

# Introduction

This book has been compiled to give ready access to information concerning Australian grants, scholarships and fellowships, and to encourage forward planning so that applications are well prepared and have better chances of success.

Much of this volume is the result of collating factual material that appears elsewhere in departmental handbooks, newspaper advertisements and professional newsletters. The aim has been to be as comprehensive as possible, and to organise the material into a central resource, providing grant seekers with the information they need to locate funding sources of any kind throughout Australia. It is designed to point potential applicants towards sources of funding which provide the closest match between their aspirations and the intentions of the funding body.

Inclusion in this register is not determined by any rigid rules, but broadly speaking the entries refer to financial support offered by a process of open competition and awarded on merit. Funds originating from overseas are included, provided they are specifically intended for Australians, or, if the citizenship requirements are open, Australians are listed as previous recipients.

The amount of time between a funding round being announced and its closing date is often only 4 to 6 weeks, which can result in rushed applications or failure to meet the deadline. Fortunately these dates tend to vary little from year to year, and examination of this register can give intending applicants a head start by alerting them well ahead of time to the anticipated dates of forthcoming funding rounds.

Entry details usually include a statement of what type of activities will be funded, eligibility criteria, the amount available, and if possible, an indication of what proportion of previous applicants were successful. This publication does not reproduce guidelines in full, due partly to space restrictions and because their minor details quickly date.

Guidelines are, however, examined in detail, and each entry is indexed according to the topics, target groups, applicant types and geographical areas they specify. These Index headings enable the reader to pinpoint relevant entries as described in the following section.

## HOW TO TARGET RELEVANT ENTRIES

Many funding guides devote a separate section to each topic, and if an entry covers more than one subject, it is repeated in each section. Grants or scholarships are usually referred to by name, with the funding agency appearing as part of the postal address. Here, a different approach has been adopted, to avoid repetition and because funding programs often have identical or similar names. Entries are sorted alphabetically by name of the administering agency or organisation. Each appears only once and has a unique ID (identification number) between 1 and 2809.

The Index at the back lists these IDs under various headings, and can be used as a simple look-up to find entries of interest. In addition to subject areas and topics of study, Index headings include target groups (eg disabled), types of applicant (eg women), and locations. Its structure also allows it to be used to pinpoint relevant entries much more accurately.

The key is to combine a number of Index headings, and by a process of elimination, to extract which IDs match all the criteria. In most cases there are 3 main factors to consider:

- what you want to do (Activity/Target Group/Topic)
- who you are (Applicant Type)
- where you intend doing it (Location)

It is usually best to start with an Index heading with only a few entries, and to look for matching IDs under another heading with more entries. This requires a pen, paper and some patience, but with practice becomes an effective information retrieval system.

The following examples are illustrations and should be adapted to suit the individual situation.

### EXAMPLE 1 – COMMUNITY GROUPS/NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Your community organisation in Western Australia is seeking funds for heritage activities. The Index headings for community/non-profit applicants and WA contain an enormous number of entries, so begin by noting IDs listed under *Heritage*: