High Performance Athlete Program

2027
Guidelines



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Minister's Message



It is a pleasure to invite South Australian athletes to apply for the 2027 High Performance Athlete Program.

South Australia has a proud history of producing athletes who excel at the highest levels of competition. Behind every sporting achievement are countless hours of training, sacrifice and commitment, and this program recognises the dedication required to pursue excellence in sport.

The High Performance Athlete Program provides financial assistance to help athletes continue their development and compete on the national and international stage. The program is open to athletes competing in a sport, discipline and classification represented at the Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games. Through this support, the program has made a positive and lasting difference for many South Australian athletes.

With the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, the South Australian Government is proud to support athletes as they pursue their sporting ambitions and work towards representing their state and country on the world stage.

Our athletes are not only competitors, but role models who inspire others through their determination, resilience and pursuit of excellence. Their achievements encourage more South Australians to participate in sport and physical activity and contribute to our state's strong sporting culture.

In 2027, a total of $152,000 is available through the High Performance Athlete Program to support eligible athletes on their high performance journey.

Applications close at midday on Wednesday 16 December 2026.

I encourage all eligible athletes to apply and wish you every success as you continue your sporting journey.

Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

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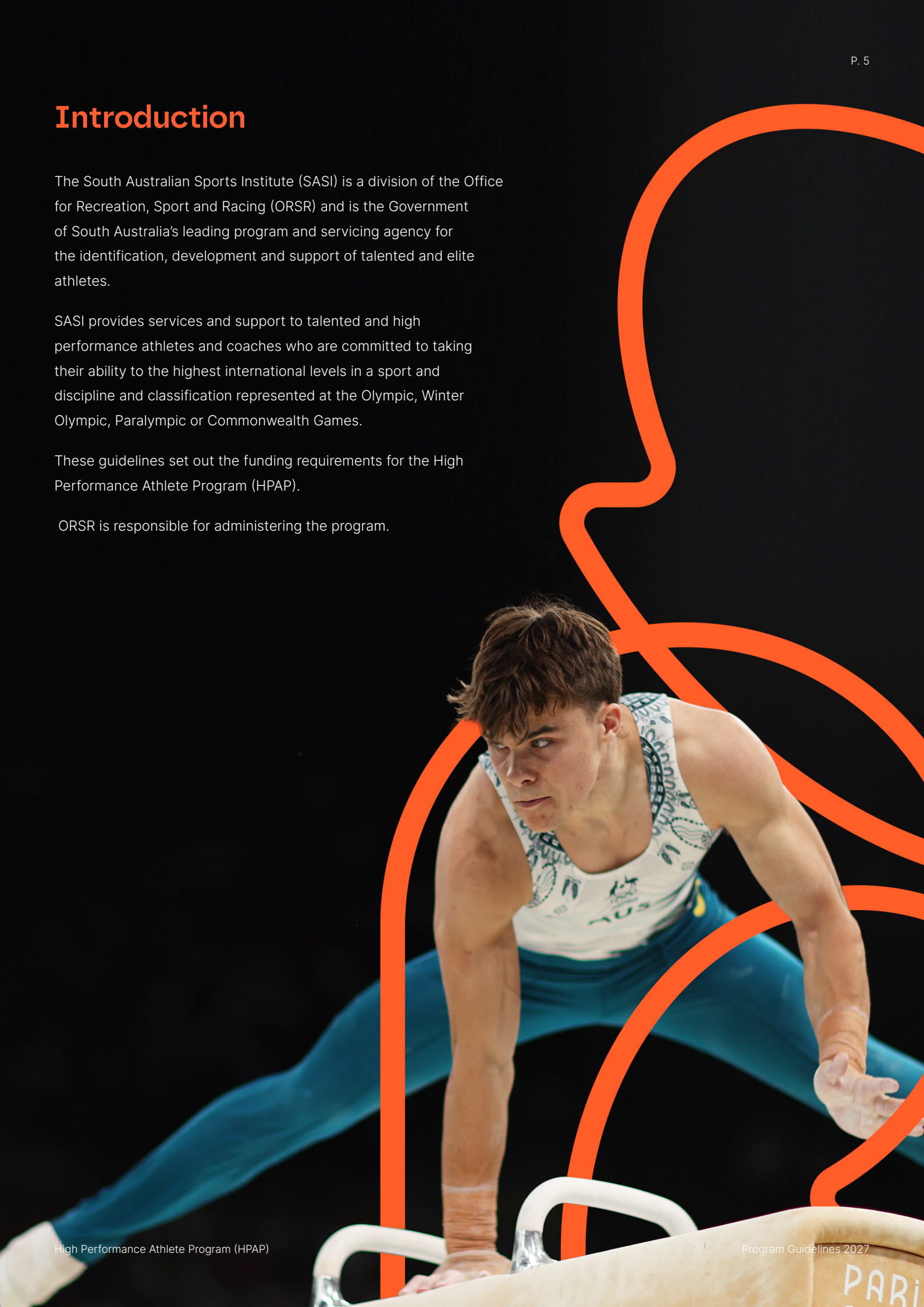
Introduction

The South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) is a division of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR) and is the Government of South Australia's leading program and servicing agency for the identification, development and support of talented and elite athletes.

SASI provides services and support to talented and high performance athletes and coaches who are committed to taking their ability to the highest international levels in a sport and discipline and classification represented at the Olympic, Winter Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games.

These guidelines set out the funding requirements for the High Performance Athlete Program (HPAP).

ORSR is responsible for administering the program.



Objectives

HPAP is aligned with the SASI 2032 High Performance Strategy to nurture a rich talent pipeline and to identify, develop and support South Australia's best to win the right way.

HPAP is aimed at athletes engaged in a comprehensive program of intensive training and international competition in a sport, discipline and classification represented at the Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games.

Important dates

The following dates apply to this funding round:

Applications open	Wednesday 4 November 2026
Applications close	Midday, Wednesday 16 December 2026
Applications screened	January 2027
Assessment	February 2027
Applicants notified	March 2027
Agreements offered	After notification (anticipated March 2027)



Budget

The budget for the 2027 HPAP is $152,000.

Available funding

HPAP provides financial assistance to offset the costs associated with high performance training, competition and equipment.

Financial support will be determined by the Funding Assessment Committee in accordance with the assessment principles.

HPAP is not available to athletes who are scholarship holders in a SASI sport program or athletes in sports where SASI conducts a program applicable to their age group.



Eligibility criteria

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for HPAP applicants must be:

- an Australian citizen; and
- competing in a sport **and** discipline **and** classification represented at the Olympic, Winter Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games; and
- live in South Australia or identify as a South Australian athlete and do not hold a formal agreement with a sports institute other than SASI; and
- meet **one** of the following:
    - categorised by the applicant's National Sport Organisation (NSO) based on the National Athlete Categorisation Framework (NACF) into one of the five categorisation levels (Podium, Podium Ready, Podium Potential, Developing, Emerging)*; or
    - representing Australia at a junior and/or senior level; or
    - a South Australian athlete, aged between 13 and 18 (as at 31 December 2026) with their primary residence 130km or more from the Adelaide GPO (includes Kangaroo Island) and recognised as having the potential to transition into a SASI sport program or Individual Athlete Scholarship; or
    - a South Australian athlete, identified by their NSO as having the potential to transition towards sport categorisation, and is or has been under the custody or guardianship of the Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection or identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

*Categorisation information is provided by the applicant's NSO. NSOs categorise athletes using a sport specific matrix based on the NACF. The NACF defines each of the five categorisation levels (Podium, Podium Ready, Podium Potential, Developing, Emerging) to inform planning and to prioritise support to best achieve system targets.

Application endorsement

Applicants must have their application endorsed by their parent or guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 years.

SASI may seek endorsement of the application from the State Sporting Organisation (SSO)/NSO for the applicant's sport.

Who is ineligible

The following will be considered ineligible for HPAP Funding.

- Organisations.
- Individuals that are NOT competing in a sport and discipline and classification represented at the Olympic, Winter Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games.
- Scholarship holders in a SASI sport program (Beach Volleyball, Canoe Sprint, Cycling, Lacrosse , Netball, Race Walking, Rowing , Swimming or Wheelchair Basketball). Please note that SASI sport programs are subject to change.
- Athletes competing in sports where SASI conducts a program applicable to their age group. (Excluding South Australian athletes aged between 13 and 18 (as at 31 December 2026) with their primary residence 130km or more from the Adelaide GPO (includes Kangaroo Island)

If you are unsure about eligibility, please contact SASI on (08) 8429 7084.

Eligible Project Costs

If your application is successful, an HPAP Grant may be used to support costs that contribute to your development and progression in your chosen sport. Examples of eligible expenses are outlined below; however, this list is not exhaustive. Applicants are encouraged to include other relevant costs that align with the objectives of the program.

Eligible Project Costs	
Travel	✓
Accommodation	✓
Membership Costs	✓
Registration Costs	✓
Training Accreditation	✓
Event Costs	✓
Uniforms	✓
Sport Equipment	✓



Ineligible costs

Any costs not associated with the development of the athlete in their chosen sport are considered ineligible through HPAP.

