

Introduction

Variety Tasmania aims to empower children, who fall through the gaps of the system and have no other sources of support available to them.

Variety Tasmania provides practical equipment, experiences and resources (such as communication devices, mobility or medical equipment) for children, under the age of 18 years old, who are sick, disadvantaged or have additional needs.

Individual Grants are usually capped at \$5,000 per application annually.

Before you consider applying for a Grant with Variety Tasmania, please take the time to explore what else may be available for you by visiting Find Your Way (<http://findingyourway.com.au/>) and Find Help Tasmania (www.findhelptas.com.au).

Application

- Applications are open all year round
- Applicants must reside in Tasmania
- Applications are made on behalf of the child by a Parent/Carer or a registered health professional, education professional or case worker, aged over 18 years old
- Applicants will be expected to submit a truthful and factual application and attach relevant documentation as evidence addressing, but not limited to, the following points:
 - Name and contact details of applicant
 - Details directly related to the child's parent(s) / carer(s)
 - Financial documents uploaded with the application must be related to the household income including shares, dividends etc.

Is your child registered with the NDIS?

As part of the application, you will be asked to identify why the item(s) you are requesting a Variety Grant for are not covered by the child's NDIS plan. Varying reasons may include but are not limited to:

- planning meeting has yet to occur
- funds already allocated to other items
- was not supported by the NDIS (an explanation will need to be provided)

If the child has a disability and is not registered with the NDIS, you will be asked to provide reasons to justify as to why not.

Attachments/Evidence

The following attachments must be included as part of the application;

1. A letter from a **GP or Paediatrician** on letterhead outlining the child's diagnosis/condition (where applicable)
This document must be dated within 3 months of the time of submission
2. A letter from an **Allied Health Professional** on letterhead (such as a clinical or social therapist or a counselor) referencing the following
 - i. how the recommended equipment is beneficial to the child
 - ii. evidence of a trial of the equipment (if applicable)

This document must be dated within 3 months of the application

3. Household Income

Proof of income for all relevant parents / guardians. Please provide copies of the most recent documents (no older than 3 months) related to

- The last 3 pay slips, if currently employed and/or
- Centrelink Statement if currently receiving any benefits
If you are employed and receiving Centrelink payments, you need to upload copies of your pay slips and Centrelink Statement
- If self-employed, a copy of the ATO's Notice of Assessment/Tax Return for the most recent financial year must be provided.

4. Quotes from two suppliers. The quotes must be less than two months old and include GST and freight charges, if applicable. The two-quote rule can be varied if:

- i. the child's family is in a remote area and there is only one supplier nearby
- ii. there is only one supplier in Tasmania.

When all features or capabilities of equipment/items are equal, and only the price is affected - Variety will only pay for the most competitive price from the quotes presented.

Contribution

Where an applicant is not requesting the full amount for an item, they must identify in their application how much money they are able to contribute (either personally or through other means of support) to the total cost so that it reconciles with both the Grant amount requested and the quote supplied. (i.e. total quote for item is \$1,000, applicant selects to contribute \$150 so the amount requested from Variety should be \$850).

Variety's Grant can only be issued once a proof of the applicant contribution has been secured and finalised.

Post-Submission and Assessment

- Criteria eligibility is assessed by Variety Tasmania team
- Eligible applications are presented to the Variety Grants Committee (VGC) for assessment and recommendations
- Approved applications are put forward to the Board of Directors with VGC recommendations for their final decision.

Decision

Outcome Letter is emailed to the applicant approximately 4-6 weeks after their initial submission

Unsuccessful Applicants

- The Board's decision is final
- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of the Board of Directors
- Unsuccessful applicants may be eligible to reapply in 12 months from the date listed on the Outcome Letter.

Successful Applicants

- Successful Applicants have 12 months from the date of the Outcome Letter to use the Grant
- No retrospective funding is eligible
- Variety Tasmania may choose to use their own preferred supplier
- Invoices are paid directly to suppliers by Variety Tasmania
- It is the responsibility of the Parent/Carer to action all appropriate steps after receiving the Outcome Letter promptly and transparently as directed by Variety
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the Grant's expiry date
- Any unused and/or unspent funds will be forfeited after the Grant's expiry date or if the reason for the Grant was delivered at a lower cost than initially anticipated.
- It is a requirement of the Applicant to keep Variety Tasmania up to date with any potential delays or logistical obstacles that may arise during the process of acquiring the item(s).

Individual Grants – Restrictions and Specifications

- Variety Tasmania's Grants are designed to be flexible and allow you to apply for the items that best meet your child's individual needs. Variety understands that every child is different, so every application is considered on a case-by-case basis. All applications are subject to an assessment process, with priority given to the most compelling need
- Applicants can select one or more items as part of their Grant request
- For applicants with disabilities, items requested must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a GP and Allied Health Professional. In most cases, you will be able to claim an item through your NDIS plan. If not, please let us know why the required equipment/item cannot be covered by the child's NDIS plan.
- **Communication Technology Grant requests**
Applicants can apply for a range of items relating to technology and communication, for example:
 - Communication software or apps
 - Tablet / laptop
 - Speech Generating Device - (e.g. C-PEN Reader, eye control devices, static display devices, dynamic display devices etc.)
 - Voice amplifier
 - External speakers for communication devices
 - Switch for communication device
 - Mounting system - to hold communication device in place
 - Braille
- **Software**
Should Variety approve a Variety Grant for the purchase of specialised software, the approval shall generally be for only one copy of that software. In the case of licensed software, Variety may approve a single licence for the user only.

In most cases, the licence is transferrable across different physical devices however, the Grant recipient will always retain ownership of the licence.

