



AUKUS and Housing Equipment and Capital Grants

2026-27 Guidelines

Introduction

The South Australian Government continues to invest in the capability and capacity of registered training organisations.

AUKUS and Housing Equipment and Capital Grants will support the South Australian Government's 2026 commitment to an additional investment in the training sector of \$3 million from 2026-27 to 2029-2030. This funding will support co-investment in state-of-the-art training facilities, contemporary infrastructure and technology, and industry-relevant equipment that increases provider capacity to deliver high-quality training that prepares skilled workers for work in the defence and construction sectors.

To implement this commitment, up to \$3 million in grants will be awarded through the Equipment and Capital Grants program in 2026-27 to support impact in the delivery of courses aligned to the defence and construction sectors (\$1.5 million for each sector). Grants will support matched 1:1 funding which will support a shared investment with industry of up to \$6 million.

Since 2023-24, Equipment and Capital Grants have supported over 30 organisations to build their delivery capability and capacity. For information about the most recent grants awarded, visit the [Equipment and Capital Grants website](#).

2026-27 priorities

In 2026-27, AUKUS and Housing Equipment and Capital Grants have been aligned to the outcomes sought by the Government of South Australia's [Housing Skills Plan](#) and [AUKUS Skills Plan](#), and will support co-investment in vocational training for these sectors.

AUKUS and Housing Equipment and Capital Grants will support eligible providers to:

- apply for grants supporting state-of-the-art equipment, technology and facilities with demonstrable connection to **supporting student access, uptake, and completions** in priority courses for the defence and construction sectors
- seek government co-investment on a matched 1:1 basis.

Applications supporting delivery in courses aligned to **demonstrable employment opportunities** in growth occupations in shortage and/or persistent shortage in South Australia will be highly regarded in assessment.

1. Who can apply

Applications are invited from providers who:

- have a current Funded Activities Agreement with Skills SA, **AND**
- deliver defence and/or construction and infra-structure related vocational education and training **AND** are not-for-profit¹ **AND/OR** are an industry association², **OR**

¹ Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA), on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission register or holds a comparable legal status.

² RTOs identified as 'industry association' as the training organisation type identifier published on training.gov.au.

- are TAFE SA.

Eligible providers can apply for **one grant per sector stream**.

Local, state and Australian Government entities are not eligible to apply.

2. How to apply

Applications open **Monday 21 September 2026** and close **Friday 16 October 2026 at 5.00 pm** Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT).

If your organisation is eligible to apply, you will receive an email from Skills SA with a link to an online application form.

To apply, you will need to set up a *Smarty Grants* account or log in to an existing account.

When an application is submitted, the nominated contact person will receive an automated email confirming receipt and a copy of the application.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Tips for applying

- Before commencing an application, **you should read and understand these guidelines**.
- **Keep your responses to the questions clear and concise** and ensure the most critical information is prominent.
- As your application will be **de-identified** during the assessment process, **it is important you assume the reader is not familiar with your context or organisation**.
- Before submitting your application, make sure it is complete and accurate. You will also need to complete a budget template and attach this to your application.
- If you have questions or believe you are an eligible organisation and have not received the application link; please contact us [here](#). Skills SA will respond to questions through online updates while applications are open.

3. What you can apply for

Grants of up to **\$250,000**³ are available for the purchase⁴ or lease of:

- contemporary and/or state-of-the-art training facilities that support delivery of training outcomes in priority courses aligned to the defence and construction sectors (see *2026-27 priorities* on page 2)
- industry-relevant equipment for use in training (including specialist consumables demonstrably supporting the equipment and/or intended outcomes of this grant)

³ Skills SA reserves the right to award grants valued at more than \$250,000 where there is a strong business case and significant impact is evidenced for industry and students.

⁴ There is a preference for ownership of facilities, equipment and products, particularly where shared access is established.

- hardware and software that supports a contemporary learning environment (for example virtual reality equipment, artificial intelligence systems)
- training products and contemporary teaching materials and learning resources.

In addition, funding can support:

- engagement of industry or relevant expertise required to implement and apply equipment, infra-structure and products purchased through the grant
- costs associated with establishing shared access to privately owned facilities, equipment and products (including legal costs, lease or rental costs, insurance).

