

Social Change Fellowship 2026

Form Preview

Use this as a guide only. All applications must be submitted online, via the SmartyGrants portal.

Your Eligibility

* indicates a required field

1. Are you an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident? You will be required to provide supporting documentation on request. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Are you over the age of 18? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you have experience initiating and leading social change? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Are you currently in a leadership role with an existing organisation/initiative and responsible for leading a team? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Is the organisation/initiative tackling a social issue of importance to Australian communities? Is an issue impacting the wellbeing of Australians. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Is the organisation/initiative able to evidence its social impact? Your current organisation/initiative should be beyond the validation stage. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

[See stages here](#)

7. Are you able to demonstrate that your organisation/initiative receives support from the community you are serving? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Are you seeking funding for your personal development (not for your organisation/initiative) which will enable you to scale your social impact? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Are you able to commit to and participate fully in the Fellowship program, including taking time out of your organisation/initiative, to make the most of the opportunity within the award year? In addition to your development plan activities, the program includes a multi-day Leadership Development Residential and the annual Scholars Summit. *

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Check the website for dates](#)

If you answered no to any of the above questions, you are not eligible to apply for the Westpac Social Change Fellowship 2026.

About You

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* indicates a required field

Thank you for applying for the Westpac Social Change Fellowship. The [Funding Guidelines & FAQs](#) will help you throughout this application. Complete all sections and save regularly, as incomplete or late applications are ineligible. For questions, contact westpacscholars@westpac.com.au with your Scholarship and Application Number.

Scholarship

This field is read only.
The round this submission is in.

Application Number

This field is read only.
The identification number or code for this submission.

Your Contact Details

Applicant *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Preferred First Name

The email used to register for SmartyGrants will be considered your 'Primary Email' address.

Secondary Email

Must be an email address.

Mobile Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

LinkedIn URL

Must be a URL.

Birth Day

Number only

Birth Month

Number only. January = 1, February = 2, etc.

Gender *

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Pronouns

Your pronouns may be used in relevant marketing, communications and event materials, including on your scholar website profile, in email and on name tags at events.

Residential Address *

Address

Address Line 1, Suburb/Town, State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Postal Address

Address

Your Organisation

We will ask more about your current social impact work in section 5 - 'Your Initiative and Impact'. For now, please provide some basic details about your organisation/employer and then return to focusing on yourself.

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

If within a larger organisation, enter the name of the specific initiative you're leading or applying with

Word count:

Must be no more than 25 words.

Your Role/Position *

Select the option which best describes your working arrangement with the organisation *

☐ Full time

☐ Part time

☐ Other:

ABN *

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register
ABN

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Entity name
ABN status
Entity type
Goods & Services Tax (GST)
DGR Endorsed
ATO Charity Type More information
ACNC Registration
Tax Concessions
Main business location

Must be an ABN.

Organisation Website

Must be a URL.

Organisation Address

Address

Year organisation started *

Number of paid employees *

Must be a number.

Number of volunteers *

Must be a number.

Provide a short summary of your organisation's activities or programs to create social impact *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Supporting Documents

Please upload the following files (limited to 3MB)

Up-to-date CV (PDF Only) *

Attach a file:

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A maximum of 1 file may be attached.
No more than 3 pages.

A recent headshot (JPEG Only) *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

Getting To Know You

* indicates a required field

Your Background

The Westpac Scholars Trust does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, veteran status, or disability unrelated to job or course of study requirements.

It is optional to provide the information requested in this section for the questions not marked with asterisks (*). The information collected is used to report on the diversity of our candidate base and to assist with any special requirements.

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you identify as having a disability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Which country were you born in?

Country only

If raised in Australia, in which postcode did you spend most of your youth?

Must be a number.

How difficult is it for you to read or understand English?

What language do you speak at home?

Select your high school type

If you attended more than one, select the one where you spent the most time

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Are you the first in your immediate family (excluding your siblings) to complete a university degree?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a Westpac Group employee? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Your Grant Status

Have you or your organisation ever been awarded another Westpac Foundation, St George Foundation, BankSA Foundation or Bank of Melbourne Foundation grant? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

List the Foundation, grant and year below *

Have you applied for the Social Change Fellowship in the past? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

What year did you apply? *

How have you AND your organisation grown since you last applied? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Are you currently awaiting an outcome for another award/grant related to your impact work? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please include the grant name and anticipated announcement date. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Are you happy for us to share your application with other potential funders if an opportunity arises? *

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

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Reminder

The Fellowship is designed to invest in your personal and professional development as a social change leader to help you accelerate social impact in Australia.

