



DIRECT AID PROGRAM – TONGA SUBMISSION GUIDELINES 2024-2025



Photo: Australia's Direct Aid Program co-funded for Houma Vava'u Light House for Strong Women project 2024

WHAT IS THE DIRECT AID PROGRAM (DAP)?

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a competitive small grants program funded by the Australian Aid program, managed by the Australian High Commission in Nuku'alofa. The DAP invites proposals **up to 15,000 pa'anga** (or as specified within the round) that demonstrate a strong benefit to local communities and align with the priority areas of the Australian Aid program in Tonga. These priorities include benefits to;

- people with disabilities
- women and girls
- income generation and livelihoods
- human rights
- environment and climate change
- community health
- arts and culture
- youth and social inclusion

If you wish to discuss your proposal before submitting, please make an appointment with the DAP coordinator to discuss. You can contact them by phone (20411) or email (daptonga@dfat.gov.au)

KEY DATES FOR DAP 2024-25

	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
Applications Open	29 July 24	7 December 24	1 Mar 2025
Applications Close	11 August 24	7 February 2024	31 Mar 25

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a DAP Grant:

1. Go to <https://manage.smartygrants.com.au/signup> to register an account on the SmartyGrants online system. If you can't access the application online, you may collect a hardcopy from the Australian High Commission, Salote Road, Nuku'alofa.
2. Answer each application question according to the instructions provided. Please contact the DAP Coordinator at daptonga@dfat.gov.au if you have any questions about the DAP application process.
3. Submit your application electronically to daptonga@dfat.gov.au or hard in a copy to the Australian High Commission.

In recent years, the DAP in Tonga has supported projects including:

- tapa extracting machines for Houma Town Council, Tongatapu
- Canteen and Cooking project for Setitaia Youth, 'Eua
- Feletoa Hall Refurbishment project, Vava'u
- Nimamea'a project for the Langafonua 'a Fafine 'Uiha, Ha'apai
- Project Parvo for the Tonga Animal Welfare Society, Tongatapu

To strengthen your application, you should consider:

- How will you maximise the number of people that will benefit from your project?
- Can the community contribute to support the project (land, material, labour or resources)?
- How can the project continue to provide a benefit to the community after the funding has been spent?

What types of projects are **not** eligible under the DAP?

- ✗ issuing cash grants, cash prizes, grants programs, micro-credit schemes, commercial ventures, and payment for food caterings/meals
- ✗ buying livestock, vehicles, lawnmowers, weed eaters, water tanks or fences for individual households
- ✗ improvements to an individual's house or land
- ✗ overseas travel

routine and/or recurring running costs and administrative expenses including rent and utility costs, spare parts, routine maintenance and reports, or staff salaries.



Bus Station at Ha'ato'u (Ha'apai) project, 2023