

Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG)

Rotary Australia Compassionate Grant (RACG) Projects have been made possible by philanthropic donations to Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS).

RACG Projects are registered under the entity of Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS), ABN 54 563 288 318. All RABS Projects have DGR status with the ATO. i.e., donations are tax deductible.

The aim of the RACG Projects is to **provide assistance to disadvantaged members of the Australian community** irrespective of their location within Australia.

What are the Project Criteria?

1. RACG online Project Applications may be submitted by a Rotary Club or a Rotary District.
2. RACG Projects must provide **specific, direct relief to people in need** and not be simply a general funding donation to an organisation even though that organisation may provide assistance to people in need.
3. The funding must satisfy a specific need and may be provided directly to a person or a small group of people. Alternatively, the funding may be to an organisation to provide a piece of equipment that will satisfy the needs of a disadvantaged section of the community.
4. The funding must satisfy the needs of disadvantaged people or a small, disadvantaged section of the community and not be simply to provide a benefit to the whole community.
5. The project should be such as to arouse the compassion of the community.
6. The project should define and target the disadvantage or need of the people or group of people for whom it is intended.
7. The concept of disadvantage is unlimited and could arise from sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, disability, destitution, helplessness or poverty, any aspect of the negative side of the human condition. The criteria are not prescriptive but should be used as a guide to determine the disadvantage.
8. Priority for grants will be given to those whose disadvantage has arisen from an 'ad hoc' event over which the disadvantaged had no control, such as an accident, assault, medical condition.
9. RACG Projects cannot be registered as part of an existing RABS Project.

Project Funding

10. Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants will match a Club's or District's fundraising on a dollar-for-dollar basis subject to the following:
 - a. a qualifying project must have a minimum value of \$2,000 (i.e., a minimum grant of \$1,000),
 - b. the maximum value of any single Project grant will be \$10,000,
 - c. a Club or District that has had a RACG Project approved, may apply to register additional Projects subject to satisfactory progress of the previous grant.
11. All RACG Projects must contain a budget that states the total cost of the project and the anticipated source of these funds.
12. All RACG Projects must be completed in a timely manner and are required to submit six monthly online progress reports when requested and a final report on completion.
13. ALL Project donations from Club and other sources **MUST** be paid into the RAWCS Account for the Project concerned. The full RACG matched grant requested on the application will be deposited into the project once all Club & Other Contributions including the RAWCS service fee have been received into the project.
14. A service fee of 5.0% (5.5% plus GST) will be deducted from all donations to all RACG Projects unless the RAWCS Ltd Board deems the donation to be strategic or not in the best interest of RAWCS to deduct the full, service fee.

All donations requiring a tax deduction must be deposited into the RACG account by the online donation facility established for each project. Deposits can be made by credit card, cheque, or direct deposit.

Payments to the project will then be made by the National Secretariat at the request of the Project Manager. They must complete a "Request to Transfer Funds Form" available from the RAWCS website at Rotarians Centre/Operational Guidelines & Templates. The signed and completed form should be emailed to the National Secretariat together with invoices and / or supporting documentation.

NOTE: Credit card donations will only be accepted using cards issued by an Australian bank, or an Australian branch of an international bank.

15. ALL the information including the financial transactions are to be kept for a minimum of seven years by the Project Manager and must be available for inspection by ACNC in the event of a Project audit.

Registering a RACG Project

All RACG Projects are registered using the on-line registration process.

The normal RAWCS project approvals process has been streamlined to enable efficient administration. The Club provides final endorsement of each project submitted by the Project Manager and the project then goes to a Screening Committee of three Rotarians. Following endorsement by the Screening Committee, the Project goes to the RAWCS National Project Manager for approval and registration. Once registered, RACG Projects appear as normal RABS Projects with (RACG) appended to the Project title.

The Project Manager and Deputy Project Manager must be active members of the Sponsoring Club, must list at least one Committee member and it is encouraged to list a complete Committee for the Project. Committee members can be Rotarians from other Rotary Clubs and Non-Rotarians assisting with the project.

The following RABS projects are examples of projects considered to meet the above RACG approval criteria:

- Provision of a modified family motor vehicle for a 6-year-old child with cerebral palsy
- Modifications to a home to assist access and functionality for a quadriplegic
- Financial assistance for a seriously injured sportsman's family
- Ongoing support for non-PBS medicines for a sufferer of Lyme's disease
- Provision of a specialised bed for a person with Parkinson's Disease
- Supply insulin pumps to three children with juvenile diabetes
- Provision of improved prosthetics for an amputee
- Assistance to a family who lost everything in a fire
- Provision of financial assistance to a young family whose mother drowned
- Providing refurbishment of a kitchen and bathroom for a women's refuge or for a house for disabled people.

For further assistance contact your District RAWCS Chair or visit the RAWCS website.