



**Self-
Determination
Fund**
**FIRST PEOPLES'
ASSEMBLY
OF VICTORIA**

The Trustee of the Self-Determination Fund

Equal Footing Funding Guidelines

Second edition
August 2025

For Equal Footing (Charitable Purpose 1)

Phase 1: Forming Traditional Owner Treaty aspirations

Phase 2: Getting onto the Negotiations Register

Phase 3: Entering Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations

Acknowledgement of Country

The Trustee of the Self-Determination Fund acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, where the Self-Determination Fund is established and the Trustee delivers on its purposes, and pay our respects to them, their culture, and their Elders past, present, and future.

The Directors of the Trustee – from diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Country – acknowledge the struggle and resilience of First Peoples to maintain the longest continuing culture in the world. We humbly continue our work to establish equal footing for First Peoples in negotiating Traditional Owner Treaties in Victoria and sustainably build wealth and prosperity for future generations in perpetuity.

Contents

1.	About the Self-Determination Fund	1
2.	Self-Determination Fund purposes	2
2.1	Purpose of Equal Footing Funding Guidelines	2
3.	Equal Footing funding and Traditional Owner Treaty process	3
3.1	Equal Footing funding phases	4
4.	Criteria: Phases 1, 2, and 3	9
4.1	Eligibility	9
4.2	Eligible purposes and activities	10
4.3	More information about Phase 3	13
5.	Application process	14
5.1	Contact us	14
5.2	Complete and submit application form	14
5.3	Internal assessment of application	14
5.4	Board decision on application	15
5.5	Timeframe for decision on application	15
6.	Funding application assessment	16
6.1	Assessment factors	16
6.2	Trust deed	16
7.	Once an application is approved	17
7.1	Release of funds	17
7.2	Funding conditions	17
7.3	Change of activities	17
7.4	Recipient reporting	18
8.	Feedback and complaints	19
8.1	Feedback	19
8.2	Complaints	19

1. About the Self-Determination Fund

The Self-Determination Fund is a First Peoples owned and controlled resource, designed by and for First Peoples of Victoria. It will promote First Peoples' economic development, both through the Traditional Owner Treaty process and into the future.

The Self-Determination Fund Limited is the Trustee of the Self-Determination Fund (**the Trustee**) and is overseen by a Board of First Peoples Directors. In this document, references to 'we', 'us', and 'our' are references to the Trustee.

The Trustee decides how the Self-Determination Fund is distributed. In making these decisions, we are responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of the Self-Determination Fund. In all circumstances, distributions from the Self-Determination Fund will only be made in accordance with its charitable purposes and in accordance with its trust deed.

Our policies are guided by Aboriginal lore, law, cultural authority, and cultural values and practices.

The Self-Determination Fund is a public charitable trust for the benefit of First Peoples now and into the future.

There are seven principles that guide how we operate:



