

Holiday Break Autumn & Winter 2026 Program Frequently Asked Questions

What's new?

Key updates include:

- Applicants can now apply for both the Autumn and Winter holiday periods in the one application – there is no separate Winter 2026 round.
- The maximum grant per applicant has increased to **\$10,000**, which can be allocated across one or both holiday periods.
- A **\$3,000 travel loading** is available per holiday period for eligible remote and very remote areas.

Applications may be submitted at any time between **9am on 2 February 2026 and 11:59 pm on 15 February 2026**.

Applicants should review the Program Guidelines to confirm eligibility and assessment requirements before submitting their application.

What are the Holiday Break Regions, and which region is my LGA in?

There are **nine Holiday Break Regions**. Each LGA and Unincorporated Area is assigned to a region.

*In **Appendix A** of the Program Guidelines, the headings for Riverina Murray and Far West are swapped. The corrected headings appear in the list at the end of this document.

The 'Figure 1 Map of Holiday Break Regions' in the Program Guidelines show the correct LGA allocations.

Note: The map provided in the program guidelines is for regional grouping only and does not indicate eligibility. Refer to Program Guidelines for eligibility requirements.

Can I submit more than one application?

No. Eligible applicants may submit **one application only** to deliver activities in Autumn and/or Winter.

Is more than one application permitted per ABN where an organisation has multiple campuses, business names or trading names, etc?

No. One ABN = One Application for the program round. If you submit multiple applications, only the first submitted application will be considered and assessed. All other applications will be deemed ineligible and will not be assessed.

Can an organisation be a downstream recipient or an applicant and a downstream recipient more than once?

No. An organisation may be a downstream recipient **once only** for this Program. Applicants cannot be both an applicant and a downstream recipient.

If an organisation appears in multiple applications, **only the first submitted application will be assessed**. Others will be deemed ineligible.

Applicants must obtain proof of agreement and a costed quote from any downstream recipient.

External suppliers that receive **80% or more** of the requested funding will be assessed as a downstream recipient.

What is a downstream recipient?

A downstream recipient is an organisation or individual receiving grant funds indirectly from the applicant. For this Program, a downstream recipient is **any party** receiving **80% or more** of the requested funding.

How do I apply for funding?

Applicants must apply through **SmartyGrants** once the round opens. Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement covering both holiday periods.

Can I apply for both holiday periods?

Yes. You may apply for one or both periods in the same application.

Will there be a separate round for Winter 2026?

No. Applicants should submit Winter activity proposals within the main application period.

How much funding can I receive?

- Up to **\$10,000** per organisation for Autumn and Winter combined.
- Up to **\$3,000 per holiday period** in additional travel loading for eligible remote and very remote areas.

Eligibility for travel loading is defined in the Program Guidelines.

Who can apply for travel loading, and what is covered?

Applicants in eligible remote or very remote LGAs may claim travel loading if external suppliers must travel **over 180 km each way**.

Eligible costs include:

- Transport (flights, fuel, etc.)
- Accommodation
- Meals (excluding alcohol)

Example: If a workshop provider must travel over 180 km to Balranald LGA, the applicant may claim up to \$3,000 to cover eligible travel expenses.

Can activities occur outside NSW?

You may take NSW young people to eligible cross-border locations. This must be declared in the application for consideration by the Assessment Team.

When do applications close?

Applications close at **11:59 pm, Sunday 15 February 2026**.

How do I submit an application?

Submit a completed application via **SmartyGrants**.

What types of activities can be funded?

Activities must be social or recreational and exclusively for young people aged **12–24**.

Examples include:

- Music, concerts, and dance activities
- Sports and outdoor activities
- Creative, cultural, and art workshops
- Cooking and life skills activities
- Technology, gaming, and science activities
- Sightseeing and recreational excursions

Activities involving participants outside the 12–24 age range are **ineligible**.

Can I promote my funded activity with other programs?

No. Holiday Break activities must be promoted separately from all other programs.

When must activities be delivered?

- **Autumn:** 4 April – 19 April 2026
 - **Winter:** 4 July – 19 July 2026
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How is funding allocated?

