

News Release

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ANZ opens 2026 Seeds of Renewal program to support regional communities

ANZ has opened applications for its 2026 Seeds of Renewal program, committing \$250,000 in funding to help strengthen and sustain remote, rural and regional communities across Australia. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for eligible not-for-profit and community organisations.

Delivered in partnership with FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal), the program is marking its 24th year in 2026 and continues to back grassroots initiatives that respond to local challenges and unlock long-term community benefit.

Since its inception in 2002, the program has provided more than \$7 million in funding to over 935 community-led projects. Last year, \$250,000 in grants were [awarded to community groups across the country](#), supporting organisations ranging from [wildlife sanctuaries to crisis accommodation centres](#).

This year, funding will focus on four key priority areas:

- **Financial wellbeing:** initiatives that improve economic participation, particularly for under-represented and disadvantaged people in the community. For example, building financial literacy and vocational skills and providing access to meaningful work.
- **Housing access:** initiatives and programs that support those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, or that provide housing support for people living with disability.
- **Environmental sustainability:** initiatives that restore and conserve the natural environment or contribute to lower carbon emissions, water stewardship and waste minimisation.
- **Assisting local communities to thrive:** projects that either enable vibrant communities, where everyone can participate and build a better life, or create sustainable communities that help deliver demonstrable medium to long-term economic sustainability.

Bogan Gate Recreation Reserve Board Member, James Buchanan, said its Bushfire Landscaping Project, which received funding last year, demonstrates why funding is vital for locally led initiatives.

“Seeds of Renewal funding has been a significant boost to natural hazard resilience in our small, remote, rural community. Without a large population base to fund projects locally, this support has enabled the Recreation Reserve to demonstrate practical, household-level bushfire risk reduction strategies, while also enhancing the beauty of local properties,” Mr Buchanan said.

ANZ Head of Agribusiness, Mark Bennett, said: “Community groups understand what their region needs most. Through this longstanding partnership with FRRR, we’re able to support these organisations directly – ensuring they can deliver meaningful, place-based outcomes, and help their communities to adapt, grow and thrive.”

FRRR Head of Granting, Jill Karena, said: “We’re proud to partner with ANZ to support grassroots groups to address the priority issues that will enhance the sustainability and liveability of their communities. By backing them, we’re helping to build strong, vibrant futures. We look forward to seeing what projects come forward this year.”

Applications for the 2026 Seeds of Renewal program open on 1 July and close at 5pm (AEST), 30 July 2026.

A grantseeker webinar will be held from 12 – 1pm AEST on Monday 6 July 2026. To register, visit the FRRR website or follow this [link](#).

About Seeds of Renewal: Over the past 24 years the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program has provided more than \$7 million to support around 935 community groups achieve their goals. Administered independently by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), the ANZ Seeds of Renewal program offers grants of up to \$15,000 to community groups for projects that support environmental sustainability; improve access to housing; or financial wellbeing in regional communities of fewer than 15,000 people.

About FRRR: FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of Australia’s remote, rural and regional communities. Established in 2000, it has since delivered more than \$213 million to almost 16,000 projects. FRRR’s unique model of support is

more than money – it connects common purposes and investment from government, business and philanthropy with the genuine needs of rural people and places. FRRR’s DGR-1 listing and broad charitable remit are key to empowering grassroots organisations to create communities that are vibrant, resilient and sustainable.

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