



Information For Applicants

CONFERENCE SUPPORT GRANTS for emerging Indigenous evaluators

'The conference was a great opportunity for us to share some insights into our lives and communities we live in, describe the ways we have been involved in evaluation and the benefits of this involvement. We all learnt how to present professionally and confidently [...].'

*Tiwi Islands/Palmerston
Communities for Children
team, Australia*

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
14 - 15 September 2026

CONFERENCE
16 - 18 September 2026

Darwin | Garramilla | Australia

The AES is pleased to invite applications from emerging Indigenous evaluators from across the Australasian and Pacific region for support to participate in the 2026 AES Annual International Conference in Darwin, Australia.

Full conference details are available at aes26@aes.asn.au

Apply by COB Thursday, 25 June 2026

**Easy and supported
application process**



Online



or Call-back

Application information

Apply by: COB Thursday 25 June 2026.

1. Purpose of the grants

The Conference Support Grants support Indigenous evaluators living and working in the region consisting of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and neighbouring islands in the Pacific Ocean to participate in strengthening the knowledge base of the evaluation sector and to further develop their own capacities in evaluation with Indigenous Peoples and communities. The grants are designed to support attendance at, and contribution to the AES conference.

2. Benefits of the grants to Indigenous evaluators

Over the years these grants have enabled several emerging Indigenous evaluators from Australasia to further develop their evaluation skills and knowledge and their professional networks through actively participating in the annual AES conference. We have received very positive feedback ([AES website](#)) on the benefits and opportunities that these grants have provided to recipients over the past five years.

3. Scope of the grants

- The grants will cover registration for the conference and conference workshops.
- Up to \$2000 may be available to contribute to travel and accommodation expenses.

4. Who should apply?

Applications are welcomed from emerging Indigenous evaluators who are:

- Community-based evaluators with little, or no formal, or academic training
- Community leaders or other community members who have been involved in evaluation or participatory action research projects and have something to share, or who want to know more about evaluation
- Postgraduate students who wish to develop a career in evaluation
- Professionals who have recently started working in, or about to start working, in evaluation and wish to share their experience and gain further understanding & skills in a supportive conference environment.

5. How to apply

There are three options to complete your application, by no later than **COB Thursday, 25 June 2026**. *Online*; or *Over the phone (Request a call-back)*. See page 4 for detailed instructions.

6. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, working in the area of ethically and methodologically sound, and culturally appropriate Indigenous evaluation, be either currently involved in evaluation activity or wish to be in the future and demonstrate an interest in strengthening their own evaluation capacity & contribute to the wider development of Indigenous Peoples, organisations and communities. The AES particularly encourages emerging evaluators from rural, remote and isolated communities to apply.

Applications will be considered from emerging evaluators from the following groups:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in Australia
- Māori living in Aotearoa/New Zealand
- Pacific Island peoples (including those living in Aotearoa/New Zealand)¹
- Native East Timorese people.

Please note that:

- Applications can only be accepted from individuals. Applications from groups will not be considered.
- Applications without contact details for two referees will not be assessed (see point 8 below).
- Late applications aren't able to be considered, and we're unable to offer extensions to the deadline. Applications must be received by COB Thursday, 25 June 2026.

7. Assessment criteria and process

The Conference Support Grants selection panel² will review and assess all applications.

Selection will be based on the information provided in the application form, the selection criteria as approved by the Board and endorsement as demonstrated in the application form and by applicant's referees.

Assessment criteria are detailed on page 3.

The panel reserves the right to request additional information, where it deems this necessary.

The panel decision is final. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Priority will be given to applicants who have not been supported to attend earlier AES conferences.

8. What endorsement is needed?

Nominated referees should express strong support for the applicant in the field of evaluation and state that the applicant has some previous experience, achievements,

knowledge or skills in evaluation or has a strong interest in and commitment to working in the area of sound, culturally appropriate Indigenous evaluation.

