

Elder Abuse Awareness Raising Regional Grants Program 2026

Guidelines

All applications must be received by Encompass Legal and Community Services (ELCS), by email by the closing date below to be eligible for assessment. No late applications will be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 4.00 pm, Friday, 22 May 2026.

About the program

In 2011, the United Nations designated 15 June each year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). The Department of Communities (Communities) provides support to community events and activities throughout WA on elder abuse awareness raising each year. In 2026, Communities is partnering with Encompass Legal and Community Services to fund elder abuse awareness raising initiatives delivered in regional areas of WA.

Grants of up to \$5,000 ex GST are available for eligible organisations to deliver a range of events and activities that raise awareness of elder abuse including, but not limited to:

- workshops, seminars and talks
- morning or afternoon tea
- interactive activities which incorporate the elder abuse message - for example:
 - community art project (e.g.: music, mural, creative writing, photography, craft, dance, film making)
 - Community education workshops
 - games and activities to raise awareness of ageism and elder abuse
 - book club
 - gardening activity (e.g.: community garden)
 - group fitness/sport session (e.g.: yoga, aerobics, tai chi, walk, dance class, lawn bowls)
 - DIY skills workshop (e.g.: Men's Shed)
 - games day or community quiz.

Events delivered through collaborative community partnerships that are actively involved in the planning and delivery of the project are encouraged. Applications that display successful partnerships between local seniors' organisations, community-based not for profits or respective local government to run and hold an event will receive priority.

Applicants are also encouraged to run initiatives which facilitate intergenerational engagement and involvement by community members of all ages, to promote the elder abuse message to the wider community.

Important note: Applicants that are successful in the application process must hold the elder abuse awareness event or activity between 1 June and 31 July 2026.

Program objectives

The aim of the Elder Abuse Awareness Raising Regional Grants Program is to support regional communities to increase awareness of elder abuse by providing information, resources and support to the community, such as how to recognise it, and steps to take if they or someone they know may be experiencing elder abuse.

This Grants Program implements Priority Area 1 of the WA Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse) through the support of organisations that raise awareness and support early identification of elder abuse.

By raising awareness, we aim to ensure that:

- People are aware that elder abuse is a serious problem affecting our community and requires collective action.
- Older people from all backgrounds are empowered to protect themselves from abuse.
- Our communities are able to recognise the signs of elder abuse and respond in ways that protect the rights of the older person.

For further information please visit the [WA Elder Abuse Strategy](#).

Funding may be used for

Funding may be used for a range of items associated with holding an event or activity, such as:

- equipment hire/venue hire
- transport hire
- publicity and promotion
- consumable supplies for workshops/event (eg: paint for a mural, plants for a garden workshop)
- guest speakers and presenters / facilitators
- intrastate (within WA) travel
- food and non-alcoholic beverages
- educational workshops.

Funding may not be used for

- prizes and gifts, including cash or vouchers
- the purchase of capital equipment
- ongoing operating costs
- administration costs, including staff wages
- interstate and overseas travel
- projects involving fundraising
- purchase of alcohol

Assessment criteria

Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The event or activity is focused on raising awareness of elder abuse and empowering older people to protect themselves from abuse.
- The event or activity is an 'all of community' event with older people from a wide range of community groups represented, rather than an event for the individuals of one or two organisations.
- A range of community organisations and/or the respective local government are involved in the event or activity planning and delivery.
- The name of the event or activity includes 'Elder Abuse Awareness'.
- The event or activity is held between 1 June and 31 July 2026 inclusive (required).
- Evidence of ability to plan and deliver the event or activity successfully.
- Value for money.

Organisations eligible to apply

Eligible organisations or groups must be:

- an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation, or
- a regional local government authority

If you are an unincorporated organisation or community group, you must apply through the auspice of an incorporated body or a local government authority.

Metropolitan based incorporated not-for-profit community organisations with a regional presence are eligible to apply to hold in-person events or activities in regional Western Australia.

Organisations not eligible to apply

The following organisations are not eligible to apply for funding through this program:

- a federal or state agency
- an individual
- a commercial for-profit organisation
- an unincorporated organisation or community group (unless applying through the auspice of an incorporated body or a local government authority)
- an organisation located in the Indian Ocean Territories.

How to apply

1. Carefully read these Guidelines.
2. Download the application form and complete all sections, including the Application Checklist at the end of the document.
3. Attach any supporting documents.
4. Please provide scanned documents only (no photographed documents) and submit application within one document (eg: no separate application pages).
5. Please ensure that the signed declaration is included with the email submission.
6. Submit the application to Encompass Legal and Community Services by email to grants@elcs.org.au by **4.00 pm, on Friday, 22 May 2026**.

All applications will be acknowledged by email within five (5) working days of receipt. Please contact Encompass Legal and Community Services to confirm receipt if no acknowledgement is received by this time.

Assessment and notification

Please allow up to four weeks from the closing date for advice regarding the outcome of an application.

All applications will be reviewed against the assessment criteria outlined above. All organisations that apply for funding will be notified in writing of the outcome of their submission.

Successful applicants and acquitting the funds received

Information about the activities undertaken through the Elder Abuse Awareness Raising Regional Grants Program 2026 will provide valuable insight into how the program helped to raise awareness of elder abuse to regional areas of Western Australia.

Successful applicants will be required to provide an acquittal report on the activities undertaken, participants and partners, lessons learned, and outcomes achieved. An acquittal reporting template will be provided.

Completed and signed acquittal reports should be emailed, with any supporting documents attached to grants@elcs.org.au by **Monday, 31 August 2026**.

Any unspent grant funds or grant funds not expended in accordance with the grant program must be returned to Encompass Legal and Community Services within ten business days of the request.

Promotion

Successful applicants can access downloadable materials (e.g.: posters, social media content) to assist with the promotion of their initiative.

Successful applicants are asked to submit information about their event to the calendar of events on the Department of Communities' Website:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-communities/elder-abuse-and-the-mistreatment-of-older-people>

For further information

For further information about the Elder Abuse Awareness Raising Regional Grants Program or assistance to complete the application form, please contact the Encompass Legal and Community Services:

Telephone: (08) 9440 1663

Email: grants@elcs.org.au

Website: www.elcs.org.au