



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development



Building Better Aboriginal Business Bushfood Supply Chain Voucher

Round 2 - Program Guidelines

Funding up to \$10,000 ex. GST available for eligible businesses for approved activities

Applications open: 08 September 2026

Applications close: 30 April 2027



Contents

Bushfood Supply Chain Voucher	3
1. Program overview	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Voucher purpose and objective:	3
1.3 Administration arrangements	3
1.4 Assistance available:	3
2. Program eligibility.....	4
2.1 Resources to consider	4
2.2 Who can apply for funding?	4
2.3 Voucher activities and services that can be funded	5
2.4 Activities and services that cannot be funded	5
2.5 Voucher conditions of use	6
2.6 Professional Service Providers eligibility	6
3. Assessment	7
3.1 Assessment criteria	7
3.2 Decision and notification of outcome	8
4. Payment.....	8
4.1 Tax information	8
4.2 Confidentiality and privacy	8
4.3 Intellectual Property	9
5. How to apply	9
5.1 Contact Information	9
Glossary of Terms	10

Bushfood Supply Chain Voucher

1. Program overview

1.1 Background

The value of the Australian bushfood, bush product and botanicals industry continues to grow. This growth and expansion of primary industries provide an opportunity for Aboriginal businesses to:

- Increase their representation and ownership across industries
- Build sustainable businesses on Country harvesting, developing and selling bushfood products
- Highlight their unique knowledge, stories and connection to Country and food sources
- Lead the way in the development, use and commercialisation of unique foods
- Ensure bushfoods are developed, used, and commercialised in a culturally appropriate, respectful, and sustainable way
- Ensure benefits are returned to Country, so it is protected and nurtured

Tailored support is required to empower both emerging and expanding Aboriginal businesses across Western Australia (WA) working in bushfood, bush product and botanicals.

1.2 Voucher purpose and objective:

The purpose of the *Bushfood Supply Chain Voucher* is to support Aboriginal businesses build strong, sustainable practices and good governance so they can be competitive in Western Australia's bushfood, bush product and botanicals industry. It aims to foster efficient, sustainable practices and strong governance structures that support business success.

The objective of the *Bushfood Supply Chain Voucher* is to increase and grow Aboriginal economic participation in the supply chain to meet a growing demand for high-value products in these primary industries.

1.3 Administration arrangements

This Program is funded by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) through the Royalties for Regions funding.

DPIRD reserves the right to close the program at any time, including when funding has been fully allocated. Should the scheme close, a notice of the closure will be published on DPIRD's website www.dpird.wa.gov.au.

1.4 Assistance available:

The vouchers are available to Aboriginal-owned businesses to fund services and activities up to \$10,000 ex GST for each applicant business, paid direct to the nominated service provider(s).

2. Program eligibility

Please read these guidelines before applying.

2.1 Resources to consider

Business owners are also encouraged to consider the following resources to support their business:

- [Setting up for Success – Bushfoods resources](#)
- [Aboriginal Procurement Advisory Service](#)
- [Aboriginal Business Capability Building training](#)
- [WA Food and Beverage Professional Service Provider Directory | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development](#)

2.2 Who can apply for funding?

Before applying you are required to discuss your application with the **Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service (ABBSS) team**. Email bushfoodbusiness@dpird.wa.gov.au to schedule a call.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be an Aboriginal-owned business that:

- is registered with one or more of the following:
 - Supply Nation's Indigenous Business Directory
 - Aboriginal Business Directory WA
 - Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
 - Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council
- has an active Australian Business Number (ABN)
- is located in Western Australia
- delivers goods and services in regional Western Australia
- is emerging or expanding their business to participate in bush foods, bush products, seafood and beef industries
- can demonstrate experience and capability to continue operating based on application
- has discussed their application with the Bushfood Business Support Service

2.3 Voucher activities and services that can be funded

Vouchers can be used to build capacity and develop Aboriginal businesses with a focus on (and not limited to) these activities:



2.4 Activities and services that cannot be funded

Activities that are **not eligible** for funding include:

- capital expenditure, meaning equipment or assets for the business including tools, vehicles, software and hardware
- administration and 'business as usual' costs, including insurance, licences, leases

- staff salaries and wages
- consumables or ongoing costs such as printing of marketing materials or website hosting
- training that is not aligned with or directly focussed on industry specific business development
- training that is higher education, meaning university degrees
- services relating to import activities or offshore manufacturing
- administration fees or charges associated with registering patents, copyright, intellectual property, export documentation or compliance across the supply chain
- international travel
- any other expenditure that is not deemed by DPIRD to fulfil the intention of the Program

Please note that an **application can be varied** if required following submission by contacting the Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service directly.

2.5 Voucher conditions of use

1. Businesses are **limited to one application** which may include the request of one or more vouchers to a **maximum combined value of \$10,000** (excluding GST).
2. Vouchers are provided for the approved activities or services with a nominated **eligible Professional Service Provider**.
3. Vouchers are valid until **30 April 2027**, when all activities need to be complete and invoices submitted.
4. **Payment is made by DPIRD directly** to the service provider once they provide a tax invoice and services are complete **to the satisfaction of the applicant business**.
5. Any **changes or variations to the initial use** of the voucher need to be approved in writing via email through the Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service at bushfoodbusiness@dpird.wa.gov.au.

2.6 Professional Service Providers eligibility

Applicants must choose a Professional Service Provider to do the work funded by the voucher. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to choose **professional local providers and/or other Aboriginal businesses**.