**Self-Determination
and empowerment**



**Fairness
and Equity**



Responsiveness



Innovation



Respect



Safety

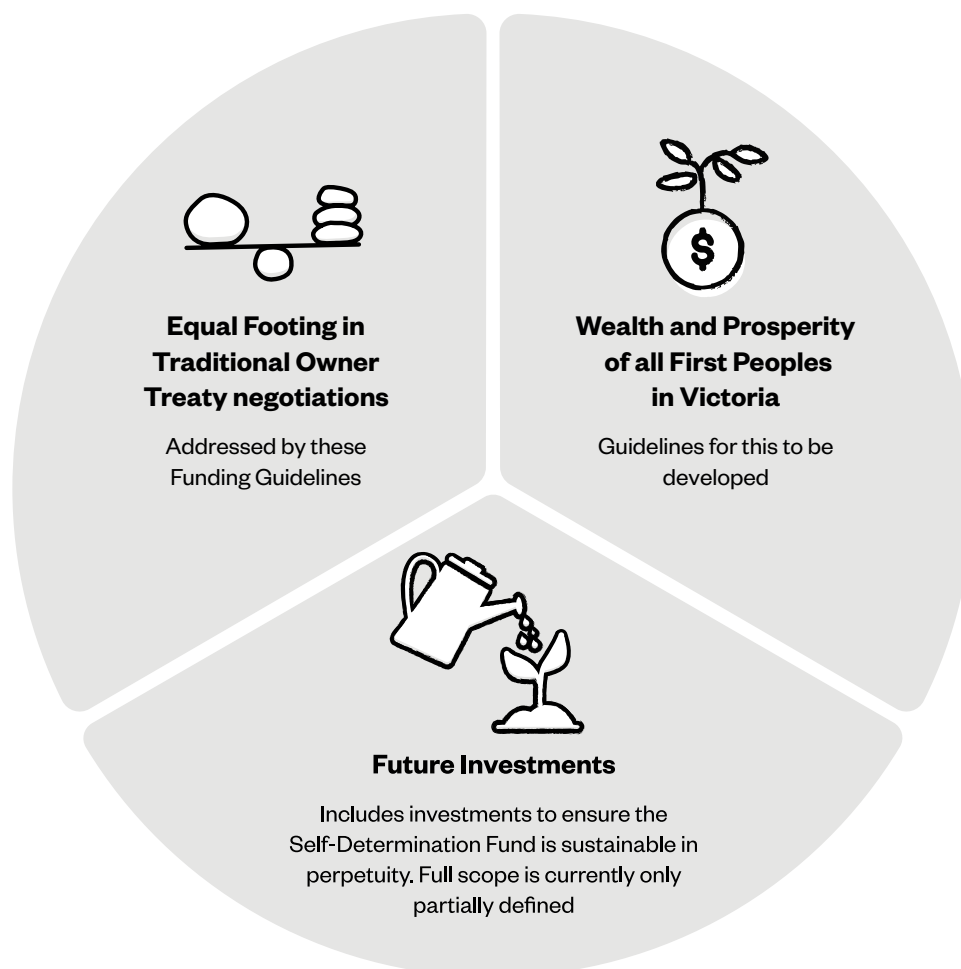


**Transparency and
Accountability**

2. Self-Determination Fund purposes

The Self-Determination Fund Strategic Plan (2023–2026) sets out the strategic direction for the Fund’s charitable purposes and priority spending areas.

The Strategic Plan is available on our [website](#).



2.1. Purpose of Equal Footing Funding Guidelines

These Funding Guidelines address the Self-Determination Fund’s approach to supporting the first three phases of the Equal Footing priority spending area. This has the purpose of supporting First Peoples to negotiate Traditional Owner Treaties on a more level playing field with the State.

We first published Funding Guidelines in December 2023, to provide guidance on the first two phases of the Equal Footing priority spending area. This is the second edition of the Funding Guidelines, which builds on knowledge gained from the first 20 months of the Self-Determination Fund’s operation and introduces guidelines for the third phase of funding.

3. Equal Footing funding and Traditional Owner Treaty Process

The Self-Determination Fund will support Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria to participate throughout the entire Traditional Owner Treaty process.

The [Treaty Negotiation Framework](#) provides the ground rules and requirements for the Traditional Owner Treaty process. Information on the Treaty Negotiation Framework can be found in the guide '[Getting to Know the Treaty Negotiation Framework](#)'.

The Treaty Authority is the independent body that oversees the entire Traditional Owner Treaty process. The Treaty Authority is responsible for administering the Treaty Negotiation Framework and the Negotiations Register (referred to in the Treaty Negotiation Framework as the Negotiations Database). The Negotiations Register is a central repository of information about Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations, including who is negotiating a Traditional Owner Treaty and the areas of Country over which Traditional Owner Treaties are being negotiated.

We encourage Traditional Owner Groups interested in negotiating a Traditional Owner Treaty to contact the Treaty Authority for more information on 1300 133 033 or by email at info@treatyauthority.au. See also the Treaty Authority's [Public Guide: How to Start a Traditional Owner Treaty](#).

3.1. Equal Footing funding phases

Phases 2 to 5 are based on the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework. These guidelines address Phases 1, 2, and 3. We will publish additional guidelines for Phases 4 and 5.



PHASE 1

Phase 1: Forming Traditional Owner Treaty aspirations

Opened December 2023

Who:

Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria.

In this phase, we will take an inclusive and flexible approach to the definition of Traditional Owner Group in the Treaty Negotiation Framework. See section 4 for details.

Why:

To support a Traditional Owner Group to learn about the Traditional Owner Treaty process and the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, and come together to start to think about aspirations for a Traditional Owner Treaty.