How to apply

Carefully read these guidelines to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

The following steps briefly describe the process to apply.

- Register for the online application process (SmartyGrants) through the ORSR website, or log in to an existing account – (https://orsr.smartygrants.com.au/applicant/login).
- Complete the online application in full and submit prior to the closing time of the program. Any late or incomplete applications may not be assessed.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should notify ORSR immediately via email: ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au. ORSR will reopen your application to amend and resubmit.

ORSR may not be able to accept additional information or requests to change your submission after the closing date.

If you need further guidance about the application process, are unable to submit the SmartyGrants application or wish to withdraw a submitted application, you can contact ORSR via email: ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au.

Key specifics to get correct

Applicants must ensure the following:

- The applicant's sport and the targeted event/discipline/classification are clearly articulated.
- The applicant's registration/licence number with the relevant SSO/NSO is correctly entered.
- Contact details for the High-Performance Director and the applicant's coach are provided.
- Three best sporting achievements in the past 12 months at International, National and State levels are listed.
- What the estimated total cost of the applicant's sport is over the next 12 months.
- Disability Classification (if applicable).
- The applicant's Australian Business Number (ABN) is entered correctly and matches the legal name (if applicable).
    - If you do not have an ABN, you will need to submit a completed Australian Taxation Office (ATO) Statement by Supplier Form with your application, if you haven't provided your ABN or Statement of Supplier, ORSR are required to deduct withholding tax at the top marginal personal income tax rate. Download the Statement by Supplier form from the ATO website.
- Check that all the questions have been answered and all essential documentation is attached.
- Press 'submit' once you have completed the application. Upon request, amendments can be made prior to the closing date.

Assessment process

Eligibility screening

ORSR conducts a preliminary assessment of all applications ensuring that the following criteria are met:

- The applicant is eligible to apply, and
- The application has been completed in full, and all essential information has been provided (incomplete applications may be deemed ineligible).

If an application fails to pass eligibility screening, the applicant will be contacted via email, using the details provided in the application. The online application form will be reopened for the applicant to update and resubmit.

If an application is not resubmitted before the date that is requested, ORSR will utilise the latest submitted version for eligibility screening and assessment.

Funding Assessment Committee

The ORSR Chief Executive appoints the members of the Funding Assessment Committee. The Funding Assessment Committee is comprised of officers from across ORSR.

ORSR recognises that conflicts of interest may arise with staff, technical experts, and others assessing the applications and forming recommendations. All employees of the Government of South Australia must comply with:

- The Code of Ethics of the South Australian Public Sector issued under the *Public Sector Act 2009 (SA)*.
- *Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Regulations 2010 (SA)*.

The assessment processes within ORSR are additionally governed by the following:

- ORSR Interests Management Policy.
- ORSR Grant Management Policy and Procedures.

Assessment against principles

The Funding Assessment Committee assesses all applications.

Where an application is deemed eligible, the Funding Assessment Committee will take into consideration the following:

- Performance achievements of the applicant, including their demonstrated potential for selection to the next national team for the international benchmark event relevant to their age, e.g. Senior/U23/Junior World Championships.
- The athlete's potential to transition into a SASI sport program or Individual Athlete Scholarship.
- The athletes potential to transition towards sport categorisation.
- Evidence of unethical behaviours or integrity issues.
- The athlete's level of engagement in a comprehensive program of intensive training and, where possible, international competition.
- The athlete's ability to remain competitively active in their sport throughout the funding period or participate in a planned rehabilitation program (if necessary).

NSOs/SSOs may be consulted during the assessment process.

The Funding Assessment Committee will assess the application against the relative merits of other applications in meeting the assessment principles.

The Funding Assessment Committee may request additional information during the Committee's sitting period.

Please note, satisfying the assessment principles alone does not guarantee the receipt of funding.

It is anticipated that the number of eligible applications and funds sought will exceed the funds available and therefore ORSR does not guarantee applicants will be successful.

Recommendation

Once the assessment is completed, the Funding Assessment Committee will provide funding recommendations to the ORSR Chief Executive for consideration.

Final approval

The Chief Executive will provide final approval.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their grant application.

Unsuccessful applications

All unsuccessful applicants will receive notification through SmartyGrants.



Successful applications

Grant agreement

Successful applicants (grantees) will be sent a Grant Offer detailing the terms and conditions of the funding.

Effective from 1 January 2019, public authorities are required to use the standard funding agreements. For HPAP, the Low Value grant agreement will be used. For more information regarding the grant agreements click here.

