# Writing your grant application

Select the right grant for your proposal

Understand the grant Understand your proposal Clearly explain how your proposal aligns with the grant

Applying for grants may feel overwhelming, especially for those new to the process or with varying levels of experience in grant writing. We recognise that disparities in access to education and resources can impact the ability to develop and practice the necessary skills for crafting compelling grant applications. Additionally, some applicants may face challenges if English is an additional language.

In this section, we provide guidance on writing a grant application with a focus on clarity. You will learn how to build a strong case for your proposal, ensuring your language is precise and persuasive, while effectively preparing your legal documents and communicating your budget requests. We also offer tips for completing essential forms accurately, including financial information, and the importance of letters of support.

We encourage all applicants to seek support and resources tailored to their needs to enhance their applications. By effectively evidencing <u>community consultation, risk</u> <u>assessment and management, cultural safety, and accessibility</u> in your application, you strengthen your application and demonstrate your program's alignment with the grant's criteria.

A reminder that to uphold fairness and impartiality for all applicants, we cannot provide feedback or advice on individual proposals, discuss their suitability, or assist with the content of your application.

# **Building a strong case**

Building a strong case is a foundational aspect of any grant application. It involves clearly and convincingly demonstrating how your proposed project aligns with the grant's goals and priorities, and how it will address a specific need in the community. Here are some key elements to focus on when building a strong case:

### Identifying the need

- Begin by presenting a clear, concise summary of the problem or opportunity your project aims to address.
- Use data, research, and community feedback to validate the need and underscore its importance.

### **Project alignment**

- Highlight how your proposed project aligns with the specific goals and objectives of the grant program.
- Make explicit connections between your project and the grant's funding priorities.

### **Proposed approach**

- Provide a detailed explanation of your project's approach and strategies for addressing the identified need.
- Outline the methods and activities you plan to use to achieve your goals.



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### **Outcomes and impact**

- Clearly articulate the expected outcomes and potential impact of your project.
- Explain how your project will make a tangible difference in the community or for the target population.

### Evidence and supporting information

- Back up your claims with evidence such as research findings, testimonials, or case studies.
- Show that your approach is grounded in best practices and has a strong likelihood of success.

### **Risk mitigation**

- Address any potential challenges or risks that may arise during your project and explain how you plan to mitigate them.
- Demonstrating awareness of risks and a plan to manage them adds credibility to your application.

By following these steps and presenting a well-reasoned case for your project, you can strengthen your grant application and make a compelling argument for why your project should receive funding.

# How to write clearly and convincingly

When writing your grant application, prioritise clarity and conciseness so assessors can quickly understand your proposal and its goals. Keep in mind that your reader may not know the details as you do, so use straightforward language to make your proposal easy to grasp.

Plain English relies on clear language, avoiding jargon, complex terms, and confusing sentences. This helps your grant application by making it simpler for reviewers to understand your proposal and ideas efficiently. It shows respect for their time and helps convey your message clearly.

For example, instead of saying, "The organisation will facilitate a comprehensive training program for the youth population to acquire essential life competencies," you could say, "We will provide training for young people to help them gain important life skills." This is direct and easy to understand.

## **Clarity is key**

### Be specific

• Clearly outline what the proposal is, how it will be delivered, who will be involved, and what you aim to achieve.

## Stay focused

- Avoid overly complex language, jargon, or buzzwords that might obscure your message.
- Provide detailed insights into your program's objectives and how you plan to achieve them.

## Tailor your responses

- Make sure your answers align with each question, addressing the specific aspects requested.
- Avoid using generic responses or repeating information across different sections.





## Make it understandable

### Consider your audience

• Write your proposal to be understandable for all readers, regardless of their familiarity with the subject.

### Avoid vagueness

- Provide specific and detailed descriptions of your program's activities and intended outcomes.
- Clear, tangible details strengthen your application.

# Use refined language sparingly

• While polished language can enhance your proposal, it should not replace substance.

## Headline information first, details afterwards

**Engage your reader with main points for context:** When information is presented in a clear and concise manner, starting with a headline or main point, it allows our brains to quickly process and understand the key message. Once we have a grasp of the main idea, we are then more receptive to absorbing additional details and knowing what context to apply those details to.

