

Music Development Office

Milestone Micro-Grants (MMG)

Quick Response

2026

**Music
Development
Office**



Government
of South Australia



CreateSA

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The Program

The Music Development Office (MDO), as a specialist unit within CreateSA, recognises that significant career opportunities can sometimes arise unexpectedly and outside the timing of standard funding rounds.

The **Milestone Micro-Grants (MMG)** program provides small grants to support South Australian artists and music businesses to take advantage of short-notice, career-defining opportunities that are likely to deliver meaningful professional or business development outcomes.

The program supports one-off eligible expenses directly related to significant time-sensitive opportunities that could not reasonably have been anticipated or scheduled to coincide with the MDO's regular Project Support Grants (PSG) round deadlines. Unsuccessful applicants to a PSG round are ineligible to apply for a Milestone Micro-Grant for the same activity.

The program provides **funding of up to \$1,000** per applicant. Applicants can only receive funding in one MMG round per 12 months.

Applicants must demonstrate some contribution towards the total activity cost. Matching contributions may include:

- cash income from any source
- applicant contributions
- sponsorship
- earned income
- in-kind support.

Applications are accepted in two rounds during the year, subject to available funds.

Applications are assessed internally within CreateSA.

Key dates

The program opens for applications twice a year until funds are exhausted. Upcoming rounds:

- open 28 August 2026 for activity up to 31 December 2026
- open 1 February 2027 for activity up to 30 June 2027

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible after an opportunity arises and before the activity takes place.

Applicants will generally be notified of an outcome within a short timeframe to enable participation in the opportunity.

The MDO reserves the right to close a round or the program at any time if available funding is fully allocated.

Definitions

Activity refers to the significant professional, career or business development opportunity that is likely to deliver meaningful advancement for the applicant's artistic practice, career or business, and forms the basis of the application.

Funding period refers to the period between execution of a funding agreement and completion of the funded activity.

Eligible expenditure refers to costs directly related to the funded activity and incurred during the approved funding period.

Short-notice opportunity refers to a new invitation, confirmation or opportunity that arises unexpectedly and could not reasonably have been anticipated or scheduled to coincide with the MDO's regular PSG round deadlines.

Career-defining opportunity refers to an opportunity that demonstrates strong potential to significantly advance an applicant's creative practice, professional profile, industry networks, career development or business growth.

Eligibility and Program Criteria

Eligible applicants

Applicants must be able to provide **evidence** of:

- Australian citizenship or permanent resident status
- residence and business activity in South Australia for at least six months prior to the application
- a current (active) **ABN** (ABN holders must **not be** insolvent or under administration); or an auspice arrangement where applicable
- professional involvement in the South Australian contemporary **original** music industry as an artist, musician, songwriter, composer, producer, manager, music business, music practitioner or related professional.

Ineligible applicants

Applicants are not eligible if:

- they have an overdue acquittal with the Music Development Office*
- the activity has already been completed before application submission
- they have been successful in the MMG program within the last 12 months
- the opportunity could reasonably have been planned in advance and applied for through a regular MDO funding round

- they have already received funding for the same activity from another MDO grant program, including the Project Support Grants, Robert Stigwood Fellowship, National and/or Export Contribution Funds, Live Music Events Fund, Venues Activation Program or other funding through the MDO
- the activity builds on existing activity (e.g. extending a touring schedule, expediting a recording, additional travel opportunity that arises while in transit) and/or could be considered business as usual
- the activity was assessed in a contestable MDO grant round (e.g. PSGs) and was unsuccessful.

* Previous recipients of an MDO grant who hold an ABN with an **overdue funding acquittal** are not eligible to receive new funding through this program until an acquittal is complete. If the previous funded activity is in progress but cannot proceed as originally outlined in the original application, contact the MDO to seek a variation or extension, if applicable.

Eligible expenses

All expenses must:

- directly relate to the proposed activity
- represent value for money
- be incurred within the approved funding period
- be clearly identified in the application budget

For questions on eligible expenses please contact the MDO.