What:

To support your Group to:

- Learn about the Traditional Owner Treaty process and the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework from the Treaty Authority; and
- Come together to think about aspirations for a Traditional Owner Treaty.

Intended outcomes:

Your Group:

- Has decided whether (or not) to proceed with the Traditional Owner Treaty process and take the first formal step under the Treaty Negotiation Framework to meet the Minimum Standards requirements and be entered onto the Negotiations Register.

How:

This is an open funding phase and available to all Traditional Owner Groups to apply at any time, in line with the ground rules created by the Treaty Negotiation Framework. We strongly encourage Traditional Owner Groups to apply by the end of 2025. See section 5 for how to apply.

Available funding:

Up to a total of \$200,000 (including GST) per eligible Traditional Owner Group. All applications are subject to internal assessment and Board approval.

PHASE 2

Phase 2: Getting onto the Negotiations Register

Opened December 2023

Who:

Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria.

In this phase, we will take an inclusive and flexible approach to the definition of Traditional Owner Group in the Treaty Negotiation Framework. See section 4 for details.

Why:

To support a Traditional Owner Group to take the first formal step in the Traditional Owner Treaty process to meet the Minimum Standards requirements under the Treaty Negotiation Framework and be entered onto the Negotiations Register.

What:

To support your Group to:

- Meet the Minimum Standards requirements, unless your Group has Existing Status and automatically satisfies the Minimum Standards requirements (clause 8 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework); and
- Be entered onto the Negotiations Register (clause 9 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework).

Intended outcomes:

Your Group:

- Has satisfied the Minimum Standards (noting that Groups with Existing Status automatically do so); and
- Has been entered onto the Negotiations Register.

How:

This is an open funding phase and available to all Traditional Owner Groups to apply at any time, in line with the ground rules created by the Treaty Negotiation Framework. See section 5 for how to apply.

Available funding:

We welcome applications for fair and reasonable amounts for activities to meet the intended outcomes of this phase. All applications are subject to internal assessment and Board approval.

PHASE 3

Phase 3: Entering Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations

Opened August 2025

Who:

Traditional Owner Groups that have been entered onto the Negotiations Register.

Why:

To support a Traditional Owner Group to take the second formal step in the Traditional Owner Treaty process and form a First Peoples' Treaty Delegation (Delegation) under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, have the Delegation entered onto the Negotiations Register, and invite the State to begin Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations.

What:

To support your Group to:

- Form a Delegation (clause 10 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework); and
- Have the Delegation entered onto the Negotiations Register (clause 11 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework),

so that the Delegation can invite the State to begin Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations (clause 12 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework).

Intended outcomes:

Your Group:

- Has formed a Delegation; and
- The Delegation has been entered onto the Negotiations Register; and
- The State has been invited to begin Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations with the Delegation.

How:

This is an open funding phase and available to all Traditional Owner Groups on the Negotiations Register to apply at any time. See section 4 for more details on eligibility and section 5 for how to apply.

Available funding:

We welcome applications for fair and reasonable amounts for activities to meet the intended outcomes of this phase. All applications are subject to internal assessment and Board approval.

Phase 4 aims to support Delegations on the Negotiations Register to commence and conduct Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations with the State. The intended outcome of this phase is to agree the terms of a Traditional Owner Treaty and/or Interim Agreement(s).

Phase 5 aims to support Delegations on the Negotiations Register to finalise negotiations for a Traditional Owner Treaty (including an Interim Agreement), obtain Collective Support for the Traditional Owner Treaty or Interim Agreement, and signify assent to the Traditional Owner Treaty or Interim Agreement under the Treaty Negotiation Framework. The intended outcome of this phase is for the Treaty Authority to publish a statement recording that the Traditional Owner Treaty or Interim Agreement has been formally agreed.

We will publish additional guidelines for Phases 4 and 5 at an appropriate time.

4. Criteria: Phases 1, 2, and 3

4.1. Eligibility

All Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria are eligible to apply for funding from the Self-Determination Fund, whether or not the Group has formal recognition under existing statutory rights legislation. The Treaty Negotiation Framework refers to this as with or without 'Existing Status' (see the Treaty Authority's [Public Guide: How to Start a Traditional Owner Treaty](#) for an explanation of this term).