Start with a concise summary of your program, explaining what it is, why it matters, and how you plan to achieve your goals.

Follow the brain's natural order: Presenting information in the order that the brain processes it helps readers absorb information more efficiently.







## **Putting it all together**

Combining how the brain best responds to information and the helpful hints above, consider the difference in language and most importantly, *clarity* in these two examples of a brief program description.

Imagine you are on the grants assessment panel assessing applications for youth crime prevention responses and compare the language choices in the below examples.

### **Example 1**

The 'Youth Impact Project - inspirational presentation for positive community impact' aims to create a supportive environment where young people can thrive and reach their full potential by promoting positive behaviours and attitudes among youth. Through ongoing evaluation and collaboration, the program endeavours to address various societal challenges faced by high school students in Queensland. By partnering with local stakeholders and utilising evidence-based methodologies, the project seeks to instil values of responsibility, integrity, and empathy in the next generation. With a focus on education and empowerment, the program aims to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of Queensland's youth, paving the way for a brighter future for all.

The example shows that there is heart and intent in the application, but for the reader it is vague and lacks specificity, and you are left with questions about the details. Would you be able to communicate what the proposal is, how it is delivered or what community issue it is trying to address?

### Example 2

The Youth Impact Project delivers targeted workshops to Year 7 students across the Central Queensland Region, specifically addressing issues related to consent and imagebased abuse. With rising rates of sexual violence among young people, these workshops aim to educate students on healthy relationship dynamics, boundaries, and respectful behaviour, providing them with foundational knowledge for their high school experience and futures. Through engaging presentations, group discussions, and interactive activities, we empower students to make informed decisions and advocate for themselves and others. Workshops are conducted directly within participating high schools, ensuring accessibility for all Year 7 students.

To measure our impact, we track participation rates and conduct pre- and post-workshop surveys to gauge changes in knowledge and attitudes. We also collect feedback from students, teachers, and parents and analyse long-term outcomes, such as reduced incidents of consent and image-based abuse, to continuously refine our approach and better meet the needs of the participants and community.

In this second example, the language is clear, concise, and specific, allowing the reader to grasp the core of the proposal quickly. It follows the brain's natural order of processing information, avoids vague platitudes, identifies the need, and highlights an alignment with the grant's priorities.





## Summary

When you are very close to the subject, it is sometimes difficult to remember that others do not have the in-depth knowledge that you have about your program, how amazing it is and what you can achieve with it.

Make sure that you look at your application with fresh eyes, and review what you have written through the lens of someone who has never heard of your program before, and work towards giving them a succinct and clear understanding.

There are AI tools available that may also be able to give suggestions about clarifying your language. You will still need to thoroughly review the outputs to ensure it is accurate, appropriate, and relevant for the grant criteria, and still written in your own voice and tone.

Remember to lead with a clear headline, outline your proposal's essential elements, and guide your reader through the application logically and effectively. Ensure your language is tailored to each question and maintain a professional tone throughout your application.

# Getting the budget right

An accurate budget is crucial in grant applications as it outlines how you plan to use the funds. A well-prepared budget:

- demonstrates your grasp of the project's financial requirements and your ability to manage resources efficiently
- reduces questions from the assessment panel by showing your thorough understanding of the project's financial needs and how the grant funds will be used
- enhances your application's credibility by showcasing transparency and accountability
- builds trust with the funding body, reflecting your careful planning and clear implementation strategy
- shows your organisation's readiness to responsibly manage the grant funds, a key factor in grant decision-making.

Remember, your proposed budget is more than just numbers; it reflects your project's vision and your organisation's capacity to implement it effectively. By taking the time to understand the budgeting process and providing clear, detailed information, you will improve the quality of your grant application and demonstrate your readiness to undertake your crime prevention project.

For support on understanding the correct *content* of your budget, please make sure you clearly read the Program Information and Grant Guidelines and FAQs to understand the parameters of the funding and what can and cannot be included.

