

mannifera

Granting Guide



**Supporting
a stronger
democracy
and a fairer
Australia**

mannifera

Mannifera acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Mannifera members acknowledge that a history of colonisation, dispossession and disempowerment of First Nations peoples is woven into the fabric of our political and economic systems. We recognise that Australia cannot achieve a complete democracy or a fair economy without addressing this history, instating the rights and respecting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Mannifera is committed to listening to and learning from First Nations perspectives on the state of our democracy and economy with these perspectives informing funding decisions. Our implementation of this commitment is outlined in Mannifera's First Nations Inclusion Framework.

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Who we are



Mannifera is a collective of Australian philanthropic funders supporting a fairer Australia.

Our mission is to invest in civil society partners advocating for the structural change we need to strengthen our democracy and build an economy that works for everyone.

Our vision is a more complete democracy and an economy with fairness at its heart, protected by a robust and vibrant civil society sector.

The name Mannifera derives from the Eucalyptus Mannifera, also known as the brittle gum.

It is native to the Kangaroo Valley region, where the idea for this initiative took root.

Mannifera are resilient, surviving in poor conditions, much like the democratic movements we support. The trunk turns beautiful colours after rain, thriving when given resources.

Our values



Committed to First Nations peoples

We are committed to listening to and learning from First Nations perspectives and allocating a minimum of 20% of funding to First Nations-led work in our focus areas.



Non-partisan

A commitment to equality and the core principles of our democracy are not party-political positions. We include and encourage a diversity of values-aligned funders and civil society organisations in our work.



A partner to civil society

We are committed to strong, long-lasting partnerships with civil society that leverage our collective capabilities and resources.



Collaborative

We collaborate with civil society organisations and each other to strengthen our networks and build advocacy coalitions.



Humble and self-aware

We prioritise our collective learning through practice and education opportunities, and focus on enhancing the impact of our civil society partners.

Our approach to philanthropy

Mannifera is committed to developing a different kind of philanthropy. In line with our values, we cultivate power-sharing partnerships with civil society organisations. We believe this approach enables us to most effectively contribute to the structural change we want to see.

Characteristics of our partnerships

- **Civil society-led.** Mannifera members are informed by civil society leaders with intelligence and analysis of the political context and the most effective interventions to advance change.
- **Informed by people and communities.** Mannifera engages expertise that exists outside the mainstream, including the people and communities most impacted by the change we seek, to inform our learning, praxis and decision-making.
- **Responsive.** Mannifera considers the urgency of requests, especially when there is opportunity to take advantage of political and social moments.
- **Innovative and risk-tolerant.** Mannifera is willing to take calculated risks and support ideas and people with promising, new approaches and courageous, change-making campaigns. We acknowledge that not all efforts are successful and structural change takes time. We are prepared to respond in unusual, agile, untested and sometimes uncomfortable ways.

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Focus areas



Mannifera supports the advocacy work of civil society organisations, coalitions, campaigns and initiatives across four key focus areas.



Fairness in political participation

We support work that builds a strong civic culture of political participation, increasing fairness in political representation, greater transparency in political donations and setting campaign expenditure limits.



Fairness and quality in public debate

We support work that advances political education, exposes where vested interests capture public policy, supports the right of civil society to advocate, and increases the quality and diversity of media.



Civil society partner **First Australians Capital** is a national Indigenous-led organisation with a focus on early-stage and start-up Indigenous-run businesses.



Fair, accountable and open government

We support work that advocates for strong integrity systems that protect whistleblowers and hold Ministers and public decision-makers to account and well-resourced accountability institutions.



A fair and equitable tax system and economic safety net

We support work that influences rational and reasoned policy debates and actions to achieve greater fairness in our tax system, equity in the public provision of services and an economic safety net.





Civil society partner **Australian Democracy Network** brings people and organisations together to campaign for the changes that make our democracy more fair, balanced, transparent, accountable, and participatory.

Activities we support

Mannifera is open to supporting the following activities in pursuit of progress across our focus areas.

- Legislative or regulatory reform efforts that change or introduce new laws, processes and norms;
- Policy advocacy through 'inside tracks' of persuasion and influence or external public campaigning and outreach;
- Building advocacy coalitions and movements to achieve long-term change;
- Encouraging healthy and inclusive public discourse and political participation;
- Building journalism and media models that advance facts and the public interest;
- Minimising or countering misinformation and scare/hate campaigns especially around issues of race, gender and sexual identity;
- Research and dissemination;
- Storytelling and narrative campaigns;
- Capacity building of civil society;
- Convenings and collaborative initiatives;
- Piloting new and sometimes radical approaches; and
- Strategic litigation.

Priorities

Mannifera prioritises projects that are:

- led or informed by people directly affected by the issues
- include First Nations perspectives and expertise
- apply an explicit gender lens
- are national in scope with consideration of geographic equity
- align strategically with existing projects being supported by Mannifera.