We acknowledge that the funding needs of Traditional Owner Groups in the Traditional Owner Treaty process may vary widely depending on whether or not they have Existing Status.

The Treaty Negotiation Framework defines a 'Traditional Owner Group' as '*a group that can satisfy the Minimum Standards under clause 8*'. The Minimum Standards are explained in the Treaty Authority's [Public Guide: How to Start a Traditional Owner Treaty](#).

Under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, Traditional Owner Groups with Existing Status, such as Registered Aboriginal Parties, automatically satisfy the Minimum Standards in relation to Country over which they have Existing Status. In contrast, the Treaty Negotiation Framework requires Traditional Owner Groups without Existing Status to satisfy the Minimum Standards and to be able to show the Treaty Authority how they do so. See the Treaty Authority's [Public Guide: How to Start a Traditional Owner Treaty](#) for more information.

We recognise that some Traditional Owner Groups without Existing Status may not yet be able to satisfy the Minimum Standards, and may require additional support to achieve this. For example, a Group may not yet have a clear governance structure, and may require advice and support to identify and implement one.

For this reason, for Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding, we will take an inclusive and flexible approach to the definition of 'Traditional Owner Group'. This means that a Traditional Owner Group does not need to be able to meet the Minimum Standards **before** applying for Phase 1 or Phase 2 funding.

Eligibility for Phase 3 funding is different because this phase is designed to provide support **after** the first formal step under the Treaty Negotiation Framework has been taken by Traditional Owner Groups (i.e. a Group has met Minimum Standards and is on the Negotiations Register). This next stage in the Traditional Owner Treaty process is called forming a Delegation. Under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, once the Treaty Authority has entered a Traditional Owner Group onto the Negotiations Register, that Group may participate in a collective agreement-making process to form a Delegation. Consistent with this, a Traditional Owner Group is eligible to apply for Phase 3 funding if that Group is on the Negotiations Register.

Eligibility to apply for Phases 1, 2, and 3 is summarised below.

Phase	Group applying for funding is a:
1. Forming Traditional Owner Treaty aspirations.....	Traditional Owner Group in Victoria
2. Getting onto the Negotiations Register.....	Traditional Owner Group in Victoria
3. Entering Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations.....	Traditional Owner Group on the Negotiations Register

4.2. Eligible purposes and activities

The Self-Determination Fund will support Traditional Owner Groups to participate in the Traditional Owner Treaty process. We recognise that different Groups will be at different stages and will require different levels of support at different points in time.

Our staff are available to talk through Traditional Owner Groups' ideas and can assist Traditional Owner Groups to develop plans for accessing support, in line with the outcomes of the funding phase and the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

In each phase, a Traditional Owner Group can apply for funding for activities that meet the purpose and intended outcomes of that funding phase and the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

A Traditional Owner Group can apply for funding under a phase without having applied for funding under a previous phase. Equally, a Traditional Owner Group that receives funding under a particular phase is not obliged to proceed to the next phase.

Phase 1: Forming Traditional Owner Treaty aspirations	
Eligible purpose	
To support a Traditional Owner Group to learn about the Traditional Owner Treaty process and the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, and come together to start to think about aspirations for a Traditional Owner Treaty.	
Eligible activities include <i>(not intended to be prescriptive)</i>	
• Full group and family/clan meetings to learn about the Traditional Owner Treaty process, where the Treaty Authority is in attendance to provide information and presentations about the Traditional Owner Treaty process and the requirements of the Treaty Negotiation Framework (in particular, the requirements for meeting Minimum Standards to be entered onto the Negotiations Register). • Traditional Owner Treaty engagement and education with community. • Developing priorities for community and Country for a Traditional Owner Treaty. • Recruiting a Treaty Officer or similar resource. • Preparation of Phase 2 funding application (after receiving guidance from the Treaty Authority about how to meet the Minimum Standards requirements and be entered onto the Negotiations Register).	

Phase 2: Getting onto the Negotiations Register

Eligible purpose

To support a Traditional Owner Group to take the first formal step in the Traditional Owner Treaty process to meet the Minimum Standards requirements under the Treaty Negotiation Framework and be entered onto the Negotiations Register.