## **Funding Tips**

- Check that your requested funding is within the grant's minimum and maximum limits.
- Ensure your costs align with the grant's eligible expenses as outlined in the guidelines.
- Include all costs, considering administrative overheads.

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- If submitting a catalogue of services from a supplier, specify the items you are purchasing.
- Ensure your organisation has the financial capacity to cover costs before funding is disbursed.
  - Keep in mind that funding success is not guaranteed, and you are responsible for covering associated program costs.
- Review your budget for accuracy.
  - List the total value of any in-kind support and other funding sources.
  - Ensure total income (including in-kind support) equals total expenditure.
- Be prepared to provide evidence of approved items spent using grant money as part of the acquittal process.

## Importance of accurate and balanced budget information

In your funding application, you need to clearly demonstrate the true cost of running your proposal.

Assessment panels need to gain a clear understanding of:

- what money are you receiving to cover the full costs (income/revenue)
- what money you plan to spend to make the proposal work (expenditure).

The total amount of money you receive (income) should equal the total amount you plan to spend (expenditure). This means that all sources of funding, including grants, donations, and in-kind support, should match your project's total costs. Balancing your budget this way shows you have a clear plan for how you will use the funds effectively.

The Department of Youth Justice grants application form includes two separate tables for you to fill out to detail your income and expenditure. Items need to be listed as separate line items, with details and in whole numbers. All figures should exclude GST.

**1. Income/Revenue section (aka, money in):** This table requires you to list all sources of income or revenue for your proposal, excluding the grant funding request. Include any other grant funding, your own in-kind support, and contributions from other sources such as donations, volunteer hours, or partnerships. For example:

Income/Revenue Sources	\$
Relevant item on each line and with detail. Do not list your funding request amount as that is automatically calculated below.	Amount for that specific line item
Local council community funding	\$5,000
Program fundraising	\$2,000
Volunteer hours (in-kind): 20 x \$46.75	\$935
Hall hire donation (in-kind): 20 weeks x 3 hours	\$6,000
Counselling services (in-kind) from XYZ Services: 10-week program	\$5,000



The SmartyGrants system will automatically calculate the total of your listed income/revenue sources, add it to your amount requested for funding, and calculate those combined costs.

Total of other sources of Income/Revenue	Funding amount requested (in your grant application)	Total Income/Revenue
\$18,935	\$14,765	\$33,700

**2. Expenditure section:** This table requires you to list all costs associated with your proposal, including where your previously listed in-kind items will be allocated.

equipment

travel costs

consumables

other relevant cost.

Include all necessary expenses related to your project, for example:

- salary and wages
- resources
- hire fees
- program resources
- training

Your expenditure items need to have:

- clear and detailed information regarding the items you are requesting
  - wording like "Program costs" or "Other costs" would need to have specific descriptors added (see below examples).
- separate line items for the items and resources you require
- a clear distinction of where your items listed in the Income table will be spent.

For	example:	
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Expenditure (Excl. GST)	\$	
Details of all expenditure items for your project, with breakdown in each line of details (eg. Program consumable: water bottles, towels, hygiene products, manuals and evaluation materials)	Amount for that specific line item	
Program facilitator wages – 2 staff x 40 hours	\$5,000	Matches
Bus hire x 5 sessions - \$2,000	\$2,000	amounts listed in Income
(In-kind) Volunteer hours: 20 x \$46.75	\$935	table, and how that money will be used
(In-kind) Hall hire donation: 20 weeks x 3 hours	\$6,000	
(In-kind) Counselling services from XYZ Services: 10-week program	\$5,000	Lists clear breakdown of
Program consumables (water bottles, towels, hygiene products) x 4 groups	\$8,000	what the expenditure
Food x 40 sessions	\$2,400	actually is
Program equipment (PPE for 10 students - hard hats, high vis clothing, eye protection)	\$3,000	Lists clear breakdown of
Staff training (5 x Cultural Competency training)	\$960	how the requested
Staff certification (4 x Blue Cards)	\$405	funding will be spent



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Your total costs must match your total income, ensuring your budget balances to \$0.