Applications must identify co-investment on a 1:1 basis matched to what is being requested. Co-investment can be from the applicant directly and/or through partnerships with demonstrated commitment.

Applications without co-investment will not be assessed by the Assessment Panel.

All grant activities must be completed by **31 May 2027**, unless otherwise negotiated with Skills SA.

What cannot be funded

- Purchase of land
- Delivery of VET or non-accredited training to students
- Business as usual training consumables or resources
- Repayment of a loan or debt
- Project activities that commence prior to both parties executing the grant contract
- Recurrent operational costs, business as usual activities and project management costs.

4. How applications will be assessed

The assessment approach for AUKUS and Housing Equipment and Capital Grants is **competitive**.

Applications will be **de-identified** and assessed against four assessment criteria:

- Business case
- Impact and sustainability
- Value for money, including matched co-contribution
- Organisational capability and capacity, including past performance.

Applications must address all selection criteria.

In addition, delivery in courses aligned to demonstrable employment opportunities in growth occupations in shortage and/or persistent shortage in South Australia will be highly regarded in assessment.

4.1. Business case

Applications must provide a justification for grant funding, which includes the rationale and benefits for the business. Applicants should clearly identify:

- what is the business need, opportunity, problem or barrier you are seeking to address
- what will be purchased with the funding
- how this will address the need, opportunity, problem or barrier, and increase the business capacity and capability of your organisation.

Applications should include references and examples where appropriate.

4.2. Impact and sustainability

Applications must demonstrate how the grant funding will contribute to the delivery of priority training and outcomes.

Applicants should clearly identify:

- how the grant will contribute to training in the defence or construction sectors that prepare students for work in these sectors
- who will own the infrastructure, equipment and products, how long the equipment will remain current and relevant, how additional costs associated with the equipment will be managed (i.e. depreciation costs) and what will happen when equipment becomes obsolete
- how the grant will benefit students, employers, industry and/or regions in the immediate⁵, medium⁶ and longer term, and how this will be sustained.

Applications should include applied evidence from reliable sources where relevant.

Assessment will positively weigh applications that:

- demonstrate shared access and benefits through partnerships with other organisations
- involve facilities, equipment or products that are to be owned by the applicant.

Skills SA will also assess that no dependency for ongoing government investment is created beyond the life of the grant.

4.3. Value for money

Applications must demonstrate value for money where funding requested is appropriate for identified benefits and impact. Applicants should clearly identify:

- how much funding is being requested, for what and should include quotations for each asset budget item
- the value and type of co-investment from the applicant

⁵ By the conclusion of the grant.

⁶ In the year after the grant has concluded.

- how the short to medium term benefits identified for the applicant, apprentices, employers, industry and/or regions will be measured and validated.

Applications must identify co-investment on a 1:1 basis matched to that being requested. Applicants may also identify in-kind contributions associated with delivering the project's outcomes and objectives.

4.4. Organisational capability and capacity

Applications must demonstrate that the applicant is capable and has capacity to deliver the grant. Applicants should clearly identify:

- key activities that are reasonable, realistic and will support the delivery of the grant and realisation of benefits
- how you will ensure success, including relevant examples of previous grant experience
- what risks there are, and what steps you will take to mitigate them, including how you will sub-contract and/or purchase goods or services from a third-party organisation.

Past performance will be considered where an applicant has received funding from Skills SA in the past three years. This includes contract compliance, current delivery to South Australian students and the achievement of past contracted outcomes.

5. How grants will be paid

Successful applicants will be offered a Funded Activities Agreement project annexure, which will include the funding value, payment structure and reporting milestones. Grant milestones assist Skills SA to understand the benefit and impact of funds awarded.

Payment will be made against agreed key milestones negotiated during contract development. Where contract milestones are not achieved, Skills SA may require repayment of funds.

Skills SA will assign a project manager to support successful applicants, they will support applicants with specific information on reporting requirements, claims templates and marketing support.

6. Timelines

Applications open	Monday 21 September 2026
Applications close	Friday 16 October 2026 at 5:00 pm Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT). No applications will be accepted after this time.
Grants completed	Grant activities and reporting must be completed by 31 May 2027, unless otherwise negotiated with Skills SA.