- **Mobility Grant requests**

Applicants can apply for a range of mobility equipment (usually limited to \$5,000), for example:

- Bike – including modified bikes, trikes and scooters
- Car Seats – including position systems
- Helmets – including safety helmets for bikes and seizures
- In home mobility and regulatory therapeutic items – e.g. trampolines
- Portable Ramps – access ramps for car, homes or buildings (no home or vehicle modifications)
- Shower Chairs/lifters
- Stenders – standing frames and standing assistive equipment
- Strollers – strictly for children aged 5 years and younger only
- Toilet Chairs
- Other items will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- **Medical Grant requests**

Grants for Medical Equipment must be directly related to the child's diagnosis and supported by a GP and Allied Health Professional, for example:

- Bedroom Items – e.g. electric or specialised beds, mattresses
- Helmets - cranial helmets used for shaping skulls or safety helmets for seizures
- Insulin Pump
- Nebulizer or Humidifier
- Orthotics - Dynamic Movement Orthoses, second skin, dynamic splits or compression stockings
- Sensory Equipment – items promoting the stimulation of the senses
- Vaporizer or humidifier

A lot of medical equipment related items, should be applicable for funding under the NDIS plan, if it is not, please submit the application with relevant documentation stating why these items are not funded under the NDIS plan.

If unsure, please contact us on info@varietytas.org.au or (03) 6248 4888 to discuss your specific request.

The following Grant requests are not eligible

The following will not be considered

- Retrospective funding – only items purchased **after** the approval date will be eligible to claim
- Servicing and/or maintenance of item(s) and/or equipment
- Installation/technical support or therapeutic
- Insurance/Warranty
- House or vehicle modification

Reporting

The applicant will be asked to complete a short survey after a reasonable period of time of receiving the equipment/item(s). This will be emailed to the applicants prior to the end of their Grant expiry.

Outside completing a survey and without obligation, Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being and achievements once they've received their Grant. If the Parent/Carer and the child feel comfortable to share any updates with Variety, please email those stories and photos to info@varietytas.org.au.

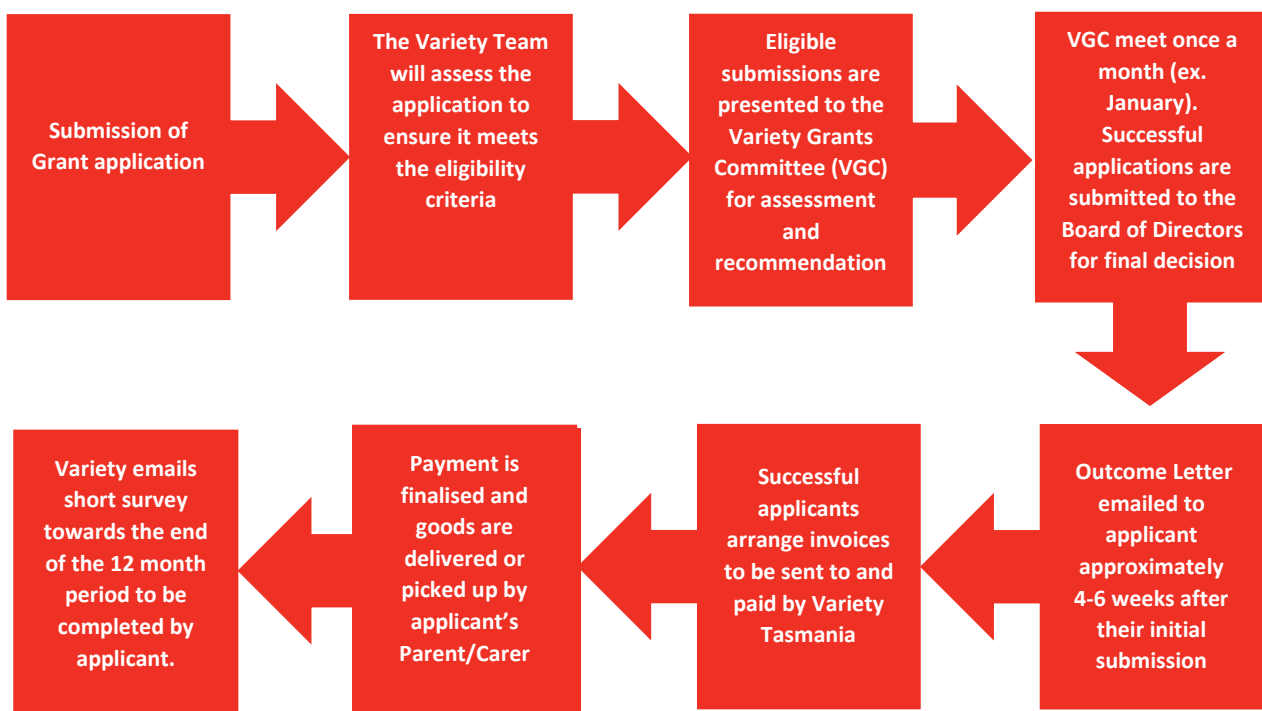
Will Variety publish details about my child's Grant?

Variety's most successful way of raising money for children in need is to demonstrate by way of images and personal accounts, how donations are making a positive impact on the lives of children in need. Allowing Variety to tell your story, provides its corporate partners and supporters insight into Variety's work and encourages more donations and support which will be used to help more children.

The story of all successful applicants, including the Grant amount they receive, may be made publicly available by Variety Tasmania for marketing purposes, unless otherwise requested by the Grant recipient due to extenuating circumstances.

An example of what Variety may promote is *'7-year-old Amy has Autism and experiences developmental delay. Variety Tasmania gifted Amy an iPad to assist with the development of her communication skills'*.

Application Process Flow



For further details or clarification please call us on (03) 6248 4888 or email info@varietytas.org.au