Eligible activities include

(not intended to be prescriptive)

For Traditional Owner Groups with Existing Status:

- Full group and family/clan meetings to meet the requirements under the Treaty Negotiation Framework.
- Continuation of a Treaty Officer or similar resource to coordinate and support Phase 2 activities to be entered onto the Negotiations Register.
- Preparation of initial Phase 3 funding application (after receiving guidance from the Treaty Authority on the requirements of collective agreement-making to form a Delegation).

For Traditional Owner Groups without Existing Status:

- Full group and family/clan meetings to meet the Minimum Standards requirements and be entered onto the Negotiations Register.
- Continuation of a Treaty Officer or similar resource to coordinate and support Phase 2 activities to meet the Minimum Standards requirements and be entered onto the Negotiations Register.
- Cultural strengthening activities to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Developing governance and decision-making processes to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Governance training and workshops to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Establishing Traditional Owner Treaty leadership groups to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Establishing organisational administration to support your Group to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Engaging experts and advisors (such as cultural or governance) to meet the Minimum Standards requirements.
- Preparation of initial Phase 3 funding application (after receiving guidance from the Treaty Authority on the requirements of collective agreement-making to form a Delegation).

Phase 3: Entering Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations

Eligible purpose

To support a Traditional Owner Group to take the second formal step in the Traditional Owner Treaty process and form a Delegation under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, have the Delegation entered onto the Negotiations Register, and invite the State to begin Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations.

Eligible activities include *(not intended to be prescriptive)*

- Continuation of a Treaty Officer or similar resource to coordinate and support Phase 3 activities.
- Participation in collective agreement-making sessions with other Traditional Owner Groups on the Negotiations Register with overlapping Country.
- Engaging experts and advisors on governance structures for the proposed Delegation.
- Negotiation skills training for the Delegation's appointed representatives.
- Engaging professional services (such as cultural, economic, or legal) in relation to the Delegation.
- Full group meetings to approve collective agreements proposed by the Delegation.
- Preparation of Phase 4 funding application (after receiving guidance from the Treaty Authority on the requirements of the next stage of the Traditional Owner Treaty process).

4.3. More information about Phase 3

Delegation formation process

Under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, there will be a single Delegation to represent all Traditional Owners of a single area of land and waters (clause 10.1(a)). This means that if there is more than one Traditional Owner Group on the Negotiations Register for an area of land and waters, those Groups will need to come together and form a Delegation over that area. This requires the Traditional Owner Groups to reach collective agreement on the matters identified in clause 10.3 of the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

Where there is only one Traditional Owner Group on the Negotiations Register for an area of land and waters, that Group must still form a Delegation to begin Traditional Owner Treaty negotiations over that area (clause 10.1(b)). It will be a Delegation of one Group.

The Treaty Authority is responsible for facilitating and overseeing the formation of Delegations under the Treaty Negotiation Framework. This includes facilitating discussions and agreement-making, where requested by a Traditional Owner Group, and resolving disputes in accordance with Part I of the Treaty Negotiation Framework, as a matter of last resort. See the Treaty Authority's [Public Guide: Finding Common Ground to Resolve Disputes](#) for information about dispute resolution.

Forming a Delegation involving multiple Traditional Owner Groups is likely to be substantially more complex and time-consuming than forming a Delegation from a single Group. This is an important factor that we will consider in assessing applications for Phase 3 funding and making decisions on funding.

We may prioritise applications for funding to support formation of Delegations involving multiple Traditional Owner Groups, while also considering the wider contextual circumstances where multiple Groups seek to form one Delegation. See section 6 for more information on how applications are assessed.

Where a Group is part of more than one Delegation

Under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, a Traditional Owner Group may be part of more than one Delegation. Different Delegations may be formed at different times. This means a Traditional Owner Group may need different forms of support at different points in time.

We understand that a flexible approach is required to support the formation of Delegations. This means a Traditional Owner Group on the Negotiations Register can apply for Phase 3 funding more than once if this is necessary to support the Group's involvement in the formation of more than one Delegation. We will also consider the wider contextual circumstances where this scenario arises.

Reconstitution of a Delegation

The Treaty Negotiation Framework contemplates a process called 'reconstitution' of a Delegation (clause 10.5). This involves a Delegation being re-formed to include a Traditional Owner Group that is entered onto the Negotiations Register after the Delegation has been entered, in respect of land and waters that overlap with the Delegation's land and waters.

