

# 2025 NAIDOC WEEK FUND GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

Lake Macquarie City Council is offering grants of up to \$2500 for Category 1 and up to \$750 for Category 2, for an event or activity/project held within Lake Macquarie that recognises and celebrates NAIDOC Week 2025 and its theme, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy.

The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy 6-13 July 2025 – [naidoc.org.au](http://naidoc.org.au)

The NAIDOC journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by Indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality. Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration, a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we commemorate this 50-year legacy, we also look forward, honouring the next generation who will carry the torch, shaping the future with courage, insight, and deep respect for our roots. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the groundwork laid by our forebears, each NAIDOC Week reinforces our vision for an Australia where Indigenous voices are not only heard but lead the way. This NAIDOC Week, we celebrate not just a milestone but a movement that endures, grows, and evolves—driven by the unwavering strength of our communities, the shared vision of our people, and the enduring legacy we pass on to those who will shape our future. Together, we walk forward, honoring where we've come from and looking boldly to the next generation who will carry NAIDOC and their communities into the future.

Council's NAIDOC Week fund was established to increase community awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's achievements, culture and heritage, by offering financial assistance to hold culturally significant, hands-on projects or activities in the Lake Macquarie LGA.

2025 SmartyGrants applications **open Monday 3 February and close 5pm Monday 3 March 2025.**

## **CATEGORY 1 – DISTRICT / REGIONAL EVENT – FUNDS UP TO \$2500 ON OFFER**

- Highly marketable cultural event that attracts substantial national, state or private sponsorship
- Attracts a substantial audience from across the Lake Macquarie City, and into the fringe suburbs of surrounding local government areas, and a growing number of visitors from around the region
- Event concept has originality, offers hands-on cultural experiences, and caters to a growing audience
- Demonstrates the potential to evolve into a regional event for the city in future years, with economic value and tourism results for Lake Macquarie

## **CATEGORY 2 - LOCAL ACTIVITY/PROJECT - FUNDS UP TO \$750 ON OFFER**

- Attracts people from the local area where the activity/project is being held or from a small sector of the community such as family groups etc
- Activity/project has a hands-on participation for learned cultural knowledge and experience, creating a sense of cultural and heritage value and promoting reconciliation
- Activity/project is focused on promoting community participation, creating a sense of cultural and heritage value for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

## **WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDS?**

- Any incorporated not-for-profit organisation, or who is auspiced by an incorporated organisation
- Schools and not-for-profit early childhood centres are also encouraged to apply

## **WHAT CANNOT BE FUNDED?**

- Activities/projects for which the funds have already been spent (e.g. retrospective funding, budget deficits)
- Contributions to an organisation's general operating expenses, wages administration, insurances, event organiser fees or other obligatory commitments.

## ELIGIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT

- The activity/project must be held within the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area (LGA).
- Activities/projects must engage local Aboriginal people in the planning, implementation and evaluation processes of the activity. This could include Aboriginal staff members, students, organisations, businesses or community members and Elders.
- Activities/projects must integrate a hands-on cultural learning experience for participants, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture.
- Priority will be given to applications that showcase creative and innovative approaches to engaging in culturally respectful practices when using the allocated funds, fostering the active participation of the entire school or community group in the proposed activity or project.
- Activities/projects must acknowledge Council as a funding body in the activity (e.g. logo on promotional material and media releases). Contact Council for a copy of the current logo and conditions of use.
- Any actions of your organisation, committee, contractors, market stalls or displays must not bring Council's name or staff into disrepute.

## LEGAL AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have all the necessary insurances to cover themselves for any claims that may arise from the proposed activity/project (e.g. Workers' Compensation, Volunteers Insurance, Working with Children etc).
- If the activity/project is to take place on a Council facility or park, the applicant is required to book the event by completing an event booking and application form. Phone 4921 0333 for more details.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications close **5pm Monday 3 March 2024**. Applications cannot be accepted after this time.
- The Aboriginal Grants Committee will assess each application based on the funding criteria and allocate the funds in accordance to merit set out in the application.
- Some applications may be offered partial funding and in this instance Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer will contact to ensure the activity/project can still be carried out.

- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application following Council's meeting on **Monday 26 May 2025**
- Successful applicants are required to submit a current Certificate of Currency as part of their application.
- If successful, funds will only be made available from **1 July 2025**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Thoroughly read the guidelines and criteria before commencing your application.
- Complete all sections of the application form with as much detail as possible.
- Include a current Certificate of Currency with Public Liability for \$20 million as part of your application
- Keep a completed application for your records.
- Ensure the application is signed by the authorising officer and submitted with the application by 5pm Monday 4 March 2024 - late applications will not be assessed.
- Liaise with and engage local Aboriginal people and/or organisations for your activity/project.

## NAIDOC WEEK HISTORY

Originally known as National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC), celebrations are generally held nationally in the first full week of July each year to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People across the country. Local and national activities play an integral role in educating the wider community about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture and help promote reconciliation. NAIDOC Week is celebrated not just in the Indigenous communities but also in increasing numbers of government agencies, schools, local councils and workplaces.

## QUESTIONS

If you have questions or require further information contact:

Bindi Flook -  
Aboriginal Community Development Officer  
02 4921 0333 or [bflook@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bflook@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)