

# How will you science this National Science Week?



 national science week  
15 – 23 AUGUST 2026  
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## Inspiring Australia Queensland Seed Grant Expression of Interest Guidelines

National Science Week 2026

Inspiring Australia Queensland seeks expressions of interest (EOI) from Queensland communities to deliver innovative events and activities in August 2026, preferably in National Science Week from 15 – 23 August 2026. Preference will be given to activities that engage or promote groups that have been historically under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).\*

The purpose of this funding is to connect community members with science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including those in regional, rural, and remote communities, and to enable community hosts to develop interactive STEM events and activities for the public.

Where possible, we encourage applicants to collaborate with [Queensland STEM Hubs](#) as well as other local event providers with well-established audiences e.g. libraries, regional museums and galleries, or community organisations.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

National Science Week (NSWk) in person, online and hybrid events and activities **must** meet the following five essential criteria:

1. Engage the community with a STEM-based activity or project.
2. Be held during August 2026, ideally during National Science Week (15 – 23 August).
3. Adhere to the eligible expenditure guidelines.
4. Not be a school-only event.\*\*
5. [Be evaluated](#) by collecting feedback from participants and included in a post-event report.\*\*\*

and at least two of the following criteria:

- a. Inspire people to pursue an interest or aptitude in science.
- b. Encourage local community participation and ongoing engagement in science.
- c. Provide diversity and inclusion in programming and audience reach.
- d. Celebrate Australian scientific achievement past and present.
- e. Provide opportunities for scientists and researchers to present to the public.
- f. Build digital literacy in Australian communities.
- g. Expand existing STEM networks and partnership opportunities.

Funding allocations will be decided on merit and the applicant's ability to meet the selection criteria.

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## FUNDING AMOUNTS

Applicants that meet the selection criteria can apply for funds of \$500 to \$4,000 to support the delivery of 2026 National Science Week activities.

## AUDIENCE and PARTNERS

\*Diversity and Inclusion, including groups traditionally under-represented in STEM

We recommend all applicants review the recently published [Pathway to Diversity in STEM Review final recommendations report](#) and are especially interested in receiving proposals that show evidence of community building and collaboration for engaging community members that may not ordinarily engage with science and technology. Groups historically under-represented in STEM include but are not limited to:

- First Nations people
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people
- Women and girls
- People living in regional and remote areas
- People with disability
- People from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Neurodivergent people
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People who face age-based discrimination.

The [Event Holder's Guide](#) sets out all of the steps in staging a public event for Science Week, including planning, event objectives, budgeting, venue considerations, insurance, promotion and media, as well as post event cleanup and evaluation.

We love seeing events in tourist destinations. The [Tourism Focussed Activities Guide](#) has event case studies, hints and tips for great events for your visitors.

We encourage you to include **First Peoples** and their science in your event [Celebrating the First Science of This Land](#) includes case studies from previous events, suggestions and resources.

Our [Disability Inclusion Guide](#) will help all event holders to make their events more accessible for audiences to join in.

The [Science Week Library Activities booklet](#) has case studies, suggested activities and heaps of inspirational resource ideas.

The [Early Childhood Activities booklet](#) features case studies of successful events as well as detailed instructions for other activities suitable for running in early childhood centres, playgroups or at home.

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The [Business and Industry Science Engagement Pack](#) has case studies and hints & tips for assisting organisations to create and hold Science Week events.

Once you've decided what you'll be doing be sure to [register your planned event](#) on our website (even if it is not for the public to come along to – just mark it as “private”).

We encourage activities and events that promote an understanding of developments in technology and digital platforms. Preference will be given to digital platforms that use locally produced STEM content. For example: the [Directory of STEM digital resources](#).

## ELIGIBILITY

\*\*This funding is **not** intended to support projects targeting school students by providing incursions or excursions or developing teaching resources and curriculum materials. [The Australia Science Teachers Association has grants for Schools for National Science Week](#).

Applicants may include but are not limited to:

- Scientists and freelance producers working with community groups
- Local government (e.g., Councils, libraries, youth, and family services)
- Business associations and chambers of commerce
- Specialist interest groups, local clubs, and societies (e.g., Astronomy Clubs, Landcare, Friends of Botanical Gardens)
- Arts, community, and environmental organisations
- Research institutions and networks, and life-long learning education providers (\*\*not schools, as above)
- Citizen Science projects working with any of the above
- Initiatives that are collaborative, involve partners and attract other sources of funding towards proposed activity will be highly regarded.

## CHILD SAFETY

All applicants who could potentially work with children during their activity/event must demonstrate they are a child safe organisation. We recommend the Australian Human Rights Commission resources to help implement the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).

## EXPENDITURE

**Eligible expenditure:**

- External venue, equipment hire, AV and production costs
- Consumable materials used during the activity
- Presenter/speaker/artist fees
- Participating scientists' travel, accommodation, and expenses
- Project management fees
- Communications, including social media campaigns and publicity

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## Ineligible expenditure, the grant cannot be used for:

- General administration of an organisation or company, including salaries
- Equipment, infrastructure, and support costs associated with other ongoing activities
- Internal charges (rent or hire)
- Incursions, excursions, or competitions for school students
- Teaching resources and curriculum development materials
- Activities of a solely commercial nature
- Research projects, including surveys

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

\*\*\*All successful grants applicants will be asked to keep the Inspiring Australia Queensland office up to date with their event planning and progress, acknowledge Inspiring Australia Queensland on promotional material, and report back to Inspiring Australia Queensland, in a timely manner after National Science Week, with documentation of the grant activity and key data on audiences and impact.

## KEY DATES 2026

<b>Monday 2 March:</b>	Queensland EOIs for Seed Grants for National Science Week (NSWk) 2026 open
<b>Tuesday 31 March:</b>	EOIs Close
<b>Tuesday 10 March:</b>	Information session for EOI (online 12pm)
<b>April 2026:</b>	Qld NSWk committee assesses and ranks applications
<b>May 2026:</b>	Inspiring Australia Queensland Reference Group reviews and endorses recommendations Applicants are notified of the status of their application

Have some questions? Please send your inquiries to: [inspiringqld@uq.edu.au](mailto:inspiringqld@uq.edu.au)