- We're interested in your contribution and commitment to driving change within Australian communities, and why now is the right time for you in your impact journey to make the most of this Fellowship opportunity.
- Your current social change organisation/initiative will help you highlight your important work and opportunity scale your impact.
- Throughout your application include **specific examples and evidence of the outcome/impacts** of your work to support your responses. Avoid broad statements and use each question to share your unique story.
- We're not looking for perfection but rather self-awareness, commitment to growth, and your potential to contribute to a more inclusive Australia.

Before commencing the detailed application questions, tell us something interesting about yourself (that you are comfortable to share) to help us get to know you better. Think of an experience, relationship, or lesson that has deeply shaped who you are today. What happened, and how does it continue to influence how you show up in the world? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Your Leadership Experience

* indicates a required field

For Westpac Social Change Fellows, passion and commitment is just the start. They are leaders, innovators and collaborators – people from all walks of life who are united in their drive to shape a better future for Australia.

In this section we would like to know more about your social impact journey, your bold vision for change, your leadership experience and capacity for growth.

1. What is your experience, contribution and commitment to leading social change in Australia (or beyond)? i.e. share your social change profile.

- What is your vision for change in Australia or the world, and why?
- What drives or motivates you?
- Share highlights from your personal social impact journey so far, including evidence and examples of your impact throughout your career.

*

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Word count:

Must be no more than 300 words.

2. Thinking about your social impact work so far, how would you describe your leadership practice?

- Share a moment or example that captures how you lead and why it matters.
- What personal values are most important to you as a leader and how have they shown up in your work?
- What part of your leadership are you still figuring out, and how are you working on it?

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

3. Thinking about working with others, how do you build meaningful connections?

- Share a time when trust was deepened or challenged. What did you learn?
- What practices or principles guide how you show up with others?

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

4. How have you been personally recognised for your contribution to social change?

- List any ways you have been recognised including community support, awards, grants, fellowships etc and the year of the recognition.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

5. If you have any relevant links you would like to share that tell us more about your personal journey and your social impact, please include them here.

Note: Ensure all the information you want the assessors to know is in the application form as they may not review all the links. Include a maximum of 10 links.

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Word count:

Must be no more than 15 words.

Your Initiative and Impact

* indicates a required field

The Westpac Social Change Fellowship invests in your capability to successfully progress innovative solutions to social challenges at a local, state and national level in Australia.

In this section we would like to know more about your current social change organisation/initiative, its impact so far and growth goals, and your contribution to leading this social change.

1. What is the social issue you are tackling, and why is it important in the Australian context?

- Describe the issue clearly, including who is most affected, why it matters, and any relevant data that highlights its scale or urgency.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

2. Priority target group most relevant to your work *

Select one only

3. Where is the priority group located? *

Select "National" only if your initiative is likely to have substantive national impact.

4. Please select which Westpac Scholars Trust priority area your initiative is mostly focused on. *

Read more about our priority areas [here](#).

5. Describe your organisation/initiative and its social impact to date

- What evidence do you have that your current work is creating meaningful change and addressing the social issue you seek to solve? Include specific outcomes (not only

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outputs), data, or stories that show how your initiative has made a difference for the people or communities you serve.

- How is your approach innovative and what makes your organisation well- positioned to do this work?

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

6. What is your personal contribution to achieving the impact goals of your organisation/initiative?

- Describe the role you played, what actions or decisions you took, and why it mattered. Please be specific.
- Highlight any successful collaborations/partnerships you have established

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

7. Based on what you've learned so far, how do you plan to grow or scale your impact?

- What needs to emerge, change or evolve within yourself, your approach, or your initiative to reach more people or deepen your impact?

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

Your Fellowship Experience

* indicates a required field

The Westpac Social Change Fellowship provides funding and opportunities to support learning experiences that directly invest in your skills, leadership capabilities and networks. Your Fellowship experience may involve local and international study tours, conferences, short courses, coaching etc. It also includes a group leadership development program specifically crafted for changemakers who are committed to personal and professional growth and value peer-to-peer learning. Please review the [Fellowship Guidelines](#) for more information.

In this section we want to understand how the fellowship will enhance your capabilities to increase social impact.

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1. How do you see this Fellowship contributing to your growth as a social change leader?

- What skills, knowledge and networks do you need to increase your leadership capabilities and accelerate your impact, and why?
- How do you intend to make use of the opportunity? Please provide specific examples most relevant to your development needs e.g. courses, study tours, coaching, etc.

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

2. Thinking about your personal and professional growth as a leader, what are your top three development goals for this Fellowship?

- *These should be outcomes focused and specific.*

Goal 1 *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

Goal 2 *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

Goal 3 *

Word count:

Must be no more than 50 words.

3. Why do you believe next year is the right time in your development as a social change leader to make the most of this Fellowship opportunity?

- Consider how you will set yourself up for success?

