

## Grants Programs

---

Masonicare ('The Grand Charity') is the official charity of the Freemasons of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Masonicare is the operating name of The Grand Charity Fund. The Grand Charity Fund is an Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) under sub-section 50-B and a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) under sub-section 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Australian Tax Office).

Masonicare has developed four key financial grant programs, each designed to cater to specific areas of need. Any Freemason in NSW and the ACT can get involved with finding suitable recipients for these grants. These grants are designed to make a positive impact on society, while giving the Masonic community an opportunity to be involved with local community causes and projects.

Masonicare aims to encourage Masons to work with the community in identifying needs, raising funds to assist with projects and programs and, in some cases, providing practical assistance through skill sharing and direct involvement. We want the community to experience 'Freemasons in Action'.

*The four Masonicare Grants Programs are:*

### Interaction Grants

The Interaction Grants program is designed to complement charitable fundraising activities initiated by Masonic Lodges or Masonic Associations. Depending on the situation, masoniCare will add to monies raised by local Freemasons, in the majority of cases offering 'dollar for dollar' support.

### Regional Grants

The Regional Grants program involves utilising the Masonic Community to find suitable community organisations to receive financial support. ***This Program has been temporarily restructured and is now only available for Region 7 - Orana and Region 13 - Far West.***

### Benevolence Grants

The Benevolence Program is designed to offer relief to Freemasons and/or their families in times of need. This program is not a charity in the strict sense of the word as it is only open to Masonic Lodge members and families.

### Disaster Relief

Sudden natural disasters and other emergencies can sometimes wreak havoc on unsuspecting communities leaving a trail of despair. The Disaster Relief Fund is designed to offer financial aid to communities in distress.

**The following guidelines have been developed to assist Masonic Lodges, Masonic Associations and local charitable organisations in developing their applications for funding from masoniCare's Grants Programs.**

# Grant Guidelines

## How to Apply

All applications are to be in writing, using an official Masonicare Application Form. Application forms may be downloaded from the masoniCare website: [www.masoniCare.org.au/LinksPubs](http://www.masoniCare.org.au/LinksPubs) or by contacting masoniCare on 02 9284 2838 or via email at [info@masoniCare.org.au](mailto:info@masoniCare.org.au).

Interaction and Regional Grant applications will normally be submitted by a Masonic Lodge or a Masonic Association which is raising funds for a not-for-profit / charity organisation.

Benevolence applications must be submitted by a Lodge and endorsed by the Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary. Applications are taken and kept in strict confidence.

## Eligibility

### Interaction & Regional Grants

Grants can only be made to organisations that are endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as charities, or to government bodies such as schools or hospitals. If an organisation has been endorsed by the ATO as a charity, it will have Income Tax Exempt Charity (ITEC) status and may also be a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). To check on the eligibility of an organisation for a masoniCare Grant, use the Australian Business Number (ABN) website and search by either the organisation's name or ABN: [www.abr.business.gov.au](http://www.abr.business.gov.au)

### We aim to support:

- Specific local community causes, projects and programs.

### We can't support:

- Sporting organisations, including school sporting teams.
- Individuals looking for support or fundraising.
- Interstate or overseas projects (unless natural disaster or emergency which might be supported by Masonicare's Disaster Relief Program).

### We prefer not to be involved with:

- General fundraising appeals – Masonicare's grants are intended to support specific local projects rather than general fundraising appeals (however, a request for an interACTION Grant in support of a Masonic team raising money in a fundraising walk may be approved, for example).
- Organisations/projects that might offend a significant number of fellow Masons or promote a particular political or religious view.

## Benevolence

The Benevolence Fund is for the assistance of Freemasons and/or their family. It is not available to the general public.

Depending on the individual's circumstance, Masonicare may, for example, assist Freemasons in financial need, facilitate professional counselling if appropriate, or cover the cost of a Freemasons funeral.

Applications must be submitted by a Lodge and endorsed by the Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary and will be handled by masoniCare in the strictest of confidence.

