

REGIONAL TECH HUB CONNECT GRANT GUIDELINES

Local Support for Better Connectivity

About the program

The Regional Tech Hub's Connect Grants are designed to support organisations working to improve connectivity outcomes in rural, regional and remote communities across Australia. These micro grants of up to \$3,000 are available to help local groups deliver community-led initiatives that build practical knowledge around connectivity.

Our aim is to lift connectivity literacy – that is, people's ability to understand and troubleshoot their internet and mobile coverage challenges, make informed decisions about services and technologies, and navigate the complex landscape of regional telecommunications.

This is not just about digital skills. While digital literacy is important, *connectivity literacy* is the understanding people need to navigate, use and troubleshoot the internet and mobile services available to them – like knowing the difference between providers, understanding terms such as data, latency, and speed, or knowing what to do when a connection drops out.

Why we're investing

The Regional Tech Hub is a free and independent Australian Government service, that exists to help people in rural, regional and remote areas get the most out of their connectivity. Since its establishment in December 2020, we have engaged with more than 350,000 people and worked one-to-one with more than 23,000 households. Every day, we hear from people who feel frustrated, confused or left behind because they don't have the right information or support. Often, the technical advice that's available doesn't reflect the reality of rural life, where coverage can be patchy, providers are limited, and local conditions matter.

We're a small team working across a wide area, so we're looking to collaborate with regionally based organisations that know their communities well and are already active on the ground. That might mean running info sessions at local events, helping people understand mobile coverage issues, or supporting farmers with on-farm connectivity.

Eligible activities could include:

- Hosting community events or roadshows to solve connectivity issues
- Upskilling local staff in connectivity knowledge
- Promoting awareness of the Regional Tech Hub service
- Facilitating connectivity literacy training
- Event sponsorship.

What isn't funded:

- Digital skills training, ie. computer lessons for seniors

- Non-connectivity related event sponsorship
- Events where connectivity is not the main theme.

How we can help

The Regional Tech Hub can support your group in a number of practical ways. Our Regional Partnership Officers, based around the country, are available to take part in sessions or events and can provide on-the-ground support tailored to your community.

We work closely with the regional engagement teams from nbn, Telstra and Optus, and can help facilitate their involvement, where appropriate. You do not need to have set dates for proposed events at the time of application. These can be confirmed during the project development phase after contracts are in place.

We also have a range of practical resources, both hard copy and digital, that are freely available to use. If you're interested in getting support or exploring ideas, your first step is to reach out to the Regional Partnership Officer in your state or contact us via email, hello@regionaltechhub.org.au.

How it works

There are two types of funding available:

- **RTH Connect Grants (up to \$3,000)**
These grants are for practical, local projects that build awareness, skills or understanding about connectivity challenges and solutions. Think workshops, local events, targeted support programs, printed resources, or regional roadshows.
- **Event Sponsorship (up to \$1,500)**
Available year-round to support events where the Regional Tech Hub message can be shared. This could include community meetings, agriculture shows, community expos or field days where connectivity information and resources can be distributed. Our preference for sponsorships is for the Regional Tech Hub to have a speaking opportunity.

Who can apply

This program is open to not-for-profit organisations, community groups, regional service providers, and local councils who are active in regional, rural or remote Australia. We're looking to partner with groups that already have strong local relationships and the capacity to deliver trusted, place-based support.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be based in, or have a strong focus on, rural, regional and remote Australia
- Have a registered ABN
- Have experience in managing grants, including financial and reporting systems
- Be able to demonstrate that participation in the program will genuinely benefit your group or community.

Key dates

- **RTH Connect Grant Applications Open:** Wednesday 9 July 2025
- **RTH Connect Grant Applications Close:** noon (AEST) Friday, 8 August 2025

- **Event Sponsorship:** Open all year until funds are exhausted

****** Projects must be delivered within six months of signing a contract.

Assessment outline

When assessing requests for support, we consider the relevance of the audience, the potential to build connectivity literacy, and the practical logistics of getting involved. We prioritise opportunities where our Regional Partnership Officers can attend, and where we can work with telcos like nbn, Telstra or Optus to add value. We also take into account the availability of our printed and digital resources to support your activity. If you're unsure where to start, reach out to your local Regional Partnership Officer or email us at hello@regionaltechhub.org.au to discuss what's possible.

Next Steps

To find out more, visit <https://regionaltechhub.org.au/connect-grants/> or contact the Regional Tech Hub team at hello@regionaltechhub.org.au