*

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

4. Where do you see yourself in 3-5 years and how you will be contributing to social change in Australia? *

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Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

5. Which one attribute of a Westpac Social Change Fellow best aligns with who you are - and why?

- See the [Fellowship Guidelines](#) for a list of attributes.
- Share a story to bring this to life.

*

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us to support your application that you have not been able to include in the form? *

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

Westpac Scholars Network

* indicates a required field

Growing by 100 new scholars each year, the [W100 Scholars Network](#) is a vibrant, cross-disciplinary community of innovators, changemakers and future leaders. United by a shared commitment to create a better future for Australia.

In this section consider what being part of the W100 Scholars Network means to you.

What excites you about being part of the W100 Scholars Network and how will you contribute to and benefit from it? *

Word count:
Must be no more than 100 words.

Community & Expert Referees

* indicates a required field

A critical element of our selection process includes the support you have from the community you are seeking to serve and from those already involved in your field of social change. References are collected for applicants who reach the National Selection Panel.

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In this section, we ask you to provide contact details for both a community and an expert referee.

Your **Community Referee** must:

- be an individual of standing in the community;
- be familiar with you and what you are trying to achieve to create a better future for Australians;
- be able to explain the importance of your social change initiative in meeting a genuine need in the community; and
- be prepared to support your efforts to develop/grow your initiative.

Community Referee *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Organisation *

Position *

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

How do you know this referee *

Your **Expert Referee** must:

- be a recognised/qualified expert in your field of social change;
- be familiar with you and what you are trying to achieve to create a better future for Australians;
- be able to explain the importance and relevance of your initiative in meeting a genuine social need; and
- be prepared to support your efforts to develop/grow your initiative.

Expert Referee *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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Organisation *

Position *

Primary Email *

Must be an email address.

Primary Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

How do you know this referee *

Feedback

* indicates a required field

You are now coming to the end of your application. Please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the online application process *

How many minutes did it take you to complete this application? Please estimate in minutes e.g. 1 hour = 60 minutes *

Must be a whole number (no decimal place).
Do not include the word 'minutes'.

Please provide us with any improvements and/or additions to the application process/form that you think we need to consider.

Word count:

Must be no more than 100 words.

How did you hear about the Westpac Social Change Fellowship *

If you were nominated, who was the nominator?

Terms and Conditions

By submitting this application, I acknowledge and agree:

- 1.that this application (and any attachments) becomes the property of Westpac Scholars Limited as trustee for Westpac Scholars Trust (ABN 35 600 251 071) (**Westpac Scholars**);
- 2.that this is the only application that I have submitted in respect of the Westpac Social Change Fellowship 2026 Award;
- 3.that, if I am a successful applicant, the award of a Westpac Social Change Fellowship is subject to me agreeing to be bound by the terms of a Funding Agreement signed by the Trust and me, and that the Fellowship will not commence and no funding will be provided by the Trust to me until the Trust receives a Funding Agreement executed by me;
- 4.to expend any Trust funding provided to me exclusively in accordance with my development plan by 1 March 2027, and repay to the Trust any such funding which I have not expended by this date if the Trust so requires;
- 5.that, if I am a successful applicant, I will attend and participate in the Westpac Scholars Summit and Leadership Development Program in the first half of 2026;
- 6.that the Fellowship may be suspended or stopped, or I may be required to reimburse any funding provided to me, if I engage in conduct that Westpac Scholars considers to be inappropriate or likely to cause reputational damage to Westpac Scholars;
- 7.that, if I am a successful applicant, to deliver a report to the Trust on the progress of the organisation/initiative within 3 months of completing the Fellowship in accordance with the acquittal process set out in the Funding Agreement;
- 8.that I am over the age of 18 and an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident;
- 9.that I meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the eligibility screener I completed;
- 10.that I am responsible for obtaining taxation advice regarding my individual circumstances and that Westpac Scholars makes no representation or warranty in relation to the taxation implications of any funds provided to me by Westpac Scholars if my application is successful;
- 11.to provide the authority for background checks, reference checks and similar as a condition of receiving a scholarship if my application is successful to procure, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, appropriate health and travel insurance (including coverage for existing conditions) for the duration of the project. This may include coverage under an insurance policy maintained by Westpac Banking Corporation or any of its related entities. The cost of this insurance may, subject to the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, be covered under my Fellowship funding.

Privacy Statement

All personal information we collect about you is collected, used and disclosed by us in accordance with our [Privacy Statement](#). Our Privacy Statement also provides information about how you can access and correct your personal information and make a complaint. You do not have to provide us with any personal information but, if you don't, we may not be able to process your application or request.

Your Consent

By providing sensitive information in your application, such as health information or information about your racial or ethnic origin, you consent to the collection, use, and disclosure of this information in accordance with our Privacy Statement for the purpose of assessing your application. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us, however, if you do so we may not be able to assess or process your application further.