

# Justice Anew

## 2026 Change Grants Stream

### GUIDELINES

Closing date: Monday 2 March 2026

### Applications now open

**The Justice Anew stream aims to support the Victorian Community Legal Sector to work in partnerships to implement ambitious, transformational initiatives that will shape the future of legal assistance in Victoria.**

Applications are welcomed from Victorian Community Legal Centres (CLCs) working in partnerships to harness technology, service system redesign and/or economies of scale to improve justice outcomes for people in Victoria.

This funding will enable the sector to implement strategic projects to realise their vision for a system that:

- + Is easier for people to understand and navigate
- + Enables more people to access the legal help they need when they need it
- + Helps people resolve their legal issues sooner
- + Does not disadvantage those living in regional, rural and remote communities.



### What's on offer?

This round will fund a small number of ambitious partnerships to implement system improvements. Successful applicants will receive tailored funding and support. Multi-year funding of 1-3 years is possible. Funding is time limited.

### Interested in applying?

First book a time to discuss your proposal with us by emailing [funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au) before **Monday 16 February 2026**.

Complete and submit an application using our [online portal](#).

The closing date is **5pm, Monday 2 March 2026**.

## Justice Anew Grant Stream Objectives

We are looking for applications that transcend individual organisation's initiatives and create a vision for the future of legal assistance. Applications should reflect a belief in the sector's capacity to harness this moment of resourcing, technological advancement and disruption to lead and position CLCs for long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

Successful applications will work towards achieving these objectives:

Expanded Access	Swift Assistance	Tailored Support	Operational Sustainability	Equitable Access
Significantly more people can access the legal assistance they require.	Legal assistance services are demonstrably easier to navigate so people can access assistance quickly.	Services are customized to different levels of capability.	Legal assistance organisations are more efficient and reduce operational costs.	Improved consistency and availability of legal assistance across the State.

## Example activities eligible for funding:

**Structural Reform:** Exploring economies of scale, such as deeper collaboration, amalgamation, or even mergers, to improve efficiency and create more impactful outcomes for clients and communities.

### Technological Integration:

- ✚ Leveraging AI and digital tools to streamline business, intake and referral processes.
- ✚ Increasing availability of digital self-help resources and legal information.

**Service Model Innovation:** Enhancing collaboration between specialist and generalist services.

**Cost Reduction Strategies:** Collective procurement of services or software.

**Cross-Sector Partnerships:** Partnering with private legal practices to adapt and test their technological approaches in the legal assistance context.

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“With technology evolving rapidly, and findings from the Victorian Public Understanding of Law Survey (PULS) and pilot V-LULU survey bringing about a paradigm shift in our understanding of people's individual capabilities to engage with and benefit from law, **opportunities now exist** to better align services with needs, customise approaches to individual capabilities, and enable more efficient and effective resolution of everyday legal matters.”

Prof Pascoe Pleasence, Prof Nigel J Balmer and Dr Karen Nokes: [New Vision for a New Future: The Pilot Victorian Legal Understanding and Lawyer Use \(V-LULU\) Survey](#)

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## Justice Anew Grants: Assessment Criteria

Grants will be assessed against the following criteria:

- + scale of impact is at ecosystem/sector level
- + rationale and implementation strategy are clear and robust
- + the proposed activity is likely to achieve system improvements for the sector
- + the proposed activity can achieve a measurable impact within the grant term
- + relevant collaborative partnerships are in place
- + the proposed budget is appropriate and reasonable

## Eligibility

### Who can apply

This grants round seeks to support the legal assistance sector to work collaboratively to implement ambitious initiatives to improve justice outcomes for Victorians.

The lead applicant must be a Community Legal Centre that:

- + is based in Victoria and whose activities take place in Victoria
- + has satisfactorily acquitted all previous VLSB-grants
- + submits an application in accordance with specified timelines and processes
- + demonstrates capacity to deliver the proposed initiative
- + shows alignment with the grant round objectives and commitment to sector-wide impact.

## Budget

The level of funding available for individual projects will vary depending on the nature of the initiative. Your budget should be realistic and suit the scale and complexity of the initiative being proposed.