All applications undergo eligibility and selection criteria assessment and then follow an approvals process.

When will I receive funding?

Successful applicants will receive email notification and must upload their signed funding agreement and required documents within 14 days.

Payments may take **up to 6 weeks** after the agreement is executed.

Should invoices include GST?

- **Local councils:** exclude GST
 - **Other organisations:** include GST (if registered for GST)
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What if my activity details change?

Applicants must email grants@officeforyouth.nsw.gov.au and request a variation to change contracted activities or activity dates. Activity dates may be rescheduled within the holiday period. Changes must be approved by the Office for Youth.

Applicants must deliver activities according to their funding agreement, and funding **cannot be carried over** to future programs.

Can activities be delivered outside school holidays?

No. All funded activities must occur **within the Autumn and/or Winter 2026 school holiday periods**.

Who can sign funding agreements?

Agreements must be signed by authorised staff with delegated authority. Electronic signatures are accepted.

What are administration costs?

Administration costs include advertising, promotion, insurance, reporting, and documentation. They may not exceed **10%** of the total grant request.

How much can be allocated to staff costs?

Staff costs (wages, travel, meals, delivery personnel, coordination) may not exceed **40%** of the total grant request.

What if I need a venue?

Applicants may use the **Share Our Space** website to find schools and facilities for hire.

Do I need to provide information for the Holiday Break Activities map?

Yes. Successful applicants must submit activity details (time, date, location, registration link, etc.) for publication on the [Holiday Break Activities Map](#).

If information changes, applicants must respond promptly with updated details.

LGA List – Holiday Break Regions

Riverina Murray	North Coast	Central West Orana
Albury	Ballina	Bathurst Regional
Berrigan	Bellingen	Blayney
Bland	Byron	Bogan
Carrathool	Clarence Valley	Cabonne
Coolamon	Coffs Harbour	Coonamble
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	Kempsey	Cowra
Edward River	Kyogle	Dubbo Regional
Federation	Lismore	Forbes
Greater Hume	Lord Howe Island	Gilgandra
Griffith	Nambucca	Lachlan
Hay	Port Macquarie-Hastings	Lithgow
Junee	Richmond Valley	Mid-Western Regional
Leeton	Tweed	Narromine
Lockhart		Oberon
Murrumbidgee		Orange
Murray River		Parkes
Narrandera		Warren
Snowy Valleys		Warrumbungle
Temora		Weddin
Wagga Wagga		
Far West	New England and North West	Wollongong, Illawarra and Shoalhaven
Balranald	Armidale Regional	Kiama
Bourke	Glenn Innes Severn	Shellharbour
Brewarrina	Gunnedah	Shoalhaven
Broken Hill	Gwydir	Wollongong
Central Darling	Inverell	
Cobar	Liverpool Plains	
Unincorporated Far West	Moree Plains	

Walgett	Narrabri	
Wentworth	Tamworth Regional	
	Tenterfield	
	Uralla	
	Walcha	
Greater Sydney	Newcastle, Hunter & Central Coast	South East and Tablelands
Bayside	Newcastle	Bega Valley
Blacktown	Cessnock	Eurobodalla
Blue Mountains	Dungog	Goulburn-Mulwaree
Burwood	Lake Macquarie	Hilltops
Camden	Maitland	Queanbeyan-Palerang
Campbelltown	Mid-Coast	Snowy Monaro Regional
Canada Bay	Muswellbrook	Upper Lachlan
Canterbury-Bankstown	Port Stephens	Wingecarribee
Cumberland	Singleton	Yass Valley
Fairfield	Upper Hunter	
Georges River	Central Coast	
Hawkesbury		
Hornsby		
Hunters Hill		
Inner West		
Ku-ring-gai		
Lane Cove		
Liverpool		
Mosman		
North Sydney		
Northern Beaches		
Parramatta		
Penrith		

Randwick

Strathfield

Sutherland Shire

Sydney

The Hills Shire

Waverley

Willoughby

Wollondilly

Woollahra

For further information, contact grants@officeforyouth.nsw.gov.au.