Total Proposal Income	Total Expenditure Amount	Income minus Expenditure
\$33,700	\$33,700	\$0

# Important supporting documentation

Providing strong supporting documentation can bolster your grant application and provide the assessment panel with additional evidence of your project's merit. This documentation serves as proof of your preparedness, commitment, and understanding of the project's various aspects.

Key supporting documents required for Department of Youth Justice Crime Prevention grants include evidence of:

- <u>Community consultation</u>: Demonstrate that you have engaged with and understood the needs and perspectives of the community you plan to serve. This can include surveys, meeting notes, or feedback from community members.
- Letters of support: Letters from stakeholders, partners, or other relevant parties can lend credibility to your application and highlight the support your project has within the community.
- <u>Risk assessment and management</u>: Show that you have identified potential risks and developed plans to mitigate them. This can include a risk management plan that outlines how you intend to address challenges.
- <u>Cultural safety</u>: Provide evidence of how you plan to ensure cultural safety within your project, particularly if working with Indigenous or culturally diverse communities. This may include cultural awareness training or partnership with local cultural advisors.
- Legal registration documents: Include any necessary documentation to verify your organisation's legal standing, such as certificates of registration or incorporation.

## **Evidencing community consultation**

Demonstrating evidence of community consultation in grant applications is crucial as it validates the program's responsiveness to community needs and ensures transparency in decision-making processes. Providing documentation of genuine community engagement strengthens the credibility of the proposed initiative and enhances the likelihood of securing funding by showcasing meaningful partnerships and a commitment to community-driven solutions.

Evidence of community consultation can take various forms, including:



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#### Community letters or endorsements

 Letters of support or endorsement from community leaders, organisations, or influential individuals, expressing backing for proposed programs or initiatives following consultation.

# Meeting minutes and reports

 Documentation of meetings held with community members, stakeholders, or advisory groups, along with detailed minutes and reports summarising discussions, decisions, and action points.

### **Feedback forms**

 Completed feedback forms or comment cards from community events, workshops, or information sessions, providing direct input from participants on program ideas, proposals, or drafts.

### Collaborative project plans

 Co-developed project plans or proposals that reflect input from community consultation activities, demonstrating how community feedback has influenced program design and implementation strategies.

#### Surveys and questionnaires

• Results from surveys or questionnaires distributed to community members to gather feedback, opinions, and preferences on specific issues or program elements.

#### Social media engagements

 Analytics or summaries of engagement on social media platforms, demonstrating interactions, comments, shares, or likes related to community consultation activities or posts.

# Feedback analysis reports

• Reports analysing feedback received from community consultation activities, summarising key themes, concerns, and suggestions identified during the process.

### Focus group transcripts

• Transcripts or summaries of focus group discussions conducted with representatives from the community to explore particular topics, gather insights, and identify priorities.

# Case studies or success stories

• Narratives or case studies highlighting successful outcomes or positive impacts resulting from community consultation efforts, showcasing tangible benefits to the community.

## Letters of support

A Letter of Support (LOS) is a document written by an individual or organisation to express their endorsement, encouragement, or backing for a specific project, proposal, or grant application. Asking your relevant networks and partners for a LOS is a crucial step of your grant application, and Youth Justice grants require service delivery partners to provide a LOS to confirm their co-delivery of the project.

Below is a quick summary of the type of detail to ask your networks to provide when writing a LOS:





- Content and formatting: Ensure the letter contains accurate and official information to add authenticity, credibility, and relevance to the endorsement.
  - If applicable, provide the LOS on their organisation's/business' letterhead, which includes their logo and relevant details
  - Date of writing the letter 0
    - It is important to show that this LOS is current . and specific to the specific stream of funding you are applying for
  - Signature 0
  - Name and role of the person writing the LOS.  $\cap$
- Introduction: Begin by introducing themselves or their organisation and their relationship to the project or proposal for which they are providing support.
  - Ensure that they name the specific project/program that is in your application.
- **Statement of support:** Clearly state their support for the project or proposal. Emphasise the importance of the endeavour and its potential impact, and use specific examples or evidence to support the claims.
- **Reasons for support:** Provide specific reasons why they are endorsing the project. • This could include highlighting the project's alignment with their organisation's mission or goals, partnering for its delivery, its potential benefits to the community or target audience, or the qualifications and capabilities of the individuals involved.
- Personal or organisational capacity: Briefly mention their organisation's relevant experience, expertise, or resources that could contribute to the success of the project.
- **Contact information:** Include their contact information so that the recipient can • follow up with any questions or further discussion.
- **Closing:** End the letter with a polite closing statement expressing their willingness to provide further assistance if needed.
- Signature: Sign the letter to authenticate their endorsement.