Grants are only available for projects that will start after funding is approved – they cannot be backdated and applied to work already undertaken. Grants are also not subject to GST. This should be reflected in your budget.

We have a GST private binding ruling from the Australian Tax Office which confirms that payment of grants will not be subject to GST.

### The following will not be funded

- + activities not relevant to Victoria
- + studies to obtain a degree or diploma
- + litigation costs
- + government organisations/statutory authorities (unless for exceptional work that is not part of their primary responsibility)
- + delivery of practical legal training courses
- + school and TAFE-based educational programs that are normally part of the curriculum
- + recurrent or core operational costs
- + purchasing of property or vehicles
- + commercial or fundraising activities
- + international travel costs
- + prizes, awards, competitions or conferences

## How to Apply

1. Review the grant guidelines, eligibility, assessment criteria and application form.
2. In February 2026, speak with the Grants team about your proposal before you submit an application.

Book in a meeting time by emailing [funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:funding@lsbc.vic.gov.au) **by no later than Monday 16 February 2026.**

3. Complete your application via our [Online Portal](#) and submit it by **5pm, Monday 2 March 2026.**

Timeline	
Applications Open	<b>Friday 19 December 2025</b>
Inquiries & meetings	<b>Monday 2 February – Monday 23 February 2026</b>
Applications Close	<b>5pm, Monday 2 March 2026</b>

Only one (1) Justice Anew grant application per organisation will be accepted.

## Conditions of Applying

Successful applicants must adhere to all State and Commonwealth regulations, statutes and policies regarding equal opportunity, employment laws, standards of conduct, health and safety requirements, privacy, and freedom of information.

We may require that reports, research and other work enabled by grants be published and made publicly available.

Our support should be acknowledged in all published material.

## Reporting and Evaluation

Evaluation must be built into your project plan. You may be required to participate in evaluation workshops.

Details on all monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements for successful grantees will be included in the Letter of Offer.

Please note that additional requirements apply for larger grants and/or longer program periods. For example, if a grant runs longer than 12 months you will be required to submit an annual work plan and 12-monthly checks against the work plan.

All grantees will be required to provide interim reports and an evaluation of completed projects.

## Letters of Commitment

Your application must include Letters of Commitment from key partner organisations. These letters, signed by the CEO, should detail the scale and nature of the partnership.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I apply to both the Justice Anew and Building Justice grant streams?

Yes, an organisation may submit an application to both the Justice Anew and Building Justice grant streams. The two streams have different aims and criteria. Please review the guidelines closely to ensure your proposals are suitable and fulfil the relevant requirements. We also advise you to discuss your intentions with Grants Program staff.

### Why do you want me to contact you to discuss my application?

We want to give your application every chance of success. Having a conversation allows us to identify any potential issues with your project and gives you the opportunity to fine-tune your application before submission.

### Is funding limited to a specific time frame?

Yes. Grants are limited to projects ranging between 1-3 years. Our funding is not ongoing. Please specify project duration in your application.

### What is the process of assessing grants?

Applications will be assessed against assessment criteria by an assessment panel of experts and professionals working in the justice sector. Our Board will make funding recommendations to the Attorney-General for approval.

### When will I find out the outcome of my application?

You will be notified of the outcome of your application after all applications have been assessed and those recommended for funding have been approved by both the Victorian Legal Services Board and the Attorney-General of Victoria. This is likely to be late 2026.

### How will I be notified of my application outcome?

We will notify you by email.

### If successful, will I get all the funding I requested?

The amount of funding you receive may be less than requested due to budget constraints and/or a willingness to only provide part funding.

### What is likely to be the earliest start date of my project?

Generally, applicants are advised of the outcome of their application between September – November. This means projects are likely to commence in late 2026 to early 2027.

## About the VLSB+C

The Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner (VLSB+C) are independent statutory authorities responsible for the regulation of Victoria's legal profession. Originally established under the *Legal Profession Act 2004*, our roles and functions now come under the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*. We aim to:

- + protect and empower consumers
- + enhance legal practice and ethics
- + improve access to justice.

## About our Grants Program

Our Grants Program was established in 2007 to distribute funding to projects that help improve access to justice. Learn more about our Grants Program [here](#)