



*Helping work integration social enterprises  
build strong foundations for greater impact.*

# WISE Grant Frequently asked questions

## About the WISE Grant

### What is the WISE Grant?

The Work Integrated Social Enterprise (WISE) grant is a new grant program that will provide up to \$4 million to social enterprises that exist to create jobs and employment pathways for Australians facing barriers to mainstream employment. This pilot stage will distribute up to \$4 million in funding over 2 years. Its purpose is to make it easier for WISEs to access and manage philanthropic funding during a crucial stage of their development. It is also designed to enable the philanthropic sector to be more responsive and collaborative whilst seeking greater impact. Two tiers of grants are available:

- **Tier 1 grants:** Valued at approximately \$200,000 over two years (\$100,000 a year) to support WISE at “the experienced start-up and survival stages” to develop their impact and business model towards greater financial resilience.
- **Tier 2 grants:** Up to approximately \$500,000 over two years (\$250,000 a year) to support WISE at the “stable and early sustainable stages” to strengthen and prepare them for future growth based on a stable and proven impact and business model.

### How do the WISE Grant partners define a WISE?

A Work Integrated Social Enterprise is an organisation that exists to create employment opportunities for people facing barriers to employment. A WISE can either directly employ these people or alternatively provide specialised support to transition individuals into external employment.

## WISE Grant Process

### How does my organisation apply for a grant?

The application consists of a two-step process:

- Go through the five steps outlined on the webpage and complete the online EOI form between July 3 and July 21 2023.
- A shortlist of organisations will be invited to complete a ‘full application’ by September 15 2023.

### What will the full application include?

Organisations invited to complete the full application will be required to submit additional documentation to assist the final selection of grant recipients. This will include, but not limited to, an organisational business plan, governance structures, financial and risk management, social support model and impact management.



(Initiative host)



## What if I am unsure which Tier of grant I should apply for?

The grant Tier that you should apply for is based on the stage of your social enterprise. Please refer to the 'stages of a social enterprise' table (link to the LMCF website). This table was developed with the assistance of CSI Swinburne University and SEFA.

## What programs or activities are excluded from the WISE Grant program?

If you are currently receiving a major grant (approx. \$400,000+) from one of the philanthropic organisations partnering on the WISE Grants, please reach out to your contact at that funding organisation to discuss your eligibility.

We are not requesting funds for any of the following exclusions: charity works outside of Australia, sponsorship or fundraising activities, or retrospective activities.

## What can I use the grant funding for?

Grant funds are intended to be used to help your enterprise to achieve your goals, including increasing your financial resilience/sustainability and impact. Examples of how a grant could assist include:

- Core operational costs e.g. key roles such as Business development, HR support, Finance Manager
- Theory of Change or impact evaluation development
- Resourcing wrap around support of employees – building skills and confidence on the job and supporting them to transition to mainstream employment
- Business/financial planning – building deeper understanding of a market opportunity and a business or feasibility case for execution.
- Enterprise /operational development – resourcing leaders/management to develop key operational capacity for the next stage of growth.
- Partnership development – developing governance structures for innovative collaborative programs and initiatives.

## What are the key dates?

Activity	Timeline
EOIs open and close	3 July – 21 July (3 weeks)
Webinar	11 July
Full applications invited	End August due 15 September
Successful communications	End of October
Grant Agreements executed	November
Announcement	November

## When will the outcome of the grants be announced?

Successful applicants will be notified at the end of October and a public announcement will be made in early November 2023.

## How long is the funding for and when will payments be made?

The funding is for up to two years, paid in two instalments. The first payment will be made upon execution of the Grant Agreement. The second instalment will be made following the review and approval of a one-year progress report.

## Is this a once off Program or will there be an opportunity to apply for funding at a later date?

The initial intention of the WISE Grant Program to run over two years. There is no further commitment from the funders at this stage.



## Governance and decision making

### Who are the funders contributing to this program?

Paul Ramsay Foundation, Westpac Foundation, Macquarie Group Foundation, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Minderoo Foundation, and English Family Foundation.

### Who advised the collaborating funders on the design of this program?

MinterEllison provided invaluable pro bono advice on the 's grant program's governance. An advisory committee consisting of Social Enterprise Practitioners have advised on every component of the design of the grant. Senior academics and intermediaries have also provided invaluable advice.

### How is the pooled funding managed?

The WISE Grant funds are held in the WISE Collaboration Giving Account of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. Each partner has an individual agreement with the Initiative Host, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

- The Initiative Host provides compliance and governance oversight to the WISE Grants program.
- The Initiative Host chairs the Grant Advisory Committee which all partners are members of and which chooses successful applicants and recommends them to the Initiative Host's board.
- The Initiative Host holds the Grant Agreement and reporting relationships with WISEs.

### How are the grants selected?

A steering committee made up of representatives from each of the contributing funders will work together to review and assess the EOIs and full applications against an agreed upon criteria, which are focused on:

- Delivering and measuring job outcomes – 40%
- Business Model/Plan – 30%
- Grant focus – 15%
- Partnership and systems awareness 15%

### If I am a successful organisation, what organisation will the money flow from considering there are seven Foundations contributing to the Program?

The Initiative Host will be the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, who will be distributing the grants on behalf of the additional six partner funders.

### Will I have to report progress to all of the Foundations involved or just one?

The WISE Grant Program will have a single reporting process requiring you to submit reports to just one organisation, the initiative host, Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation over the lifetime of the grant.

### What are the reporting requirements of the Program?

The WISE Grant Program values honest and open communication with grantees. The Program requires a six-monthly written progress report to be completed along with an annual progress report. The Program may organise for ad hoc site visits or conversations to check-in and better understand how the work is progressing.

### If I have questions about my application can I speak to someone?

We are holding a Webinar on 11 July to give a brief presentation and respond to immediate questions; this will be recorded and available afterwards. We are expecting a high level of interest in this grant program and do not have the resources to manage general phone call enquiries. However, if you have a question that cannot be answered by the material provided in the documentation or if you are having technical difficulties, please email [grants@lmcf.org.au](mailto:grants@lmcf.org.au) and we will endeavour to respond quickly.