The referee is someone who has worked alongside or supervised the applicant's work, or is supervising their academic studies in evaluation. The referee must be able to verify the benefits to the applicant of attending the conference and to the wider development of Indigenous Peoples, organisations and communities.

9. Application deadline

Applications must be received by COB Thursday, 25 June 2026 – No late submissions will be accepted.

10. Application management process

The application process will be managed through the AES Office.

All applications will be acknowledged within three working days via email. Please contact us if you have not received a reply.

Applicants will be notified in July. This timing will allow applicants to make travel arrangements.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in writing. Personal feedback will be available if requested.

1 Major countries in the Pacific Island category include: Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. For a full list of countries see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Islands#List_of_islands

2 The selection panel is comprised of AES members with experience in Indigenous evaluation, including past grants recipients. Membership on the panel is endorsed by the AES Board.

Assessment criteria

The following criteria are used to assess applications for AES Conference Support Grants for 2026. The description of criteria below offers guidance in regards to the considerations of the panel when scoring applications. Applications are scored based on the degree to which their application satisfies the criteria.

QUESTION	EXCELLENT (SCORE 4-5)	SATISFACTORY (SCORE 2-3)	UNCLEAR (SCORE 0-1)
1. What do you hope for by attending the conference? (max 150 words)	An advanced statement that clearly outlines a welldeveloped vision for building and sharing knowledge from the conference, aims for their participation and a rationale of the potential benefits to the applicant in their personal or professional growth.	A comprehensive statement of how they will build and share their knowledge from the conference, and provided some points on their anticipated participation and stated how their attendance will help them reach their personal or professional goals in evaluation.	A statement that requires further development to fully understand and appreciate how they intend to build and share their knowledge and it is unclear how they will participate or what their personal and professional goals are for attending the conference.
2. What is your interest in evaluation? (max 150 words)	A well developed and articulated statement outlining the applicant's journey into evaluation that outlines interests, passion, relevant knowledge and experience and how their involvement will enrich the conference and evaluation.	A clear statement that explains the applicant's journey into evaluation, their interests, experience and knowledge as part of building a diversity of perspectives at the conference and in evaluation.	A statement that outlines the applicant's journey and briefly explains their interests, knowledge or experience and enables a basic proposition for their involvement in the conference or evaluation.
3. What community(ies) will you be sharing knowledge with from the conference? (max 150 words)	A clear personal or professional connection to a community in Australia, Aotearoa NZ or the South Pacific is described and there is a well-articulated vision for sharing or utilising the knowledge gained at the conference to support improved evaluation practices in or with that community.	A personal or professional connection to a community in Australia, Aotearoa NZ or the South Pacific is described and there is an appropriate approach to sharing or utilising knowledge from the conference is proposed.	The connection to community is established but there is limited articulation of an appropriate approach to sharing or utilising the knowledge gained at the conference in such as way as to benefit the broader community.

‘The atmosphere was very welcoming and the committee members very friendly. I would encourage those who are new to evaluation and have a particular interest in working with indigenous communities to apply for this grant. It was a very informative conference and well organised.’

Mili Burnette, Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, NZ

How to apply

1.



CHECK ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Read this application information and ensure that you are **eligible** to apply and are able to fulfill the **requirements of the grant**.

2.



SECURE YOUR REFEREES

Identify **two referees** who are happy to provide their details, including email and contact phone number, so we can contact them as endorsement of your attendance.

See point 7 on page 2.

3.



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

ONLINE

Complete the online application form, including the contact details of two referees, by COB Thursday, 25 June 2026.

[Go to online form](#)

or OVER THE PHONE – REQUEST A CALL-BACK

Request we call you back by sending an email to aes@aes.asn.au with:

- your name
- contact phone number
- the details of your two referees, including email and contact phone number

This email is to be received by the AES Office no later than COB Thursday, 25 June 2026.

We will arrange to call you so that you can answer the questions contained in the application form over the phone.