## Grant Amount

Interaction Grants are for a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000.

Regional Grants, currently only available for Region 7 and Region 13, are for \$5,000.

The Benevolence Fund offers support in two ways – a Grant of up to \$5,000 for the relief of a distressed Freemason and/or his family; or a Grant of up to \$6,500 to cover the cost of a Freemason's funeral – subject to the individual's circumstance.

## Application Tips

To help you prepare for your application, please consider the following:

- Have I read the guidelines carefully?
- Am I able to answer every question in the application form?
- Is the recipient organisation endorsed by the ATO as a charity?

## Assessment of Applications

Assessment of Interaction and Regional Grant applications will be made initially by Masonicare's Grants Committee (a sub-committee of the Masonicare Board).

Assessment of Benevolence Grant applications will be made initially by Masonicare's Benevolence Committee (another sub-committee of the Masonicare Board).

These sub-committees will then make recommendations to the Masonicare Board. In the case of Benevolence Applications, these are submitted with the names removed.

Interaction and Benevolence Grant applications are ratified throughout the year at each Masonicare Board Meeting. Board Meetings are held bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December of each year.

Regional Grants applications are ratified once a year at the June Board Meeting.

## Notification

Masonicare will confirm receipt of all Interaction and Regional Grant applications for funding by written acknowledgement to the applicant.

Successful and non-successful applicants will receive notification in writing.

Due to the sensitive nature of Benevolence Grant applications, Masonicare will liaise directly with the Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary who endorsed the application.

## Publicity

Masonicare welcomes public recognition by Interaction and Regional Grant recipients as the source of funding for their project/program.

This recognition might be:

- Organisational publicity
- United Grand Lodge publications
- Grant hand-over ceremony/event
- Media coverage
- Signage/plaques or other physical recognition as appropriate for the project/program.

Please note: Grant recognition is not a pre-requisite for funding.

## For further information

**Web** [www.masoniCare.org.au](http://www.masoniCare.org.au)

**Email** [info@masoniCare.org.au](mailto:info@masoniCare.org.au)

**Mail** Masonicare Grants Program  
Level 4, Sydney Masonic Centre  
279 Castlereagh Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

## Terms and Conditions

1. Masonicare will provide the successful organisation with an Interaction grant between the amounts of minimum \$1,000 and maximum \$5,000. Regional Grants are provided up to \$5,000. Benevolence Grants are up to \$5,000 for Freemasons in need or up to \$6,500 to cover funeral costs.
2. As Masonicare does have a limited funding reserve, not every application that meets the selection criteria will necessarily receive a grant.
3. Masonicare will only accept Interaction and Regional Grant applications on behalf of organisations that are endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as charities, or to government bodies such as hospitals. To check on the eligibility of an organisation for a Masonicare Grant, use the Australian Business Number (ABN) website and search by either the organisation's name or ABN: [www.abr.business.gov.au](http://www.abr.business.gov.au)
4. Masonicare will only consider Benevolence Grant applications submitted by a Lodge and endorsed by the Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary.
5. The number of grants awarded is at the discretion of the Masonicare Board.
6. Should the actual project/program costs be more than the proposed project/program costs, Masonicare will not be responsible or obliged to pay any monies additional to the notified grant amount.
7. Masonicare may ask to use photos of its Interaction and Regional Grants recipients in Masonicare publications and website if this is agreed between both parties.
8. These Terms and Conditions are to be read together with the Guidelines before an application is submitted. They will all form the terms of the agreement for the grant.



**masoniCare is the operating name of the Grand Charity Fund of the United Grand Lodge of NSW and the ACT** ABN 12 848 180 202

Level 4, 279 Castlereagh Street Sydney 2000 / PO Box A1114 Sydney South 1235

**Telephone** 02 9284 2838

**Facsimile** 02 9284 2828

**Email** [info@masoniCare.org.au](mailto:info@masoniCare.org.au)

**Web** [www.masoniCare.org.au](http://www.masoniCare.org.au)