



## **Music Industry Kickstarter**

### **Grant Application Guidelines 2026**

Queenscliff Music Festival Inc. (QMF Inc) is a creative and socially responsible organisation which engages and fosters the community and the arts. In line with this vision, the music Industry Kickstarter Grant aims to provide professional and creative development opportunities for people in the early stages of their music industry career.

Applications from across the music industry are encouraged to test, develop and realise ideas which:

- are bold and ambitious
- use skills and the imagination to produce new and unique works
- increase exposure to further professional or creative development
- build the capacity of people working in the music industry
- benefit the local community

#### **Grant Amount and Duration**

- Funding is available for grants up to \$5000 for projects that can be completed within one year.
- QMF Inc. will not usually fund a project entirely. Some financial input from applicants' own funds demonstrates a high level of commitment.
- Proposals that require ongoing funding or exceed a funding request greater than \$5000 will not be considered.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- The Music Industry Kickstarter is open to an individual or group that are in the early stages of their music industry career; there is no age limit.
- Applicants must reside in the region of the Bellarine Peninsula, Geelong or Surf Coast.

#### **Use of Grant Funds**

The following items may be considered for funding:

- fees for mentoring by industry professionals
- training/professional development
- materials

- venue and studio hire
- equipment purchase or hire
- publicity and promotion
- inclusion and access costs
- documentation and evaluation

#### Examples:

- Scholarships for the mentoring of emerging performing artists, local musicians and others in the music industry who have identified a need to develop skills and or knowledge in areas such as technology, song writing, performance, production, stage craft, promotion or other associated endeavors.
- Expenses incurred for items such as recording, equipment purchase or hire, touring costs, education and training.

### Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed and selected by the QMF Inc. Music Industry Kickstarter Selection Committee (members of the QMF Inc. Board, Independent industry and community professionals) and endorsed by the QMF Inc. Board. This committee will rank applications against the QMF Inc. core values. When writing about your project please show us how it aligns with these values:

#### Creativity, Community, Social Responsibility and Integrity

- **Creativity**  
We love discovering new and original projects. What makes your project special? What partnerships, cross disciplinary or collaborative innovation is involved in your project?
- **Community**  
What benefits will your project bring to the local music and/or broader community? For example, does it strengthen or contribute to the local cultural identity? Does it use local resources or employ local people? Has it been inspired by the local environment?
- **Social Responsibility**  
We like to see projects that have positive impacts on our inclusive and culturally diverse community along with respect for our local environment. Does your project provide any positive environmental outcomes? Does it involve a diverse range of people?
- **Integrity.**  
The quality of your project is important, as is your ability to complete it. Please tell us how you will achieve a quality, finished project that is within your budget and the one-year time frame.



The Selection Committee will also consider the financial component of your application and how you propose to spend the grant funds. Please ensure you include a detailed budget for your project that shows all sources of income and all areas of expenditure. Remember the income and expenditure totals should balance. The sustainability of the project beyond the funding period will also be taken into consideration.

### **Application Process**

There will be one rounds of funding in 2026 with a total grant pool of \$10,000.

### **Applications open 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 and close 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

Please contact Claire Stickland, Festival Director [claire.stickland@qmf.net.au](mailto:claire.stickland@qmf.net.au) to provide a synopsis of your project idea before submitting your application should you require.

Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of their submission within 4 weeks of the closing date.

### **Allocation of funds**

Payment of grant funds will be considered on a case by case basis using the following guidelines:

- 50% of funds provided on approval of project and financial agreement signed.
- 50% of funds provided subject to the final acquittal and project report being accepted by the QMF Board.

Earlier release of these funds may be considered.