



**LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
OF AUSTRALIA

**LOCAL MISSION**

*going and growing as God's people*

# New and Renewing Churches Grants

For the development of mission and ministry in  
Australia and New Zealand



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## Introduction

*LOVE COMES TO LIFE as we are refreshed through God's word, worship and prayer – and new and renewing communities grow in grace, following Jesus.*

New and Renewing Churches grants are for sending congregations or church plants who require financial support for the growth and development of mission and ministry in their locality. An application may be for a specific once-off project, activity, or resource or for support for ministry development.

The following information will help you understand the application process. Please use the guidelines and forms provided when applying for a Church Plant grant from New and Renewing Churches.

All successful grant applicants are required to provide a half-yearly status update report and a grant acquittal for the grant period.

Please read through this booklet and prayerfully consider your local mission needs before completing the documentation.

All applications require **prior** approval of the District before applying for a grant. Please be as clear and precise as possible with what you are presenting. Photos, PowerPoint and other media can be used to enhance your application.

## How to use this booklet

In preparing your application, please consult with your District Mission Director, or District Bishop for WA and NSW congregations.

Please send all documentation to the Local Mission executive office via [newandrenewing@lca.org.au](mailto:newandrenewing@lca.org.au)

All enquiries can be directed to [newandrenewing@lca.org.au](mailto:newandrenewing@lca.org.au)

## Guidelines for applications

### To whom and when:

- All applications should be sent to the Local Mission Executive Office via email [newandrenewing@lca.org.au](mailto:newandrenewing@lca.org.au). Applications will be assessed by the Committee for New and Renewing Churches.

### Form of submission:

- The application is to be forwarded by email. Supporting documentation can also be sent by email.

### Content of submission:

- This booklet describes the criteria by which the Committee for New and Renewing Churches will assess the submissions. Please ensure that your application meets the assessment criteria.
- The District Bishop, or his representative **MUST** approve your application, and a letter of support from the District must accompany the application.
- Note that if there is more than one submission from within your district, and submissions require prioritising due to the availability of funds, the Committee for New and Renewing Churches will seek advice from the District as to the relative merits of the applications.

### Amount being sought:

- Applications can be made for **up to a total of \$5,000** and **may extend for up to two years**.
- The submission should set out clearly what the grant money will be used for, as well as the amount and kind of **support received and/or expected from other sponsoring individuals, groups or partner churches**.

### Reporting and acquittal:

1. Grant recipients are required to provide a **half-yearly status update report** each year of the grant period. Complete the Half yearly status update form.
2. Grant recipients are required to provide an **annual grant acquittal** each year. Complete the Grant acquittal report form.

### Contact person:

- The name, address, phone number, email address and role of the contact person within the applying body should be clearly presented in the submission.
- The Local Mission Executive Office is to be advised as soon as possible if the contact person changes.

## Summary of key dates

- Grant applications are received on a continuous basis and reviewed at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee for New and Renewing Churches, or by special meeting of the CNRC where necessary.
- A half yearly status update report is due at the six month stage of the grant period (and 18 month stage if the grant is split over two years)
- An annual grant acquittal is due at the 12 month stage of the grant period (and 24 month stage if the grant is split over two years).

### NOTE

One grant instalment is paid annually. Where funding is provided over two years, the second grant instalment will be released once the annual grant acquittal has been received, reviewed and accepted by the Committee for New and Renewing Churches. The committee, in turn,

provides regular reports on Church Plant grants to the Council for Local Mission and to partner churches.

The **initial grant payment will occur** following approval of the application.

**A second grant payment, where required, will occur at the 12 month stage**, pending the receipt and approval of the required half yearly report and acquittal.

If your ministry context or project changes significantly or concludes, the Committee for New and Renewing Churches reserves the right to request the return of unused funds.

If you have any questions regarding this process please contact the Executive Officer - Local Mission on 08 8267 7300.

## Assessment criteria

The Committee for New and Renewing Churches will use the following criteria in assessing and prioritising submissions, given the funds available for Church Plant grants are limited.

1. The extent that the church plant/ministry/project reaches out to individuals and groups of people.
2. The extent that the church plant/ministry/project reaches out to people unconnected with the Christian Church (and not simply providing an alternative congregation for current Christians).
3. The provision of a three year strategic plan, including what is envisioned the church plant will look like and how it will suit the context.
4. Evidence of collaboration with sending and partner churches and other local ministries or sponsors, including evidence of funds sought from other partners.
5. Evidence of sustainability beyond the grant period – how will the project be sustained in the mid-term? Long-term?
6. Evidence of planning for the building of missional capacity of local leadership, that is, intentional skills development so that the leaders are supported and sent outside the church context to bring the good news of Jesus in word and action.

## Outline for grant application

Please use this format for the preparation and submission of your Church Plant grant application. If the following information is not provided, the Committee for New and Renewing Churches may not be able to consider your application.

### 1. COMPLETE THE GRANT APPLICATION FORM AND ATTACH TO THE FRONT OF THE APPLICATION

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

Provide a brief overview of the church plant/ministry/project and how the funds will be used.

### **3. PROPOSAL HISTORY**

Provide background to the church plant initiative.

### **4. AREA OF SERVICE**

- 4.1 Describe the local situation (e.g. demographic profile of the area in which your ministry will be undertaken; data about your area that may be available from the Australian census, local government, and/or National Church Life Survey).
- 4.2 Give details of specific issues regarding the context in which your church plant/ministry/project is operating or will operate.
- 4.3 Provide information about your sending church or sponsoring body, including articulation of the overall congregational vision and strategies, and how this church plant/ministry/project forms part of the congregational mission and ministry plan.

### **5. CHURCH AND OTHER 'EXTERNAL' RELATIONSHIPS**

- 5.1 Include a letter of support from the District office.
- 5.2 Describe the relationship with and support from the sending church, and neighbouring congregations or agencies (if applicable).
- 5.3 Provide details of funding sought or previously received from other sources (e.g. District mission outreach grants; Council or State grant monies).

### **6. ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES**

- 6.1 How will the church plant/ministry/project be managed (eg via sending church council, special management group)?
- 6.2 Describe the mission/ministry team, including a list of the membership and the skills that are brought to the team.
- 6.3 Describe how the team will implement what you have planned.

### **7. OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

- 7.1 Provide a ministry/project strategic plan that demonstrates appropriate consultation, short term and long-term goals/objectives, milestones and expected outcomes, and timelines of proposed activities.
- 7.2 List your goals/objectives with indicators for how planned achievement will be assessed.
- 7.3 Identify any risks to implementation and how risks will be mitigated.
- 7.4 Summarise how the planned mission objectives will be sustainable in the mid to long term with regard to finances, volunteer and ministry worker resources, and spiritually and missionally.

### **8. BUDGET**

- 8.1 Provide a budget that shows anticipated expenditure of the grant (by year, for a maximum of 3 years), and income and reserves that may be used for the church plant/ministry/project. Provide details of other funding provided.
- 8.2 Articulate a plan for continuing the church plant/ministry/project once the funding period concludes.