

# Frequently Asked Questions – First Nations Languages Education Program

December 2023

## About

The Australian Government is investing over \$14 million to 2025-26 to support local First Nations community and school partnerships for teaching First Nations languages.

The funding will support local First Nations community and school partnerships to enable the development and placement of First Nations Educators in primary schools and support the learning of First Nations languages.

The Department of Education is partnering with First Languages Australia (FLA), the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language centres and programs, on the design and implementation of the program.

## Application Tips

The Department encourages you to reach out to First Languages Australia for assistance on your expression of interest. They will be able to ensure you submit all the relevant information.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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We strongly recommend you read the FAQs in combination with the expression of interest form and accompanying information from First Languages Australia.

### 1. What is the Expression Interest for or why is there an expression of interest stage for this program.

The purpose of having an expression of interest stage of this program is to assist Communities to understand how this program can fit with local language aspirations. First Languages Australia will work with each community who submits an EOI to help document their local language needs, support them to identify learning opportunities for trainee educators and develop a language plan that maps the pathway for the placement of educators within schools.

Only communities who have registered their interest and completed a language plan will be invited to apply for a grant under the program.

### 2. How do I register my interest in the program

Interested communities can submit their EOI to First Languages Australia via this link, <https://www.firstlanguages.org.au/fnle>, until 28 February 2024.

### 3. What happens after I submit an EOI?

First Languages Australian will contact you within two weeks to discuss your interest and next steps.

### 4. What if I decide not to proceed?

That's fine – the EOI does not commit you to proceeding to the next stage and you can withdraw your interest at any time by contacting First Languages Australia.

### 5. Who can register their interest?

The EOI is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities who want to strengthen their local language in their communities and build partnerships with local schools to share their language.

### 6. How long will the expression of interest be open?

Communities will be able to register their expression of interest in the program until 28 February 2024

### 7. What is a language plan?

A language plan is a tool to help us gain a shared understanding of each community's current language situation, aspirations for the use of language in their community, what assets their community has available, and the types of language activities that might be suitable for their situation. First Languages Australia worked with language centres to develop *Junyirri: A framework for planning community language projects* (2017) as a guide to assist language planning. Copies of Junyirri will be provided to all everyone who expresses an interest in this program

### 8. When will the grant opportunity open?

The grant round will open for applications in January 2024.

### 9. Where can I apply for funding?

Once available, the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and application form will be available on GrantConnect. We will publish the link here and on the program website when it is available

### 10. If successful, how much time do I have to complete a grant project?

Projects will be for a maximum of two years. All funded projects will need to be completed by 30 June 2026.

This FAQ document will be updated regularly as the EOI and grants progress.

For further information or to submit your Expression of Interest visit [firstlanguages.org.au/fnle](https://firstlanguages.org.au/fnle).  
For all other enquiries please contact us at [fnl@firstlanguages.org.au](mailto:fnl@firstlanguages.org.au).