

Introduction

Please check if the item can be funded through NDIS or other services first. Variety supports children who have no other options available.

Variety Individual Grants offer flexible, personalised assistance to ensure children can access the tools, resources and experiences they need to thrive.

We may be able to provide practical equipment, experiences and resources (such as communication devices, mobility or medical equipment) for children, under the age of 18 years old, who are sick, disadvantaged or have additional needs.

Individual Grants are generally capped at \$5,000 per application.

Variety Tasmania supports children who deserve our support but have nowhere to go. Before you consider applying for a Grant with Variety Tasmania, please take the time to explore what else may be available for you by visiting Find Your Way (<http://findingyourway.com.au/>) and Find Help Tasmania (www.findhelptas.com.au).

We are committed to equity and inclusion, and we know every child's needs are different. We recognise that access to opportunities is not equal for all children. Applications are assessed with consideration of individual circumstances, including financial hardship, geographic location, and access to resources.

Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

- Applications are open all year round
- Applicants must reside in Tasmania
- Applications are made on behalf of the child by a Parent/Carer or a registered health professional, education professional or case worker, aged over 18 years old
- Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application and attach relevant documentation as evidence addressing, but not limited to, the following points:
 - Name and contact details of applicant
 - Details directly related to the child's parent(s) / carer(s)
 - Financial documents uploaded with the application must be related to the household income including shares, dividends etc.
- As part of the application, you will be asked to identify why the item(s) you are requesting a Variety Grant for are not covered by the child's NDIS plan. Varying reasons may include but are not limited to:
 - funds already allocated to other items

- was not supported by the NDIS (an explanation will need to be provided) If the child has a disability and is not registered with the NDIS, you will be asked to provide reasons to justify as to why not.
- Household income is less than \$130,000.

Applications will be assessed holistically, and each application will be considered based on the individual circumstances, which may include:

- Number of dependents in the household
- Geographic location – rural and remote areas
- Additional financial pressures (e.g. medical, disability-related, or caring responsibilities)

Examples of items/requests covered by an Individual Grant

- Communication/Technology software, hardware or apps such as AAC, laptops etc
- Mobility, such as Bikes, car seats, prams and other mobility devices
- Medical equipment such as cranial helmets, insulin pumps, Nebulizers.

A lot of medical equipment related items, should be applicable for funding under the NDIS plan, if it is not, please submit the application with relevant documentation stating why these items are not funded under the NDIS plan.

If unsure, please contact us on info@varietytas.org.au or (03) 6248 4888 to discuss your specific request.

Examples of items/requests NOT covered by an Individual Grant

The following will not be considered

- Retrospective funding – only items purchased **after** the approval date will be eligible to claim
- Servicing and/or maintenance of item(s) and/or equipment
- Installation/technical support or therapeutical
- Insurance/Warranty
- House or vehicle modification
- Vehicles
- Therapy and ADHD and ASD assessments and diagnosis

Attachments/Evidence

The following attachments must be included as part of the application;

1. A letter from a **GP or Paediatrician** on letterhead outlining the child's diagnosis/condition (where applicable)
This document must be dated within 3 months of the time of submission, and or:
2. A letter from an **Allied Health Professional** on letterhead (such as a clinical or social therapist or a counselor) referencing the following
 - i. how the recommended equipment is beneficial to the child

- ii. evidence of a trial of the equipment (if applicable)

This document must be dated within 3 months of the application.

3. Household Income

Proof of income for all relevant parents / guardians. Please provide copies of the most recent documents (no older than 3 months) related to

- The last 3 pay slips, if currently employed and/or
- Centrelink Statement if currently receiving any benefits
If you are employed and receiving Centrelink payments, you need to upload copies of your pay slips and Centrelink Statement
- If self-employed, a copy of the ATO's Notice of Assessment/Tax Return for the most recent financial year must be provided.

4. Quotes from two suppliers. The quotes must be valid and include GST and freight charges, if applicable. The two-quote rule can be varied if:

- i. the child's family is in a 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 price from the quotes presented.

Contribution

Where an applicant is not requesting the full amount for an item, they must identify in their application how much money they are able to contribute (either personally or through other means of support) to the total cost so that it reconciles with both the Grant amount requested and the quote supplied. (i.e. total quote for item is \$1,000, applicant selects to contribute \$150 so the amount requested from Variety should be \$850).

Variety's Grant can only be issued once a proof of the applicant contribution has been secured and finalised.

Assessment Process

Only eligible applications vetted against the criteria detailed above are shortlisted for assessment by the Variety Tasmania Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

- The Grants Committee reviews each application and provides recommendations to the Board.
- The Board makes all final decisions, including determining funding levels (partial or full), based on Variety's capacity, the application's merit and overall need at the time.
- Applicants will be notified of outcomes via email in 4-6 weeks.
- All decisions are final, and reasons for unsuccessful applications are provided at the Board's discretion.

Grant Conditions

- Successful Applicants have 12 months from the date of the Outcome Letter to use the Grant
- No retrospective funding is eligible
- Variety Tasmania may choose to use their own preferred supplier
- Invoices are paid directly to suppliers by Variety Tasmania
- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the Outcome Letter promptly and transparently as directed by Variety
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the Grant's expiry date
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the Grant's expiry date or if the reason for the Grant was delivered at a lower cost than initially anticipated.
- It is a requirement of the applicant to keep Variety Tasmania up to date with any potential delays or logistical obstacles that may arise during the process of acquiring the item(s).

Outcome Reporting

The applicant will be asked to complete a short survey within two months of receiving the equipment/item(s). This will be attached to the original Grant Application via our Grant Program, SmartyGrants.

Outside completing a survey and without obligation, Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being and achievements once they've received their Grant. If the Parent/Carer and the child feel comfortable to share any updates with Variety, please email those stories and photos to info@varietytas.org.au.

Will Variety publish details about my child's Grant?

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 which will be used to help more children.

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

An example of what Variety may promote is *'7-year-old Amy has Autism and experiences developmental delay. Variety Tasmania gifted Amy an iPad to assist with the development of her communication skills'*.

For further details or clarification please call us on (03) 6248 4888 or email info@varietytas.org.au