

Variety Tasmania Grants Guidelines

Organisations

How does Variety Tasmania help?

Variety Tasmania provides financial assistance to organisations supporting children who are sick, disadvantaged or have additional needs. Grants are provided through three broad programs:

- **Freedom**
Funding for playground or mobility equipment allows children the joy of movement and play, and the ability to share all-inclusive social experiences with other children in the community.
- **Future Kids**
The Variety Future Kids program gives children access to experiences and educational programs that can improve their potential to learn and develop. Variety assists a broad range of schools and community groups who cater for all children, including those disadvantaged, living with a disability or have additional needs. The funding provides books, education, IT and play equipment, school camps, educational outings and other urgently needed equipment.
- **Caring For Kids**
The Variety Caring for Kids Program grants financial assistance to hospitals or community organisations that care for sick children - providing necessary medical equipment and resources to save lives and provide a better quality of life.

Who is eligible for assistance?

To apply for assistance, you must be able to demonstrate a genuine need; and how the assistance requested will meet this need. The organisation must:

- cater for children aged 0 – 17 years of age;
- operate in Tasmania; and
- be a registered business.

The following should also be noted:

- Variety Tasmania does not give cash donations.
- Applications will not be considered for retrospective funding
- Research, therapy and rehabilitation services, medical or service provider costs, salaries and administration costs are not covered by Variety Tasmania grants. Fixed modifications are generally a low priority application.
- As a general rule, there is a limit of one Grant per recipient per year.
- Playground equipment should be promoting inclusive play.
- Variety Tasmania will not approve Grant applications where alternative funding sources are available. Proof of any unsuccessful alternate funding should be included in the application.

How can my organisation access support?

Variety aims to 'fill the gaps' where there are no alternate sources of support.

Organisations may have access to various funding sources. Due to the volume of grant requests that are received each year, the Variety Tasmania Board requests that all alternative funding options are pursued, prior to submitting a grant request.

In some instances, Variety will provide part funding. An example would be a part contribution towards playground equipment, conditional upon receipt of funding through other sources (e.g. grant from another organisation or fundraising by the applicant organisation). If applying for a Sunshine Coach, in most cases, the applicant organisation will contribute one third of the on-road cost, Variety one third, and a sponsor is sought for the final third.

The first step in obtaining assistance would be to investigate the most suitable funding options for your organisation. Please feel free to contact other organisations before applying to Variety.

How can I apply to Variety Tasmania for support?

You can request support at any time by completing Variety's application form, which can be accessed online at www.variety.org.au/tas. If you require assistance in accessing or understanding the application form or process, please feel free to telephone Variety's office to speak with a helpful representative on (03) 6248 4888.

1. When completing the application form, ensure you provide as much detail as possible.
2. Whilst completing your application form, you will need to include copies of supporting documents, such as:
 - a. Quotes from two suppliers. The quotes must be less than two months old and include GST and freight charges, if applicable. The two quote rule can be varied if:
 - i. The organisation is in remote area and there is only one supplier nearby.
 - ii. There is only one supplier in Tasmania.

When all features or capabilities of equipment/items are equal, and only the price is affected - Variety will only pay for the most competitive of the quotes presented. Variety maintains the right to use a preferred supplier.

3. Attach a Financial Statement, indicating your organisation's current financial position (i.e. a balance sheet, or similar financial document) to your application form.

How long does the process take?

Once you have submitted your application, Variety will acknowledge receipt of your application by email or letter. If further information is required from your organisation, a Variety representative will contact you in due course.

All applications are assessed by an independent Grants Committee, which usually meets at the beginning of every month. The Grants Committee will try to assess all applications quickly, however some requests may take between eight to twelve weeks for a decision to be made.

Please note that approval of applications is at the absolute discretion of the Variety Tasmania Board and compliance with these Guidelines does not guarantee approval of an application.

Variety will advise you in writing of the outcome, as soon as a decision has been made.

Will Variety publish details about my organisation's grant?

The story of all successful applicants, including the grant amount they receive, may be made publically available by Variety Tasmania for marketing purposes, unless otherwise requested by the grant recipient due to extenuating circumstances.

Variety's most successful way of raising money for children in need is to demonstrate by way of images and personal accounts, how donations are making a positive impact on the lives of children in need. Allowing Variety to tell your story, provides its corporate partners and supporters insight into Variety's work and encourages more donations and support.

What happens if our application is successful?

If your organisation's application is successful, grant funding will be based upon the following general conditions:

- Grant funds will be paid directly to the supplier on receipt of its invoice. No payment will be made directly to the organisation, nor will cash payments be made.
- When the equipment is delivered or installed, the ownership is transferred directly from the supplier to the organisation. As Variety is not the owner of the equipment, it is not liable for any ongoing maintenance or insurance.
- Equipment and services granted cannot be varied without the prior consent of Variety's Grants Committee.
- Grants must be spent within 12 months.