Reconstitution requires the Traditional Owner Groups involved to reach a new collective agreement. We will also consider the wider contextual circumstances where this scenario arises.

5. Application process

5.1. Contact us

The first step is to contact us at applications@selfdeterminationfund.org.au. We will then set up a meeting with you to discuss the funding phase your Traditional Owner Group is exploring and provide you with important information about the funding purposes and criteria. We will provide you with the relevant funding application form and guide you on completing the application, putting together the required budget, and any supporting documents that may be required.

We will also provide you with the deadline for submitting the application for consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting.

We can also answer any questions you may have, including questions about eligibility, funding amounts, thresholds, and the activities we will support in different funding phases.

5.2. Complete and submit application form

All applicants must submit a signed and completed application form (with supporting documents). We can guide and assist you in completing the application form process.

The signed and completed application form and supporting documents can be emailed or posted to us using the details below:

Email: applications@selfdeterminationfund.org.au

Post: Level 10, 54 Wellington Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066

Marked "CONFIDENTIAL SELF-DETERMINATION FUND"

If your Traditional Owner Group is not incorporated or does not have a bank account:

A Traditional Owner Group that is unincorporated or does not have a bank account should contact us at applications@selfdeterminationfund.org.au to discuss options for possible arrangements, such as auspice arrangements. As a public charitable trust, the Trustee has legal, regulatory, and other obligations to consider in these situations. By the end of Phase 2, applicants should be able to manage their own finances, whether through incorporation or otherwise.

5.3. Internal assessment of application

Once we have received your signed and completed application form, we will contact you to discuss the details of your application to begin the assessment process. In these conversations, where necessary, we will ask you to clarify, update, refine, or provide missing details.

We will also discuss the reasonable costs of any professional services included in your application. We have a responsibility to ensure that the costs of any professional services funded from the Self-Determination Fund are value for money and not excessive.

We will let you know if there are any exclusions or changes that may be required to your application.

We will then complete the internal assessment of your application and prepare it for consideration by the Board at their next scheduled meeting.

5.4. Board decision on application

The Trustee Board will consider and make a decision on your application at a scheduled Board meeting. The Board will assess your application using the assessment criteria in section 6. The amount of funding that is approved is at the discretion of the Board, including approving an amount of funding that is less than the amount requested in an application.

The Board may also make an 'in principle' decision on an application.

As soon as practicable after a Board meeting, we will contact you to advise you of the Board's decision and let you know what the next steps are.

5.5. Timeframe for decision on application

The timeframe for a decision on your application will be **four weeks from the application submission deadline for the next scheduled Board meeting**. This is based on a duly completed application (and any supporting documents) being provided by the application submission deadline. We will tell you when the application submission deadline for the next scheduled Board meeting is when you first contact us.

We encourage you to submit the application well in advance of the deadline to allow for enough time in case we need to contact you to clarify or provide additional information for your application to be considered complete and ready for the Board.

6. Funding application assessment

We will support applicants throughout the application process to ensure all eligible groups who want to access the Self-Determination Fund can do so. At the same time, we will ensure that the Self-Determination Fund is managed:

- Fairly and equitably, for the benefit of all First Peoples throughout Victoria;
- Responsibly, in accordance with high standards of good governance and financial accountability;
- Sustainably, to ensure the long-term integrity and viability of the Fund, and to fulfil the Fund's other purposes and priority spending areas (Wealth and Prosperity, and Future Investments); and
- In a manner consistent with the seven principles that guide the operation of the Self-Determination Fund.

