ORSR grant payments being suspended and/or the organisation no longer being eligible to receive ORSR funding or may be required to return the grant, or part thereof.
- Contact ORSR immediately when becoming aware of a breach of terms and conditions of the grant agreement.
- Comply with the other terms and conditions in the grant agreement.

## Grant agreement variations and extension

Unexpected events may delay the expenditure of a grant. In these circumstances, grantees can request an extension. Any request must be submitted through SmartyGrants. Requests may require the following details:

- The revised expiry date.
- Justification for the expiry date extension.

The program does not allow for any increase to the agreed amount of grant funds as established in the grant agreement.

If an extension request is submitted, ORSR reserves the right to approve or decline the request. In some circumstances ORSR may approve a more appropriate extension date.

To seek a variation, email [ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au) with your application identification number and ORSR will forward a variation request form to complete via SmartyGrants.

## Acquitting a grant

Upon expending the grant, grantees will be required to acquit the grant through SmartyGrants. Grant acquittal requirements will be outlined in the grant agreement. These requirements may include:

- Providing a breakdown of goods and services the grant was spent on, including a basic description and amount.
- Certification that the statements made in the acquittal are true and correct.
- Identifying if the grant has achieved the program's objectives.
- Photos or other evidence that the funding has been expended on the purpose (optional).

## Grant acknowledgement

Approval through ORSR is required before any public announcements for the grant. If the grantee makes a public statement about the project funded, we require at a minimum acknowledgement of the grant by using the following statement:

***“This project received grant funding from the South Australian Government through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.”***

Grantees are encouraged to send a photo of the completed project/initiative to the Minister at [ORSR.grants@sa.gov.au](mailto:ORSR.grants@sa.gov.au). This information may be used to demonstrate to the community how this funding has helped your club.



## Other information

### Grants and Goods and Services Tax (GST)

It is recommended that applicants seek independent legal and financial advice to determine all taxation obligations before applying.

Please note that if your organisation's annual turnover is greater than \$150,000 (non-profit organisations) then the Australian Taxation Office require you to be registered for GST (source: [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)).

Successful applicants registered for GST will have their grant grossed up by 10 per cent to offset GST payable on the grant. Organisations not registered for GST will not have the grant grossed up. Grantees cannot have the grant agreement transferred to another body based on GST registration.

Also note, from 1 July 2017, government entities at the federal, state, territory and local levels report the grants they pay to people or organisations with an Australian Business Number to the Australian Taxation Office.

### Financial reporting

ORSR requests organisations adopt the National Standard Chart of Accounts for Not-for-Profit Organisations: [acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/national-standard-chart-accounts](http://acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/national-standard-chart-accounts).

### How ORSR will use your information

ORSR may share your information with other government agencies for relevant purposes such as:

- To improve the administration, monitoring and evaluation of government programs.
- For research.
- To announce grant recipients.

### Treatment of confidential information

ORSR will treat information provided by applicants as sensitive and confidential if it meets one of the four following conditions:

- The applicant clearly identifies information as confidential and provides an explanation.
- Information is commercially sensitive.
- Disclosing information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.
- Information is provided with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

## When ORSR may disclose confidential information

ORSR may disclose confidential information to the following:

- The ORSR Chief Executive, employees and/or contractors to help ORSR manage the program effectively.
- The Minister.
- The Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services.
- A House or Committee of Parliament.

ORSR may also disclose confidential information if:

- Required or authorised by law (including if requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)*).
- The grantee agreed to the information being disclosed.
- Someone other than ORSR has made the confidential information public.

## Personal information

ORSR must treat your personal information according to the Premier and Cabinet Circular Information Privacy Principles Instructions and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth)*. This includes informing you:

- What personal information ORSR collects.
- Why ORSR collects your personal information.
- To whom ORSR gives your personal information. ORSR may give personal information collected to our employees and contractors, the Assessment Panel, and other Government of South Australia employees and contractors, so ORSR can:
  - Manage the program.
  - Research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

ORSR, or the Minister, may:

- Announce the applications received or successful applicants to the public.
- Publish personal information on ORSR websites.
- Decide how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information.
- Provide you with information about how you can access and correct your personal information.

## Reporting

Effective disclosure and reporting of administered grants is essential for public accountability. Reliable and timely information on grants is vital for public and government confidence in the quality and integrity of grants administration. ORSR may publish grant applications and requests, grant recipients and funding amounts approved on the ORSR website.

## Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)* and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth)* are the main pieces of legislation that provide access to and amendment of personal information.

Arrangements for managing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests should be discussed with ORSR's FOI Officer. The FOI Act is about openness and access to government-held information and is based on the principle that government information should be accessible to the public because it belongs to the public. Consequently, it is important that recorded information is accurate, up to date, complete, not misleading and relevant to the purpose for which it was collected.

The FOI Officer must be contacted to assist with FOI requests. The circumstances under which an agency may refuse a request for information under FOI laws are limited. Advice on possible exemptions should be sought from the FOI Officer.

## Child-safe environments

Children and young people have a right to be safe and protected at all times, including when accessing services in the community.

Child protection legislation in South Australia requires certain organisations to provide a child-safe environment. All state authorities and persons or bodies who provide a service or undertake an activity that constitutes child-related work under the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* must meet these obligations.

To meet the requirements under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* and the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*, these organisations must have a child-safe environments policy in place, meet working with children check obligations and lodge a child-safe environments compliance statement.

The statement is lodged with the Department for Human Services: <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/community-and-family-services/child-safe-environments>

To lodge a child-safe environment compliance statement, visit: <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/community-and-family-services/child-safe-environments/lodging-a-child-safe-environments-compliance-statement>

## Definition of key terms

Term	Definition
Active recreation	Activities engaged in for the purposes of relaxation, health and wellbeing or enjoyment, with the primary activity requiring physical exertion and the primary focus on human activity.
Beach-based active recreation and sport organisations	An organisation whose activities are conducted at the beach.
Applicant	The organisation that has applied.
Application	The document that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
Funding period	The period of the grant agreement where spending on the approved project and its outcomes can occur.
Grantee	The recipient of a successful grant.
Minister	The Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.
ORSR	Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, an agency of the Government of South Australia.
Sport	A human activity involving physical exertion and skill as the primary focus of the activity, with elements of competition where rules and patterns of behaviour governing the activity exist formally through organisations and is generally recognised as a sport.





**Government of South Australia**

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

## Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact ORSR through the website: [orsr.sa.gov.au](https://orsr.sa.gov.au).

ORSR may publish answers to your questions on the website as Frequently Asked Questions.

A compliment or complaint can be lodged using the ORSR compliments and complaints form on the website: [orsr.sa.gov.au](https://orsr.sa.gov.au).

Disclaimer:

*These guidelines were accurate at the time of publishing and supersede all terms and conditions contained in the previous.*