Remember to tailor the content of the Letter of Support to the specific context and requirements of the project or grant application. Additionally, ensure that the letter is wellwritten, concise, and professionally formatted.

Make sure to request your Letters of Support before the grant application deadline. Letters can sometimes take others a while to put together, and documents cannot be added to your application once the funding has closed.





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## **Evidencing risk assessment and management**

When applying for grants, it is essential to provide evidence of your risk assessment and management process to demonstrate your organisation's preparedness and accountability.

### **Risk assessment examples**

Developing a risk	<ul> <li>Documenting all identified risks, their potential impact, and</li></ul>
register	likelihood of occurrence.
Conducting site	<ul> <li>Identifying potential hazards or safety concerns in physical</li></ul>
inspections	locations where the program will take place.
Reviewing past	<ul> <li>Learning from previous experiences to anticipate and</li></ul>
incidents	mitigate similar risks in the future.
Consultation with stakeholders	<ul> <li>Gathering insights from participants, staff, and community members to identify potential risks and concerns.</li> </ul>
Researching relevant regulations and standards	<ul> <li>Ensuring compliance with legal requirements and industry best practices.</li> </ul>

## **Risk management examples**

Creating a risk management plan	<ul> <li>Outlining strategies and procedures to address identified risks effectively.</li> </ul>
Implementing staff training	<ul> <li>Providing comprehensive training to staff members on risk identification, mitigation, and response protocols.</li> </ul>
Establishing policies and procedures	<ul> <li>Developing clear guidelines for handling emergencies, incidents, and other risk-related situations.</li> </ul>
Allocating resources	<ul> <li>Ensuring sufficient resources are available to address identified risks, such as budgeting for safety equipment or additional staffing.</li> </ul>
Regular monitoring and review	<ul> <li>Continuously assessing and updating the risk management plan to address new risks or changes in circumstances.</li> </ul>

These are not comprehensive lists, and you must make sure that the actions you take are appropriate to your organisation, program, participants, and community.

By effectively demonstrating your organisation's risk assessment process and providing evidence of risk management strategies, you can instil confidence in grant funders and stakeholders, ultimately enhancing the success and impact of your program.



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## Evidencing cultural safety

Grant assessment panels are looking for explicit evidence of intentional cultural safety practice. Grant applicants can provide evidence of cultural safety in several ways.

Provide records of community engagement	<ul> <li>Include documentation such as meeting minutes, photos, or reports to demonstrate meaningful engagement with the community in program planning and development.</li> </ul>
Highlight partnerships with cultural organisations	•Showcase collaborations with cultural organisations or leaders, demonstrating a collaborative approach to program delivery and a recognition of community expertise and resources.
Highlight staff training in cultural competency	• Showcase staff training initiatives focused on cultural competency, diversity awareness, and sensitivity training to illustrate the commitment to cultural safety within the organisation.
Describe cultural protocols and practices	• Detail specific cultural protocols and practices integrated into the program design, emphasising their importance and relevance in ensuring cultural safety and respect for diverse traditions.
Demonstrate language accessibility	• Provide evidence of efforts to address language barriers through translation services, bilingual staff, or multilingual resources, demonstrating a commitment to linguistic inclusivity.
Emphasise diverse representation	<ul> <li>Showcase diversity among program leadership, facilitators, and staff members, emphasising the importance of representation and inclusivity in program delivery.</li> </ul>
Outline feedback and evaluation mechanisms	<ul> <li>Describe the feedback mechanisms and evaluation processes implemented to gather insights on program effectiveness and cultural safety, demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement.</li> </ul>
Include participant testimonials	<ul> <li>Incorporate quotes or testimonials from participants reflecting positive experiences with cultural safety measures, providing firsthand evidence of program impact and effectiveness.</li> </ul>
Present evidence of positive outcomes	<ul> <li>Provide data or case studies demonstrating positive outcomes associated with cultural safety measures, using both quantitative and qualitative evidence to support program effectiveness.</li> </ul>

By building, demonstrating, and evidencing cultural safety throughout the program design and delivery process, you not only meet grant application requirements but also demonstrate a genuine commitment to inclusivity, equity, and respect for diversity.

