Innovation Events Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the grant program?

The Innovation Events Fund supports Queensland innovation driven organisations to deliver events that showcase, test, or explore new and emerging innovations.

It aims to build attendees' skills, knowledge, and connections while strengthening Queensland's local innovation ecosystems.

Where must funded events be held?

Funded events must be held in Queensland.

When must funded events take place?

Funded events must be delivered by 31 December 2026, or within the timeframe specified in the funding agreement.

Who can apply for funding?

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a legal entity with an active ABN and registered for GST.
- Be the event owner with all required approvals to deliver the event.
- Be headquartered in Queensland and have been operating for at least 12 months.
- Hold, or be able to obtain, public liability insurance of at least $20 million.
- Submit only one application per funding round, including related entities.

Note: Only Queensland-based organisations are eligible, as the program is designed to support the state's innovation ecosystem. Individuals and state and federal government agencies are not eligible to apply.

Can I apply for funding for multiple events in the same funding round?

No, applicants and their related entities are limited to one application per funding round.

What types of events are eligible for funding?

Eligible events must:

- Support businesses or directly engage with businesses that are developing innovative products, processes or services.
- Be designed to foster innovation capability and strengthen local or regional innovation ecosystems.

Examples include events that connect businesses with researchers to commercialise new technologies or help local businesses adopt digital tools to enhance operations.

What innovation outcomes must events deliver?

We are specifically looking for opportunity focused events – more than inspiring with new knowledge and ideas, to support the execution and delivery of their ideas and creating pathways for success.

Events must aim to build innovation capability and deliver outcomes in one or more of the following areas:

- **Innovative solutions to existing problems** – events that foster the development or implementation of creative and effective approaches to identified challenges.
- **New-to-world innovation** – events that promote the creation or introduction of entirely novel products, services or processes that have not previously existed in any market.
- **Innovation diffusion** – events that encourage the adoption or unique application of existing technologies or innovations in ways that are significantly different from prior uses.
- **Innovation in the Indigenous context** - events that support innovation identified by the applicant as advancing cultural or community practices and delivering benefits for Indigenous communities.

Are there any funding priorities for this program?

The program prioritises events that demonstrate strong innovation outcomes, regional partnerships, and measurable benefits for Queensland's innovation ecosystem.

What does "significantly different from prior uses" mean in the context of innovation diffusion?

It refers to using existing technologies or innovations in new ways beyond their traditional applications, encouraging adoption by industries or businesses that haven't used them before. This expands their use and drives economic growth.

For example, an event might demonstrate how a manufacturing technology could be adapted for agriculture, healthcare or education, inspiring new sectors to adopt it and fostering cross-industry collaboration.

What types of events are funded?

Examples of events delivered that support innovation outcomes may include:

- Conferences
- Summits
- Expos
- Industry forums or roundtables
- Cross-sector showcases
- Regional innovation roadshows (considered one event even if delivered across multiple locations).
- Innovation festivals.

What events are not eligible for funding?

Funding will not be provided for events that are primarily social or recreational, commercial sales or marketing activities, academic-only with no clear business or innovation application, or events that are already funded through other government programs.

Events must be above business-as-usual activities and must be either in-person or hybrid delivery. The Innovation Events Fund Program does not fund programs, although program participants/graduates may be the focus of funded events.

How much funding is available?

- Funding is between $10,000 and $25,000 (excluding GST).
- Funding will cover up to 50% of the total cash expenditure budget, with the remainder to be matched by the applicant.

Note: Funding may only be used for eligible costs outlined in the Program Guidelines.

What costs are eligible under the Program?

Funding supports essential costs directly related to event delivery.

Eligible costs include:

- Guest speaker fees (economy travel, standard accommodation, and transfers; speakers must not be affiliated with the applicant).
- Venue hire and event logistics.
- Marketing and promotional activities targeting Australian and international audiences.
- Equipment hire, technical services and tools for event delivery.
- Development of program content aligned with Innovation Events Fund Program objectives.

Grant funding must primarily be spent in Queensland unless essential for event success, such as hiring a specialised speaker or equipment only available outside the state.

Budgets should maximise event impact, deliver measurable benefits to Queensland, and minimise environmental impact through sustainable practices.

Are event insurance costs eligible for funding?

Yes, insurance costs directly related to the event are eligible for funding. Public liability insurance required as part of the eligibility for this program is not an eligible cost.

What costs are ineligible or not covered by the grant or included as matched funding?

The following costs are excluded from the event budget, as they do not align with the program's objectives or funding guidelines:

- First-class/business class travel, meals, or travel incidentals.
- Alcohol, merchandise, or self-promotion activities (e.g. branded advertising, website development).
- Purchasing plant or equipment.
- Expenses incurred before application approval or the executed grant agreement.