6.1. Assessment factors

We will assess and, if necessary, prioritise applications based on assessment factors, including:

1. Whether the applicant has Existing Status as defined under the Treaty Negotiation Framework, noting that applicants without Existing Status may require more support than those with Existing Status.
2. How many members (registered or otherwise) the applicant has.
3. The likely complexity involved in the applicant achieving the intended outcomes of the funding phase - for example, in Phase 3, whether the proposed Delegation involves more than one Traditional Owner Group.
4. Whether the proposed project/activities are sufficiently connected with the purposes and intended outcomes of the funding phase.
5. Whether the proposal is value for money, including whether individual line expense items are well-calculated, and fair and reasonable.
6. Whether the costs of any professional services included in the application represent value for money and are not excessive.
7. Whether the applicant has existing resources that can support the proposed activities, including Self-Determination Fund funding from a previous funding phase.
8. Whether the applicant has the ability to receive and manage the funds, and ensure the funds are spent as proposed. This may include auspicing or other arrangements for applicants without an official corporation bank account.
9. Whether the Self-Determination Fund as a whole is being used to fairly and equitably benefit a broad cross-section of First Peoples in Victoria.
10. Whether the proposed distribution is consistent with the responsible and sustainable management of the Self-Determination Fund.
11. The Trustee's relevant legal, regulatory, compliance, and taxation requirements.
12. Other considerations the Trustee deems relevant to assess and make a decision on the application, including alignment with the Treaty Negotiation Framework, the completion of activities and use of funds in previous funding phases, and the impact of other concurrent legal processes.

6.2. Trust deed

When assessing applications, the Trustee must also comply with the terms of the trust deed under which it was established in November 2022.

A copy of this trust deed can be found on our [website](#).

7. Once an application is approved

7.1. Release of funds

All successful applicants must agree to and sign a Funding Agreement, which sets out the conditions of accessing and using funds. This must be done before we can release any funds. We may also ask for additional agreements to be signed if we consider it necessary to carry out our duties and responsibilities to the Self-Determination Fund.

Funding will be released in progressive milestone payments linked to the completion of approved phase activities. The Funding Agreement will explain how these work.

Funds will be transferred electronically to a verified, official bank account of the recipient. The recipient is responsible for any financial and taxation implications associated with receiving funds, along with their own bank fees and administrative fees.

7.2. Funding conditions

The use of funds will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, including the conditions summarised below. If a recipient of funding fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, we may reduce, suspend, or withhold payments to the recipient.

Use of funds	The funding must only be used for the activities approved by the Trustee Board and contained in the Funding Agreement.
Reporting	Recipients must provide information to the Trustee about how the funds were used (see section 7.4). We may use deidentified information about recipients' funded activities for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation.
Recipient details published	Under the Directions to Trustee , we are required to report on (publish) the recipients of funding and the amount of funding provided.
Compliance with laws and regulations	Recipients must comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

7.3. Change of activities

We recognise that unexpected events may affect a recipient's activities.

Recipients must keep in touch and alert us as early as possible if they need additional assistance or if there are any changes to a funded project.

In these circumstances, a recipient can speak to us about varying the Funding Agreement, including changing activities and/or changing milestone payments.

A recipient who would like to propose changes to the Funding Agreement should contact us to discuss this as soon as possible at applications@selfdeterminationfund.org.au.

7.4. Recipient reporting

Recipients will need to provide information about how funding is used. The reporting will be in the form of short progress reports of activities completed that are linked to milestone payments (during the phase), and a final report (at the end of the phase). The first progress report will be approximately three months after the Funding Agreement is signed or as necessary to align with recipients' activities for the particular phase. We can support recipients to complete the progress and final reports.

Information requested in reporting:

- How the funds have been used.
- How the activities in the Funding Agreement are progressing.
- The outcomes and benefits of the funding.
- The amount of funding spent on professional services.
- Any challenges experienced.
- Feedback on Self-Determination Fund processes.

8. Feedback and complaints

Feedback and complaints provide an important opportunity to resolve problems and improve the Self-Determination Fund's processes.

8.1. Feedback

We value feedback from applicants and recipients, and are committed to ensuring that applicants and recipients feel confident to express any concerns. We also welcome feedback from community.

To provide feedback, contact us by email at trustee@selfdeterminationfund.org.au.

8.2. Complaints

We are committed to managing complaints fairly, efficiently, and effectively in a person-centred manner, aligned to the Self-Determination Fund's guiding principles and the Dispute Resolution Policy under the [Directions to Trustee](#).

To make a complaint, contact us by email at trustee@selfdeterminationfund.org.au.

Wherever possible, we will seek to resolve a complaint informally within 20 days. This may include an informal discussion with the person or Group making the complaint.

If the complaint cannot be resolved informally, we will follow the dispute resolution procedure set out in the Dispute Resolution Policy under the [Directions to Trustee](#).