This comprehensive approach fosters a sense of belonging, empowerment, and trust among participants, leading to more impactful and sustainable outcomes within your community.



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## Legal registration documents

In the grant applications process, the submission of legal registration documentation is incredibly important. These documents serve as evidence of an organisation's legal status, confirming its legitimacy, compliance with regulatory requirements, and eligibility to receive funding. It is imperative that such documentation is current and relevant, reflecting the organisation's ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability.



Submitting up-to-date legal registration documentation ensures eligibility for funding and demonstrates an organisation's capacity to meet grant requirements.

Failure to provide valid documentation may result in delays, or your application being deemed ineligible to be considered for funding.

Common legal registration documents in Australia include:







## **Financial documents**

### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and RCTI agreement forms

The Department of Youth Justice grant application form requires applicants to complete accurate financial information via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and RCTI agreement forms.

We ask for them as part of the application process so this information can be verified and actioned as soon as the grants outcome is determined. Accurate information is important to include in your application.

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Please review the sections in red below, as they outline areas where errors are frequently encountered.





## **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form**

#### EFT Application Form Electronic Deposit of Vendor Payments



Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training

Please attach completed form in Smartygrants

#### The Privacy Statement

The collection of personal information on this form and any attachments is authorised under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* for the purpose of administering vendor account setups and maintenance. Your personal information will not be disclosed to other parties without your consent unless required or authorised by or under law.

To be completed by the applicant			
Applicant's Name: (Business Name if applicable)			
ABN:			
Address:		Postcode:	
Felephone:	E-mail:		
Remittance advices will be emailed to the above address.	·		

- Applicant Name must be the same as Applicant Name you entered in your application. Name must align with the ABN you provided.

- ABN listed here must be the same as the ABN listed in your application.

# We hereby agree that all payments are to be made by way of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the following account:

#### BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Name of Financial Institution:		- Bank account name
Account Name:	<b>←</b>	must align with the
BSB No. ( 6 Digits )	Account Number:	Applicant Name.

		- Document must be
On Behalf of The Grantee	Behalf of The Grantee         Note: Please ensure that this form is signed and certified as correct by two members of your executive or committee responsible for your activities. Electronic signatures are not accepted.	
Signature:	← − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − − −	executive position or
Print Name:		committee responsible for the activities (the
Position:	Daie.	Applicant).
Signature:		- Please note that
Print Name:		electronic signatures are not acceptable in
Position:	Date:	this instance.





### **RCTI Agreement Form**



### ABN 84 375 484 963

Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training

> AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER (ABN) & GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) ADVICE FORM



Name must match Applicant
Name in SmartyGrants
application
ABN must match ABN supplied
in application
One box must be ticked

#### AGREEMENT TO ISSUE RECIPIENT CREATED TAX INVOICES

The following conditions will apply:

- The Grantee and The Department must be registered for GST when the Tax Invoice is issued;
- The Grantee will not issue a Tax Invoice in respect of the supply of services under this Agreement;
- The Grantee acknowledges that it is registered for GST and agrees to notify The Department if the Grantee ceases to be registered or if ceases to satisfy any of the requirements relating to Recipient Created Tax Invoices; and
- The Department acknowledges that it is registered for GST and agrees to notify The Grantee if The Department ceases to be registered or if it ceases to satisfy any of the requirements relating to Recipient Created Tax Invoices.

On Behalf of The Grantee	On behalf of the Department
Signature:	Signature:
Print Name:	Print Name:
Position:	Position:
Date:	Date:
- Must be completed by the Applicant	- Leave this section blank – to be completed by the Department