What costs can be covered by the applicant organisation's co-contribution?

Costs that can be included in the applicant's co-contribution or matched funding include:

- General business operating costs (e.g. rent, utilities, insurance).
- Salaries for event staff directly involved in delivering the event (up to 40% of their weekly wage for the period committed to the event.

What does co-contribution or matched funding requirements mean?

Applicants must contribute at least 50% of the total cash expenditure budget for the event.

Applicants can cover these costs from their own cash reserves, salaries as cash (based on the extent they are committed to the event planning and delivery), ticket sales, sponsorship, partner contributions, or similar means.

This ensures that applicants are equally invested in the success of the event and helps maximise the impact of the program's funding.

Can I include in-kind costs in my matched funding contribution?

Costs to be included in the event budget must be able to be demonstrated. If, for example, the applicant is using their own venue for the event and this space would ordinarily be hired out at a cost, then this cost can be included in the event budget as part of the matched contribution.

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online via the program portal by the advertised closing date. The portal link can be found on the program website. Applicants will need to provide:

- An event description and delivery plan
- A budget and funding request
- Expected innovation and regional ecosystem outcomes
- Evidence of capability to deliver the event
- Letters of support, where applicable.

Applications for Round 1 close Monday, 16 March 2026 at 10:00am. No late applications will be accepted.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed against published criteria, including:

- Significance and impact
- Delivery capacity
- Innovation and sustainability.

What type of event activities are you looking for under the Innovation and Sustainability assessment criterion to minimise environmental impact?

Minimising environmental impact involves using sustainable practices to reduce waste, conserve resources, and lower carbon emissions.

Examples of how to minimise environmental impact include:

- **Reducing waste** - using digital tickets and event materials instead of printed ones, providing recycling bins at the venue, and avoiding single-use plastics such as disposable cutlery or water bottles.
- **Sustainable catering** - offering locally sourced, seasonal and plant-based food options to reduce the carbon footprint of catering.
- **Eco-friendly materials** - using sustainable or biodegradable materials for event signage, decorations and giveaways.
- **Encouraging sustainable transport** – promoting public transport, carpooling, or active travel (e.g. walking or cycling), for participants.

Minimising environmental impact aligns with the program's commitment to sustainability and ensures that events contribute positively to Queensland's future.

Can I partner with other organisations on my event?

Yes, partnerships, especially with regional organisations, are encouraged to maximise event exposure, impact, and benefits. Events should focus on innovation opportunities, engage local participants, and promote long-term sustainability.

These entities do not count as applicants for the program. This means that an entity may be a sponsor, partner or contributor in multiple applicant events.

When will applicants be notified of the outcome?

Applicants will be advised of the outcome following completion of the assessment and approval process. Feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

Can I request changes or extensions to my event/grant if successful?

Requests for changes to event timing, scope or reporting deadlines must be made in writing and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval is not guaranteed. How to apply for extensions forms part of the grant agreement.

What post-event reporting is required if my application is successful?

As part of your executed grant agreement, you'll need to provide outcomes and metrics on the success of the event.

These metrics will need to be reported on as part of the final acquittal report following the event and will need to be collected either through the registrations or post-event survey/s.

Required outcomes and metrics include:

Outcome 1 Queensland innovation stakeholders attend ecosystem events

Metric 1.1 Number of event attendees
Metric 1.2 Number of attendees who are regionally based
Metric 1.3 Number of attendees who are outside of Queensland
Metric 1.4 Number of attendees who are Indigenous
Metric 1.5 Number of attendees who are female.
Metric 1.6 Number of attendees who respond to post-event survey
Metric 1.7 Number of attendees who agree or strongly agree that attending the event was a good use of their time.

Outcome 2 Queensland capabilities and talent are showcased

Metric 2.1 Number of presenters from Queensland enterprises
Metric 2.2 Number of exhibitors from Queensland enterprises
Metric 2.3 Number of Queensland presenters/exhibitors from priority cohorts in event programming.

Outcome 3 Ecosystem participants attend opportunity-enabling events

Metric 3.1 Number of attendees who report they are likely or very likely to apply learnings or insights acquired at the event.
Metric 3.2 Number of attendees who are confident the connections they made will lead to financial collaboration (e.g. investment, customer, financial partnerships)
Metric 3.3 Number of attendees who are confident the connections they made will lead to non-financial collaboration (e.g. knowledge or talent sharing or mentorship).

The specific metrics required will be detailed in your executed grant agreement.

Applicants must obtain consent from participants to collect data for post-event surveys. Testimonials and case studies are encouraged.

Who can I contact for more information?

- Innovation Events Fund Guidelines
- Contact the Program team via email AskInnovation@detsi.qld.gov.au