



## Variety NT Individual Application Process

**About Variety NT:** Variety Northern Territory (Variety NT) believes in giving all kids a fair go. Our Individual Grants aim to support children in the Northern Territory who are disadvantaged, sick or living with a disability. We're committed to fostering inclusion and equality within our community to help kids reach their full potential.

### Eligibility:

**Applicants** are eligible to apply for an individual grant provided that the beneficiary:

- Is a resident in the NT.
- Note: Appeals from non-residents may be considered where applicants are located outside of the NT, and fundraising was raised by Variety NT teams from that locale, for the benefit of Variety NT.
- Is aged 0-17 years.
- Is disadvantaged and/or has a disability or long-term health condition as recognised by an accredited health professional.

### Application process

1. **Submit Online Application:** Complete and submit the online application form with all supporting documentation, including financial details and relevant evidence.
2. **Pre-Assessment:** Your application will be pre-assessed by our team at Variety NT. We will contact you if your application does not meet the criteria or needs additional information, before proceeding to the next stage.
3. **Review:** The Kids Support Committee, which includes qualified professionals, will review your submission.
4. **Outcome:** You will receive an outcome via email following assessment by Variety NT.

For further information, please refer to the ***Variety NT Grants Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria for Individuals and Community.***

### Request & Funding Information

Funding of up to \$8,000 can be requested.

- Requested items must directly benefit the child to address their disadvantage and/or assist them with their illness or disability, promoting inclusion and equality.

- Funding is for physical items or resources only such as equipment or resources for hire or purchase that promote the child's physical development, independence and social inclusion.
- For children living with a disability or illness, the applicant can select one item or package as recommended by a specialist, as part of their grant request. This must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by the Specialist or accredited Allied Health professional.

Variety NT recommends that applicants consult with their NDIS planner, specialist, or social/support worker before starting a Variety NT application so they can support the application through the process.

## **NDIS**

Is your child part of the NDIS?

- **YES:** As part of the application, the applicant must identify why the item you are requesting are not covered by their NDIS plan. Reasons may include, but are not limited to:
  - Planning meeting has yet to occur.
  - The item was not supported by the NDIS (A copy of the NDIS decline letter will need to be provided).
  - Wait time for NDIS decision has become detrimental to the beneficiary.
- **NO** – Applications are welcome from children aged 0-17 years who have been medically diagnosed with a chronic illness or disability and are not approved under the NDIS.

### **A Variety Individual Grant may fund:**

Up to \$8,000 can be requested. The applicant may only apply for one item that is directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a specialist or accredited allied health professional.

### **Current grant priorities for Individuals are, but are not limited to:**

- Adaptive / therapy toys
- Special needs strollers and pushchairs
- Wheelchairs – powered/electric/manual/sports (must be assessed, prescribed, and trialed by a licensed OT)
- Specialised Car Seats
- Pediatric wheelchairs
- Bikes – including modified bikes, trikes, and scooters
- Specialised walking/running aids
- IT equipment
- Assistance animals (partial funding) will only be considered if the animal is trained and accredited to assist children with a disability, to alleviate the effect of the

disability and meet the standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for the situation.

### **Ineligible Requests**

- Incomplete applications.
- Services or equipment not directly related to a child's special/extra needs, and which are not deemed medically/developmentally necessary.
- Grant requests for people over 18 years old – Grants applications must be submitted before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Expenses that have already been incurred or occurred prior to submission and written approval
- Travel expenses – including public transport and petrol \*
- Warranties, insurance, maintenance, service agreements, batteries, repairs.
- Administrative fees or operational costs.
- Sports equipment that is non-adaptive.
- Equipment from non-Australian distributors that cannot be invoiced directly to Variety NT or services outside Australia.
- Capital/Structural improvements works.
- Installation costs.
- Air Conditioner Units.
- Toys that are not directly related to the child's therapy.

\* Note: Additional expenses or financial assistance not covered by the Patient's Assistance Travel Scheme, may be considered for approval in extenuating circumstances, on an individual basis.

### **Application Documentation**

**All grant** requests for children with a disability or illness require the following documents:

- Confirmation of the child's diagnosis/condition on letterhead from a pediatrician or medical specialist. This document must be dated within 6 months of the time of submission.
- A support letter from a relevant healthcare professional (such as an occupational therapist, speech therapist, physiotherapist, or pediatrician) to address the following criteria:
  - The need for the request
  - How the request will support the overall care plan and benefit the child
  - Evidence of a trial of the equipment (if applicable). This document must be dated within six months of the application
  - For medical equipment, evidence of training.
- Proof of other available funding avenues exhausted or denied.

- Equipment grant documentation.
  - Two quotes for the requested equipment from suppliers that the applicant wishes to use. These must be no older than three months at the time of submission and must remain valid throughout the assessment process.
  - Variety NT may choose to source the equipment from another supplier or, depending on the longevity of the equipment requested, may choose to fund the hire, rather than the outright purchase, of the equipment.
  
- Family household income.
  - Most recent tax returns and a copy of 3 current pay slips.
  - Most recent Centrelink activity statement. (You can view, download, or request a copy of your activity statement via your Centrelink online account through myGov).
  - This includes but not limited to Family tax payment, Child support payment, Carers Adjustment Payment, Carers allowance, Carers payment, Medical Equipment payment, job seeker payment, DVA, Rental income, Commercial income, and any Super payments.
  
- Co-Contribution
 

Where an applicant is willing to contribute towards the item or package requested, they must identify the amount they are able to contribute (either personally or through other means of support) and indicate the remaining amount in the grant application. For instance, if the total is \$1000 and an applicant selects to contribute \$150, the amount requested for a Variety NT Grant would be \$850.
  
- Publicity and Reporting
 

Applicants will be invited to sign a media release form granting Variety NT the right to use any supplied images or testimonials on its Website or Social Media. The primary intent of our media activities is to thank Donors and encourage future support.