

## Gender Affirming Mutual Aid Fund Guidelines

### 1. Gender Affirming Mutual Aid Fund Overview

The Gender Affirmation Mutual Aid Fund (the fund) provides financial support to trans and gender diverse individuals residing in Western Australia. This fund aims to reduce financial barriers to gender affirmation, expression, and wellbeing.

Applications will commence on 31 March 2026 and close at 11:59pm (WST) on 30 April 2026 (WST). Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

Applications can be submitted through the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/TransfolkWA/mutual-aid-fund-2026>

### 2. Grant Sizes and Allocations

The fund provides one-off financial grants to support gender affirmation and wellbeing.

A total grant pool of \$10,000 (AUD) is available.

#### General Grants

- 7 grants of \$300 each
- 5 grants of \$1,000 each

#### First Nations Grants

- 3 grants of \$300 each
- 2 grants of \$1,000 each

All grants are one-off payments. We know that affirmation looks different for everyone. You can use your grant to fully cover smaller costs (like clothing, travel, or administrative fees) or use it as a contribution toward larger expenses (like surgery or specialist appointments).

### 3. Who Can Apply

You may apply if you:

- are trans and/or gender diverse
- are experiencing financial barriers
- live in Western Australia
- meet the age requirements below

#### Applicants aged 18 and over

People aged 18 years and over may apply directly.

#### Applications relating to people under 18

Where an application relates to a person under 18, it must be submitted by a parent or legal guardian. If selected, the applying adult will be required to complete a formal Parent/Guardian Declaration before funds can be released.

Responsibility for the appropriate use of funds rests solely with the parent or legal guardian.

## 4. How to Apply

- 1) Complete the online application form in the following link:  
<https://form.jotform.com/TransfolkWA/mutual-aid-fund-2026>
- 2) Provide contact information and confirm eligibility criteria
- 3) Optional: Share your story (see "Storytelling" section below)
- 4) Submit your application by 11:59pm (WST) on 30 April 2026

Please submit only one application per person. If you submit multiple, only your most recent application will be entered into the draw.

Applications submitted after the closing date outlined above will not be considered.

## 5. Selection Process

All grants are allocated through a random selection process.

If your application is randomly drawn, we will contact you to arrange your payment. You will have 60 days from the date of notification to claim your grant. We will guide you through a short, supportive process to:

- Choose your preferred payment method (Direct Invoice Payment, Reimbursement or Direct Funds Transfer).
- Confirm you reside in Western Australia
- Complete the Parent/Guardian Declaration (for applicants under 18), confirming legal authority and accepting responsibility for the use of funds.
- Confirm the relevant financial and administrative details associated with your chosen payment method.

If a grant is not claimed within this timeframe, the funds will be returned to the pool and re-drawn.

## 6. How Funds Can be Used

The fund is designed to enable gender affirmation in whatever practical way the applicant needs.

Funds may be used flexibly, including (but not limited to):

- Direct medical or healthcare costs
- Gender-affirming items such as clothing, binders, or other personal items
- Travel and accommodation related to accessing care
- Legal or administrative costs related to identity documents
- Covering daily living expenses, lost income, or time off work to attend appointments or recover

This is not an exhaustive list. Applicants are trusted to determine how best to use the funds in line with their own needs and circumstances.

## 7. Payment Options

Successful applicants may choose one of the following payment options, depending on what best supports their circumstances:

- Direct invoice payment to a provider or retailer
- Reimbursement of an eligible cost already paid
- Direct funds transfer paid to the applicant

Each option has different practical and financial considerations. Clear information will be provided, and applicants will be asked to confirm their chosen option before any payment is made.

## 8. Privacy and Data Handling

We promise to protect your privacy and personal information:

- We only collect personal information that is absolutely necessary to verify your payment details and meet our legal obligations. Relevant payment details (such as bank account information or provider invoices) will be required solely for the purpose of the fund transfer.
- Any documents you may provide are strictly confidential. They are securely and permanently destroyed as soon as your grant processing and audit requirements are complete.
- Any data collected for reporting or evaluation of this fund will be completely anonymised to ensure your privacy is protected.

## 9. Optional Storytelling

Applicants have the option to share their personal stories in the application:

- Selection is completely random, so sharing or not sharing your story will NOT impact your chances of receiving a grant
- Stories help us understand community needs and demonstrate the impact of the fund
- With permission, anonymised stories may be shared to illustrate the importance of the fund, and help us seek funding for similar programs in the future

## 10. Evaluation and Feedback

Grant recipients will be invited to complete a voluntary, anonymised follow-up survey after receiving the funds.

Feedback helps improve future funding programs.

## 11. Frequently Asked Questions

### 1) Do I need to provide proof of my gender identity?

No. We trust applicants to self-identify. No medical documentation or "proof" of gender identity is required.

### 2) What if I'm not selected?

We encourage you to apply again in any future funding rounds. Unfortunately, we anticipate more need than available funding.

### **3) Can I apply for both grant sizes?**

Yes. If you select both, it just lets us know you're happy with either amount if your application is drawn. To keep the process fair, every person has exactly one entry in the random draw, so selecting both doesn't increase your chances of being selected. You can only receive one grant.

### **4) How will I receive the funds if selected?**

If selected, you will be able to choose between direct invoice payment, reimbursement, or a direct funds transfer. We will guide you through this process after selection.

### **5) What if my circumstances change after applying?**

Please contact us as soon as possible if your eligibility or contact information changes after submission.

### **6) Will I need to report on how I used the funds?**

No formal reporting is required. We will send an optional impact survey 3 months after distribution to help us improve the fund, but this is not mandatory.

### **7) What can I use the grant for exactly?**

Almost anything that supports your gender affirmation. This includes binders, packers, or new clothes; medical appointments, blood tests, or surgery costs; updating your name or gender marker on legal documents; or even covering rent or groceries while you take time off for a procedure.

### **8) Is this grant considered taxable income?**

Generally, one-off welfare grants from charities are not considered taxable income in Australia, but we recommend checking with a tax professional or the Australian Taxation Office if you are unsure how this payment might interact with your individual financial circumstances.

## **12. Contact Information**

For more information about the Gender Affirmation Mutual Aid Fund:

- Email: [admin@transfolkwa.org.au](mailto:admin@transfolkwa.org.au)
- Website: <https://transfolkwa.org.au/resources/mutualaid>

## **13. Acknowledgement**

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