Ineligible activity and expenses

Funding will not support:

- activities that have already occurred
- ongoing operational expenses
- retrospective funding
- formal education courses, qualifications or tertiary study
- competitions, awards or fundraising events
- purchase of capital equipment
- debt repayment
- activities that do not demonstrate a clear professional or business development outcome
- costs already fully funded by another source.

The lists above are not exhaustive. Please contact the MDO with any questions on eligibility and expenses.

Program criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Significance and impact of the opportunity

The extent to which the opportunity:

- is a significant milestone or advancement of career goals
- will deliver meaningful professional, career or business development outcomes
- will provide lasting benefits beyond the activity itself
- will expand industry networks, audiences or market opportunities
- will strengthen skills, knowledge, business capacity or professional profile.

Planning and feasibility

The extent to which the opportunity:

- is genuinely short notice
- is confirmed
- has a realistic proposed budget
- can be successfully delivered.

Financial need

The extent to which:

- MDO support is necessary for participation
- applicant contribution to the funding is demonstrated
- the requested amount represents an appropriate contribution toward the activity.

Other

Assessment will consider:

- the local live music ecosystem and how it supports artists and audiences for original live music
- how the proposed activity aligns with the 2026-2028 music development strategy *A Sound Future*, and the Delivery Plan of the state cultural policy *A Place to Create*.

Application process

Before submitting an application

Read these Guidelines thoroughly, and consider how an application and proposed activity meet the:

- eligibility requirements
- program objectives
- assessment criteria
- budget (maximum grant amount and funding contribution requirements)
- activity timeframe.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the MDO prior to submitting an application if they are unsure about any of the above.

How to apply in the program

All applications must be submitted online through the [SmartyGrants portal](#).

A link to the application form will be available through the portal until a round and/or the program closes and funding is expended.

Applicants will receive an automatic email reply when a grant has been received in the system. Some autoreplies may arrive in junk/spam folders.

Application materials

Applications must include:

Short biography

Brief activity description

- who is participating
- where the activity will occur
- when it will occur
- what the opportunity involves.

Short career development statement

- how the opportunity contributes to professional, career or business development
- why the opportunity is significant
- what outcomes are expected.

Timeliness statement

- why the opportunity could not have been planned for ahead of a published round of MDO Project Support Grants and/or other relevant MDO funding programs
- why this opportunity needs to take place at this point in time to contribute to career development.

Confirmation materials

Relevant evidence confirming the opportunity, such as:

- invitation letters
- booking confirmations
- meeting confirmations
- acceptance notifications
- correspondence from participants

Budget

A topline budget showing:

- expenses directly related to the activity
- total activity budget
- sources of contributed funding
- any in-kind contributions
- income potential from the activity (if any)

Support Material

Applicants may provide:

- website links
- other supporting materials relevant to the application

Assessment process

All submissions will undergo an eligibility review prior to assessment. Ineligible submissions will be contacted via email as soon as the status is determined.

Eligible applications will be assessed internally by representatives within CreateSA, including the MDO, against the published assessment criteria.

The program is competitive and meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee funding.

Administration, notification and feedback

Processing of an application can be expected to take an average of 2 to 3 weeks from the submission. The MDO will not be able to provide a specific notification date due to internal administrative processes.

Notification will occur as soon as possible after assessment. Successful applicants will be provided with a Letter of Offer (funding agreement) upon notification.

All applicants – successful and unsuccessful – will be notified by email regarding their result. If an email about the status of an application has not been received (after the initial confirmation of submission), then the application is still being processed.

Funding agreements and reporting

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Department for the period of funding.

Upon completion of the program, successful applicants will be expected to provide an artistic, statistical, and financial acquittal within one month of the end of the funding period. Overdue acquittals, or unapproved expenditure of the funding in the final tranche will affect eligibility for future funding.

Successful applicants will be advised by the MDO of the process of returning of funding agreements, payment of invoices, and submission of acquittals.