Exclusions

The below are excluded from Mannifera's funding scope:

- projects or organisations that are partisan in nature
- projects that are principally service delivery in nature
- projects that discriminate in some way
- general fundraising appeals.

Assessment

Mannifera assesses funding proposals against the following criteria:

- alignment with at least one of Mannifera's focus areas
- alignment with Mannifera's vision, values and funding priorities
- alignment with Mannifera's supported activities
- a well-reasoned theory of change
- political opportunity for success or progress towards longer-term change
- organisational match with the right team or coalition of partners to undertake the work
- registered and endorsed as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) with the financial and governance structure required to receive philanthropic funds.



Civil society partner **Australian Associated Press** is Australia's national news agency, delivering a continuous stream of breaking news, information and photographs direct to subscribers. Photo credit: AAP.



Signature Grants

Mannifera funding can support core operations or be project-specific, depending on the needs of our civil society partners. Funding is primarily distributed through our Signature Grants, which are awarded at the annual Mannifera Muster.

Signature Grants support (1) core operations to advance significant advocacy, and (2) social change projects that align strongly with our focus areas and priorities. These grants can support organisations or projects get off the ground, build capacity and accelerate progress.

Stage 1: Open enquiry process

Mannifera’s Executive Officer coordinates all grant enquiries and invites expressions of interest from organisations and project leads where there is an alignment with Mannifera focus areas and priorities.

Stage 2: Declarations of interest

Mannifera collective members can recommend organisations and initiatives for consideration. For the purpose of transparency, any declarations of interest are recorded and assessed to determine if they present a conflict, or how they can be managed in the grant decision-making process.

Stage 3: Shortlisting process

A working group consisting of up to six Mannifera collective members reviews all expressions of interest and recommends a shortlist of organisations invited to submit funding proposals. The working group’s recommended shortlist is reviewed and endorsed by the Mannifera Taskforce. All Mannifera members are then notified of the shortlisting decisions. Shortlisted organisations are invited to submit funding proposals.



Civil society partner **Women for Election Australia** is a non-partisan, not-for-profit that aims to strengthen our democracy by increasing the number, diversity and influence of women in Australian politics and engaging more women in the political process.

Stage 4: Funding proposals

Mannifera’s Executive Officer evaluates all funding proposals against Mannifera’s assessment criteria. All proposals and evaluations are provided to the Mannifera collective in advance of the annual Muster.

Stage 5: Grant decisions

Grants are made at the annual Muster by way of a consensus decision-making process with all voting members of the collective.

First Nations Granting Process

Mannifera’s **First Nations Inclusion Framework** commits a minimum of 20% of our annual grants budget to First Nations-led work related to our strengthening democracy and economic fairness focus areas. First Nations-led grants are determined by a process that draws on the knowledge and expertise of First Nations advisors with careful consideration of work that is national in scope, but led by First Nations organisations in different parts of the country. First Nations-led grant recommendations are presented by the First Nations advisors at the annual muster.

2023 Muster Granting Timeline

- **Expressions of interest open**
23 January 2023
- **Expressions of interest close**
10 February 2023
- **Full proposals for shortlisted projects submitted** by mid-March 2023
- **Grant decisions: Mannifera Muster** by mid-May 2023
- **Notification of grant outcomes** by end of May 2023

Other granting

In addition to our Signature Grants awarded at the annual Mannifera Muster, we also award Rapid Response and Capacity Building Grants throughout the year.

Rapid Response Grants

Rapid Response Grants are awarded in pursuit of 'quick wins' or where there is a narrow window of opportunity for advocacy relevant to Mannifera's focus areas. These grants are usually one-off with strong possibility of unlocking other philanthropic support.

Process

Urgent funding proposals are reviewed by the Executive Officer and Taskforce in line with the Rapid Response grant type and Mannifera's focus areas and priorities. Recommendations are put forward by the Taskforce to all Mannifera members for their consideration and vote.

Capacity Building Grants

Capacity Building Grants help develop stronger leadership, collaborations, convenings, strategic planning or communications. These grants are usually one-off and can be awarded at the annual Mannifera Muster or as needed.

Process

Capacity Building Grant proposals develop out of Mannifera's civil society partnerships and collaborative work. Funding proposals are invited and reviewed by the Executive Officer and Taskforce with funding recommendations put to all Mannifera members for their consideration and vote.



Civil society partner **Grata Fund** builds a fairer world by harnessing the power of high impact strategic litigation to create structural change. Taking a movement lawyering approach, Grata breaks down barriers to litigation in three key areas: climate justice, human rights, and democratic freedoms.



Civil society partner **The Centre for Public Integrity** is an independent think tank dedicated to preventing corruption, protecting the integrity of our accountability institutions, and eliminating undue influence of money in politics in Australia.



Civil society partner **The Rapid Advocacy Fund** supported organisations such as Tomorrow Movement to campaign against cuts to JobSeeker during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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