Grants Program 2026

Applications now open!

BACKGROUND

Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network's Grants Program 2026 (AusTimorFN Grants Program) has been funded through the generous support of **Kirsty Sword-Gusmao's 2026 Timor-Leste Study Tour.**

Following on from the 2025 Friendship Conference in Dili, the Friendship Groups are invited to develop a community development project proposal that addresses one of the three themes of the Dili Conference with a core focus on empowerment:

- Women,
- Youth,
- People with disability.

The AusTimorFN Grants Program panel will select three Friendship Group applicants' projects to be funded with a grant of up to Aust$5,000. The grants aim is to support Friendship Groups to deliver real, tangible benefits to their Timorese communities, to improve their lives and bring about positive, lasting change to their communities.

At the conclusion of the project, we will provide an acquittal form that must be completed by the Friendship Group to demonstrate outcomes and expenditure (evidenced by receipts) on the project. Depending on the project timeline we may also require a progress update.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The Grant Panel will highly regard projects that are inclusive, empowering and work in collaboration with the Timorese community. Projects should focus on creating opportunities, empowerment and sharing the benefits to impact on the wider community. Where possible long-term sustainability is desirable.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Friendship Groups may put in more than one project application – however, only one project will be selected per Friendship Group.
2. Friendship Groups may put forward projects that are co-funded by them or with other organisations.
3. The Grant Panel reserves the right to choose the best three projects put forward without having to allocate one project to each of the above themes.
4. Funding for airfares should not be included in the budget proposal.
5. **Grant Applications will close on Sunday, 15th March 2026,** *(but we encourage you to submit it prior to this date)*.
6. **All Applicants will be notified by the end of April 2026 as to the projects that the panel have selected to fund.**
7. **The project funding will be distributed with $2,000 in June 2026 and the balance in July 2026.**
8. **All projects should ideally be completed by the end of 2026, but at the latest by September 2027.**

If you have questions, please contact:

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