Important policies and procedures

If the activity involves employing any person under 18 years, with or without financial compensation, or the exhibition or distribution of depiction of any persons aged under 18 years, then:

- grantees must comply with the South Australian Government's Protocols for working with children in art and any relevant laws that apply in South Australia – this may include obtaining parental consents, statements from other artists and classifications, copies of which must be provided to the Department on request; and
- grantees must also certify compliance with this clause in an Acquittal Report.

Child safe policies

Businesses providing cultural, entertainment or party services wholly or partly for children must provide a child safe environment. As part of its obligation to establish and maintain a child-safe environment, an organisation must:

- have in place child safe policies and procedures. These can be found on the [Department of Human Services website](#)
- ensure [child-related employment screening](#) is undertaken for positions prescribed in the Children's Protection Act, 1993. Screening check forms are available at [sa.gov.au](#)
- lodge a Child Safe Environments Compliance Statement with the [Department of Human Services](#).

Respectful behaviours

The safety and wellbeing of everyone working in, and engaging with, the South Australian arts and cultural sector is of paramount importance. The MDO is committed to a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of victimisation, bullying and harassment, including sexual harassment. It is a condition of all MDO funding and grants that recipients must consider the MDO's recommendation to adopt and implement a respectful behaviours policy and procedure. Further information about respectful behaviours, and resources to assist development of a policy and procedures for an organisation or activity, are available via the following link: [General Guidelines | CreateSA](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders protocols

The MDO endeavours to work with artists and organisations to ensure respect and acknowledgement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples and cultures at every stage of the activity's development. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols can be found in the [General Guidelines | CreateSA](#).

Green practices

The MDO encourages artists and organisations to consider how their activity supports a greener future for the music industry. Resources to help incorporate green practices are available from [Green Music Australia](#).

Artist remuneration

The South Australian Government supports fair remuneration for artists/musicians employed or engaged to perform. Where possible, we would encourage any business engaging or employing musicians to consider rates benchmarked by arts and entertainment industry organisations, such as the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA). For more information pertaining to appropriate rates of pay for musicians please contact the [MEAA](#) or industry peak body [MusicSA](#).

Information privacy

The MDO collects personal information as reasonably necessary for the purposes and functions of:

- administering our grants and funding program
- keeping stakeholders informed about relevant upcoming events, grants funding initiatives and outcomes, our services, special events or client feedback surveys, as well as our activities in general
- improving our websites and other services.

The MDO complies with the South Australian Government's Information Privacy Principles Instruction (Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC012) when dealing with all personal information. The information provided in an application may be used by the MDO for:

- providing to peer assessors for processing and assessing an application
- verifying other funding income for the activity – the MDO may provide information to other agencies nominated in an application
- processing, paying, and administering a grant
- reviewing and evaluating our funding programs, strategies, plans and services – The MDO may contact applicants for this purpose
- training, systems testing and process improvement, including compiling statistics and reports
- communications by the Minister for Arts regarding the application.

The information submitted in an application is treated as confidential if it is identified by an applicant as confidential (except for details that may be included as “published details”). Any information contained in, or relating to, an application, including information identified by an applicant as confidential information for the purposes of applying for funding under the program, may be disclosed by the Department:

- to employees, advisers or third parties to manage the program (including but not limited to, for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the application)
- within the Government of South Australia where this serves the legitimate interest of the Department
- in response to a request by a House or Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or South Australia
- where information is authorised or required by law to be disclosed
- where the information is already in the public domain.

If an application is successful, details of successful applicants may be publicly disclosed in official Government of South Australia media releases and websites. Published details may include but are not limited to:

- the name and business name of the successful applicant
- details of the activity
- the amount of grant funding.

In addition, the Grant Agreement and associated documents for funded activity may be audited, which will mean disclosure of such documents, including personal information, to auditors for audit purposes only.

Additional information

The Department reserves the right to amend these guidelines and application terms as required.

If any information in an application or report (including acquittal) is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not used pursuant to the terms of funding, the grant will be repayable on demand.

For more information

Music Development Office, CreateSA

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Note: This program is intended only for exceptional short-notice opportunities. Applicants should consider the MDO's regular Project Support Grants program wherever reasonable planning and application lead times are available.