Eligible Professional Service Providers nominated by the applicant to complete consultancy works may be publicly funded entities, not-for-profit enterprises, or privately owned businesses.

Applicants must show that their chosen provider has the **skills, experience, and/or qualifications** needed for the work. This proof can include the following:

- Capability statements
- Company brochures
- Customer testimonials or references

- Examples of past work (with sensitive information removed if needed)

Professional Service Providers may partner with other providers to deliver quoted work. The quote must clearly describe the experience and responsibilities of each partner.

Please note:

- The nominated Professional Service Provider cannot be an employee of the applicant business.
- Applicants and Professional Service Providers must be independent from each other. They cannot:
 - Be owned by the same parent company
 - Share directors or governance
 - Be immediate family members by birth or marriage

3. Assessment

Applications are assessed and approved in the order they are received by the Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service.

Assessors declare any perceived or actual conflict of interest (Col) as part of the assessment process.

Where there is a perceived or actual Col, determined by the assessment lead, an alternative assessor will complete the assessment.

Please note that preference will be given to existing ABBSS clients.

3.1 Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess applications:

3.1.1 Funding Need

- The business identifies a gap in their development within an eligible industry
- The voucher for services can address the identified gap

3.1.2 Level of impact

- The voucher is going to directly assist/improve the business in the eligible industry
- The use of the voucher demonstrates value for money
- The voucher has potential to support the growth and development of the business into the future
- The success of the business has benefits for the community and region

3.1.3 Capacity and economic participation

- The business can engage in the voucher activities within the allocated timeframe **(due to be completed by 2 April 2027)**

3.1.4 Previous work to date

- Has a business plan been developed?
- Has a business feasibility study been completed?

- Outline the current stage of your business (e.g. concept, start-up, early growth, expansion)

Please note that preference will be given to existing ABBSS clients.

Applicants will be able to provide further information or make changes to their application prior to assessment through the Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service at bushfoodbusiness@dpiird.wa.gov.au.

3.2 Decision and notification of outcome

Successful applicants will be informed by email and phone call. The email will outline the approved services and include vouchers to engage with the Professional Service Provider.

Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation survey at the completion of activities.

Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by email. There is no appeal process.

4. Payment

Funding is approved through vouchers for the activities and services.

The voucher amount is paid directly by DPIRD to the nominated Professional Service Provider once

- they are created as a supplier in DPIRD's finance system – must have an ABN and Australian bank account
- they provide an eligible tax invoice
- the service has been delivered to the satisfaction of the applicant business
- the funding conditions are met

Payments are made electronically to the nominated accounts of the Professional Service Provider.

Vouchers are non-transferable and have no cash value. The vouchers must be used by the business they are awarded to and cannot be exchanged for cash.

4.1 Tax information

Funding provided to service and training providers on behalf of the recipient business is regarded as payment for a supply.

Service and training providers who are registered for GST will invoice and be paid for the approved voucher amount plus GST.

Applicants are otherwise encouraged to seek tax advice on the potential implications of obtaining funding.

4.2 Confidentiality and privacy

DPIRD is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*, which provides a general right of access to records held by the State Government agencies and local governments.

Information provided by an applicant as part of, or in connection with, a funding application will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. This information will only be disclosed with the applicant's consent or for the following:

- » to the relevant Minister and their office
- » to members of the assessment team
- » to independent technical experts where required
- » to Departmental staff, consultants, advisers and auditors
- » as required by law.

These parties will be required to maintain confidentiality in accordance with the State Government's general confidentiality requirements for employees and contractors.

4.3 Intellectual Property

Any intellectual property rights that may exist in an application will remain the property of the applicant or the rightful owner of those intellectual property rights.

Any part of an application considered to contain any intellectual property rights should be clearly identified by the applicant. The applicant grants to the State (and will ensure that relevant third parties grant) a non-exclusive, irrevocable licence to use and reproduce the intellectual property for the purpose of administering the fund.

5. How to apply

Before applying, arrange a call with the Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service on bushfoodbusiness@dpird.wa.gov.au to discuss your application.

Applications can be submitted:

- through SmartyGrants online portal <https://dpird.smartygrants.com.au/BBABSCV2>
- by reaching out to Nikita Procter, Senior Project Officer, Aboriginal Bushfood Business Service team on 0409 857 513.

5.1 Contact Information

For further information on the voucher program please contact Nikita Procter, Senior Project Officer, Aboriginal Bushfood Business Support Service team, on 0409 857 513 or bushfoodbusiness@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Glossary of Terms

ABN - Australian Business Register

Aboriginal Bushfood Business Service - Support services for Aboriginal businesses in bushfood industries delivered by DPIRD

Aboriginal owned business - A business that is at least 50% owned by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Applicant - The entity who makes the application for funding.

Application - An application (in full or part) and all associated information (or relevant part of an application) made to the State of Western Australia for funding under the Program.

AWST - Australian Western Standard Time.

DPIRD - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

GST - Goods and Services Tax

Guidelines - Are the guidelines for the program, this document.

Professional Service Provider (Supplier) - A person or business that offers expert knowledge, skills, or advice to the business.

Program - First Nations Supply Chain Voucher.

SmartyGrants - The online grant management platform used by DPIRD.

Supply Chain - All the steps involved in getting a product for the consumer.

Supply Chain Voucher - Up to \$10,000 will be paid directly to the service provider to support the business and cannot be transferred to another business or individual.

Important Disclaimer

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