Grantees will have at least 14 days from the date of a written offer to execute a grant agreement with ORSR ('execute' means both the applicant and ORSR have signed the agreement). The offer may lapse if both parties do not execute the grant agreement within the specified timeframe.

Approval of grant funding is based on information provided within the application. Any changes to details may be reviewed to consider any potential impacts.

An approval may have specific conditions that have been determined through the assessment process. Any such details will be specified in the grant offer.

Payment

Payment of grant funding will be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Approved grant funding will be transferred electronically into the Australian bank account nominated within the application.

Should a successful applicant become overdue with any obligations, reporting or acquittals, payments may be placed on hold until those are met.

Monitoring and compliance

All grantees will be required to:

- only use the funding for eligible costs as detailed within the grant agreement.
- comply with the relevant laws in force in South Australia.
- comply with the reporting and acquittal requirements of the grant agreement. Failure to comply may result in ORSR grant payments being suspended and/or the individual no longer being eligible to receive ORSR funding or being required to return the grant, or part thereof.
- Comply with the other terms and conditions in the grant agreement.
- Contact ORSR immediately when becoming aware of a breach of terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Grant agreement variations and extensions

Unexpected events may delay the expenditure of the grant. In these circumstances, grantees can request an extension. Any request must be submitted through SmartyGrants. Requests may require the following details:

- The revised expiry date.
- Justification for the expiry date extension.

If an extension request is submitted, ORSR reserves the right to approve or decline the request. In some circumstances ORSR may approve a more appropriate extension date.

To seek a variation, email ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au with your application identification number and ORSR will forward a variation request form to complete via SmartyGrants.

HPAP does not allow for an increase to the agreed amount of grant funds as established in the grant agreement.

Acquitting a grant

Upon expending the grant, grantees will be required to acquit the grant through SmartyGrants. Grant acquittal requirements will be outlined in the grant agreement. These requirements may include:

- Providing a detailed breakdown of goods and services the grant was spent on, including descriptions and amounts.
- Certification that the statements made in the acquittal are true and correct.
- Identifying if the grant has achieved the program objectives.

Other information

Grants and Goods and Services Tax (GST)

It is recommended that applicants seek independent legal and financial advice to determine all taxation obligations before applying.

Successful applicants registered for GST will have their grant grossed up by 10% to offset GST payable on the grant.

Individuals that are not registered for the GST will not have the grant grossed up. Grantees cannot have the grant agreement transferred to another individual or body based on GST registration.

Also note, from 1 July 2017, government entities at the federal, state, territory and local levels report the grants they pay to people or organisations with an Australian Business Number to the Australian Taxation Office.

How ORSR will use your information

ORSR may share your information with other government agencies for relevant purposes such as:

- To improve the administration, monitoring and evaluation of government programs.
- For research.
- To announce grant recipients.

Treatment of confidential information

ORSR will treat information provided by applicants as sensitive and confidential if it meets one of the four following conditions:

- You clearly identify information as confidential and provide an explanation.
- Information is commercially sensitive.
- Disclosing information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.
- Information is provided with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

When ORSR may disclose confidential information

ORSR may disclose confidential information to the following:

- The ORSR Chief Executive, employees and/or contractors to help ORSR manage the program effectively.
- The Minister.
- The Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services.
- A House or Committee of Parliament.

ORSR may also disclose confidential information if:

- Required or authorised by law (including if requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)*).
- The grantee agreed to the information being disclosed.
- Someone other than ORSR has made the confidential information public.

Personal information

ORSR must treat your personal information according to the Premier and Cabinet Circular Information Privacy Principles Instructions and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth)*. This includes informing you:

- What personal information ORSR collects.
- Why ORSR collects your personal information.
- To whom ORSR gives your personal information. ORSR may give personal information collected to our employees and contractors, the Assessment Panel, and other Government of South Australia employees and contractors, so ORSR can:
    - Manage the program.
    - Research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

ORSR, or the Minister, may:

- Announce the applications received or successful applicants to the public.
- Publish personal information on ORSR websites.
- Decide how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information.
- Provide you with information about how you can access and correct your personal information.

Reporting

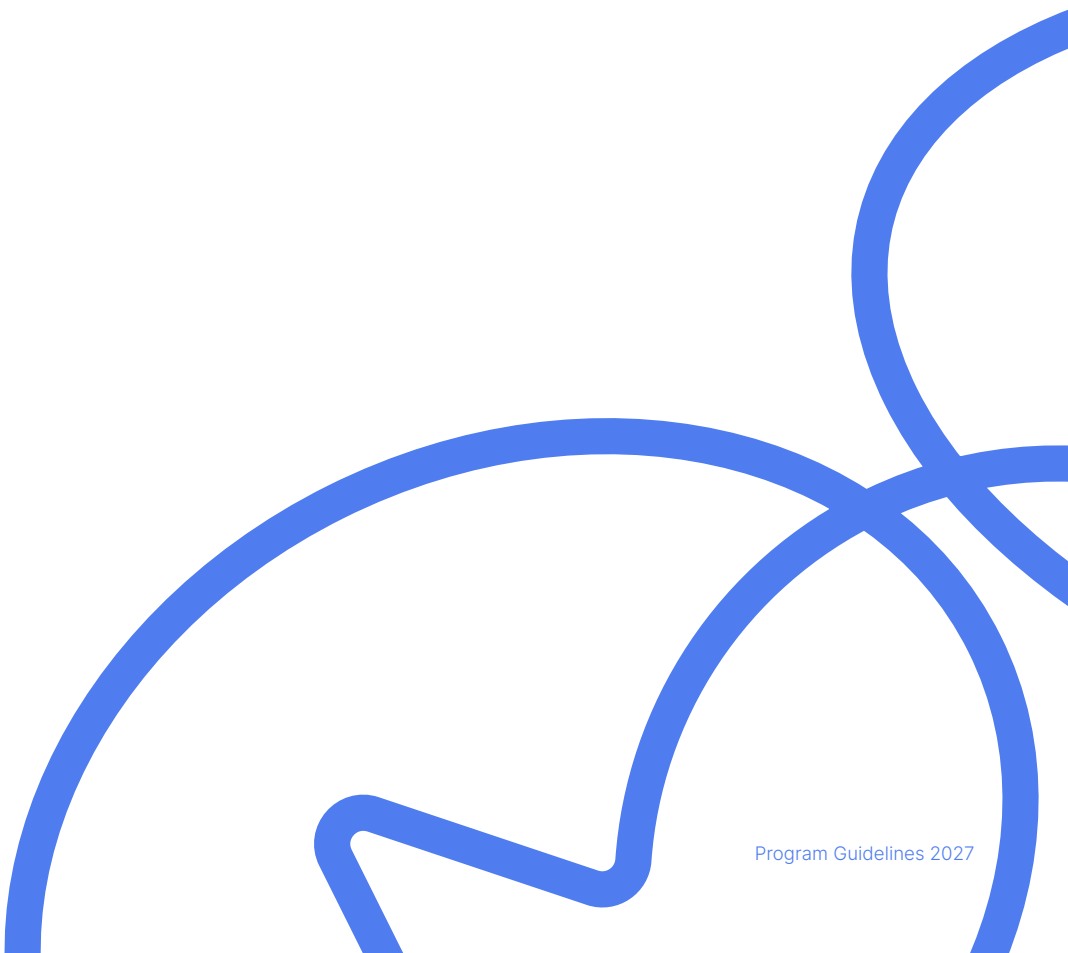
Effective disclosure and reporting of administered grants are essential for public accountability. Reliable and timely information on grants is vital for public and government confidence in the quality and integrity of grants administration. ORSR may publish grant applications and requests, grant recipients and funding amounts approved on the ORSR website.

Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)* and the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth)* are the main pieces of legislation that provide access to and amendment of personal information.

Arrangements for managing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests should be discussed with ORSR's FOI Officer. The FOI Act is about openness and access to government-held information and is based on the principle that government information should be accessible by the public because it belongs to the public. Consequently, it is important that recorded information is accurate, up to date, complete, not misleading and relevant to the purpose for which it was collected.

The FOI Officer must be contacted to assist with FOI requests. The circumstances under which an agency may refuse a request for information under FOI laws are limited. Advice on possible exemptions should be sought from the FOI Officer.



Definition of key terms

Term	Definition
Applicant	The individual that has applied.
Application	The document that applicants use to apply for funding under the grant program.
Funding period	The period of the grant agreement where spending on the approved project and its outcomes can occur.
Grantee	The recipient of a successful grant.
Minister	The Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.
ORSR	Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, an agency of the Government of South Australia.
SASI	The South Australian Sports Institute, a division of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR)



Government of South Australia

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact ORSR through the website: **orsr.sa.gov.au.**

ORSR may publish answers to your questions on the website as Frequently Asked Questions.

A compliment or complaint can be lodged using the ORSR compliments and complaints form on the website: **orsr.sa.gov.au.**

Disclaimer:

These guidelines were accurate at the time of publishing and supersede all terms and conditions contained in the previous.