

# Combating Disinformation and Misinformation: Mannifera's Open Grant Round Guidelines

Mannifera is a collective of Australian funders working together to invest in civil society organisations advocating for the systems change we need to strengthen our democracy and build an economy that works for everyone. Since our inception in 2019, we've delivered over \$3 million in grants to civil society organisations across Australia, while also creating space for funders and advocates to connect, learn from each other and build their collective power.

## Call for Proposals:

Since its establishment, Mannifera has supported advocacy work that enhances the fairness and quality of public debate. This includes efforts to advance political education, expose the influence of vested interests in shaping public policy, protect the right of civil society to advocate, and foster increased quality and diversity in media. In line with our work in this thematic focus area, Mannifera is launching a request for proposals from organisations working to combat the spread of disinformation and misinformation in Australia.

Events over the course of 2023 have underscored the profound impact that dis/misinformation is having on our democracy, social cohesion, and public discourse. This call for proposals represents a pivotal moment to advance collective action against the mounting impacts of dis/misinformation.

## What We're Funding:

Through this grant round Mannifera aims to support civil society-led advocacy efforts targeting the rise and spread of dis/misinformation and its impact on public debate, social cohesion, and political processes. This will include initiatives with a focus in one, or more, of the following areas:

1. Legislative or regulatory advocacy reform efforts to prevent the spread of dis/misinformation and establish greater accountability for those driving and enabling its dissemination.
2. Research exposing the source and scale of dis/misinformation, including the role of big tech companies, and strengthening advocacy for reform and public education campaigns.
3. Supporting the public in identifying dis/misinformation expediently and in ways that can be delivered at scale.
4. Promoting a healthy and balanced information ecosystem through advancing public interest journalism.
5. Building the capacity of civil society coalitions working across a range of complementary interventions to curb the spread of dis/misinformation.

Mannifera is aiming to deliver a total of \$200,000 to bolster work in these areas, supporting a number of organisations with one-year grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000, with the potential for renewal in future years. This initial funding pool, and the total number of organisations supported, may increase through co-funding support.



## Priorities and Assessment:

In this call for proposals, Mannifera will be prioritising projects that:

- Are national in scope with consideration of geographic equity.
- Are collaborative in nature, and have established partnerships with others working to combat mis/disinformation, contributing to a larger ecosystem of work in this area.
- Align strategically with existing projects supported by Mannifera.
- Are informed by the needs and expertise of people directly affected by the issue, including the perspectives of First Nations communities and women and gender diverse people.
- Have struggled to secure financial support elsewhere, but are critical to combating the spread of dis/misinformation.

Mannifera will assesses funding proposals in the following ways:

- Alignment with the criteria and priorities outlined above.
- Alignment with Mannifera's vision, values, and already supported activities.
- A well-reasoned theory of change.
- Opportunity for success or progress towards longer-term systemic change. .
- The right team or coalition of partners to undertake the work.

## Eligibility:

- We fund registered charities, ideally with DGR1 status, however can consider those with Tax Concessions status.
- We don't fund projects that are principally focused on service delivery, partisan, or general fundraising appeals.

## How to Apply:

Mannifera invites eligible organisations to submit proposals that align with our criteria and priorities.

- Apply via the Australian Communities Foundation Grants Portal by using this [link](#). If your organisation is not already registered with the Australian Communities Foundation, you will first need to register.
- Once you are in the Grants Portal, if the application does not display automatically, click the "Apply" button and use the access code: **MANNI2024**.
- Fill out the required information in the online application form. You can save and revisit your proposal.

[\*\*APPLY HERE\*\*](#)

## Timeline:

- Submission Deadline: **February 22nd, 2024**
- Review and Selection: February to March
- Notification of Results: End of March (all applicants will be notified of results).

For questions or technical assistance please reach out [info@mannifera.org.au](mailto:info@mannifera.org.au)

