

# Neurodisability Assist

Applications for the 2015-16 Neurodisability Assist Trust Grant Program are now being accepted.

## 1. Background

The Neurodisability Assist Trust Grant Program is financed from a Private Ancillary Fund that has been established for the purpose of providing an opportunity for young people at an early career stage to explore the possibility of a career contributing to assisting those living with any form of neurodisability.

## 2. The Grant

The Neurodisability Assist Trust will provide a grant of up to \$25,000 in 2016.

## 3. Objectives

The primary objective of the Neurodisability Assist Trust Grant Program is to encourage recent graduates or undergraduates (candidates up to thirty years of age) to pursue or continue pursuing a career in the neurodisability field. A successful applicant will be expected to undertake a project or study offering the potential ultimately to have positive impacts on the lives of people who are marginalised and have complex needs from living with brain injury acquired either pre- or post-natally. Forms of brain injury falling within the scope of this grant could include, while not being limited to, conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, foetal alcohol syndrome, head trauma and stroke. Whilst the range of medical conditions falling within the scope of the term 'neurodisability' is very wide, skills, equipment, insights etc. developed in relation to any one condition are highly likely to have relevance for many others.

Examples of possible uses to which a grant might be applied to include, but not be limited to:

- being involved in the design, planning and/or implementation of a project that will benefit the target group
- undertaking a study tour to gain some relevant expertise
- providing an opportunity to work on a voluntary basis assisting with development of equipment or practices to assist people with particular disabilities, for example a modification of IT equipment to solve day to day problems
- undertaking research projects in prevention of acquired disabilities as a result of alcohol/drug related violence.

## Previous Grant Recipient

The successful grant applicant in 2014 has applied his engineering and IT skills to research the development of a brain operated wheelchair which could, ultimately, enable people living with severe limitation of movement to gain a valuable measure of independent mobility. The challenge in this project, using currently available technology, has been to integrate inputs derived from either brain wave recording or eye movement with software capable of directing the movement of the subject's wheelchair.

The Neurodisability Assist trustees considered this project to be very exciting, however, as mentioned above, their hope is that undertaking and achieving in the course of it will strengthen the interest of the young person undertaking it to consider a career which will benefit people with disabilities. As exemplified above, it is feasible to envisage a variety of ways in which this might occur and the trustees can envisage a range of applications which could meet the objectives of a grant.

## 4. Eligibility

Only organisations that have Deductible Gift Recipient or Tax Concession Charity status are eligible to submit an application to auspice a grant on behalf of a candidate. In advertising grants the trustees wish to encourage organisations to seek out and encourage applications from young persons whom they consider to have the attributes and motivation to contribute in some way within the disability sector.

Funds will **only be** provided for the purposes of involving candidates in specific projects or study.

Applications for funds for general organisational use will **not** be considered.

## 5. Assessment

All applications for the Neurodisability Assist Trust Grant Program will be assessed by the Trustees. In conjunction with the auspicing organisation the candidate/s should address each of the following points: (incomplete grant applications will not be considered)

1. Provide your resume.
2. Describe your project and its objectives.
3. Describe how your project will influence long-term change to enhance the rights and wellbeing of the particular disability target group.
4. Describe how you will know your project has achieved its objectives and the indicators used to measure this.
5. Describe what is innovative or original about your project.

6. Provide a project timeline, including key milestones.
7. Attach two letters of recommendation from independent referees and include their contact details so they may be contacted in relation to your application.
8. Provide evidence of your organisation's Deductible Gift Recipient or Tax Concession Charity status.
9. Include a budget detailing intended expenditure.

## **6. Special Conditions**

The successful applicant will be provided with funding of up to \$25,000 in two parts with the initial funding to be provided in January 2016 and the remainder to be forwarded in July 2016.

The Grant recipient in conjunction with the auspicating organisation is required to provide:

1. A report on the outcomes of the project upon completion, not longer than 12 months after the awarding of the grant.
2. A financial statement of expenditure for the project.

## **7. Deadline for Submissions**

Submissions are to be sent to Peter McCullagh at the following email address by **COB 30 September, 2015**:

[pjdmcullagh@bigpond.com](mailto:pjdmcullagh@bigpond.com)

Inquiries can be made by sending an email to the above address or by telephone on 02 6230 3219.

## **8. Grant Contacts**

Please provide the following details for two key contacts for the project.

Name:

Organisation:

Role within Organisation:

Street Address:

Mailing Address (if different to above):

ABN:

Organisation's website:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email: