



# 1. Market Access Grant - Program Overview

## Introduction

Western Australia is fast becoming a global hub for health and medical life sciences with our proximity to the growing ASEAN market and strong health leadership.

Western Australia has the skills, research capabilities, infrastructure, clinical trial facilities and business environment to meet the increasing interest and demand for digital health, medical technology (medtech), biotechnology (biotech), pharmaceuticals and health and wellness products and services.

In October 2021, the Western Australian Government announced a Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy (Strategy) to support the sector's growth as a key sector of *Diversify WA*. This was supported by \$8.65m over four years from the 2022-23 State Budget to implement its five key objectives.

These key objectives are:

- Strengthening the innovation ecosystem
- Facilitating commercialisation
- Developing skills and attracting talent
- Attracting investment
- Supporting infrastructure for advanced manufacturing.

The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. Through delivering programs and policies, these efforts intend to support new and emerging businesses in Western Australia to create jobs and diversify the economy.

## About the Market Access Grant Scheme

The Market Access Grant Scheme (MAGS) provides grants of up to \$5,000 per Western Australian company working in health and medical life sciences, to travel to major industry conferences or business events. MAGS 2026 supports grants in the 2026 calendar year.

The program is delivered by DEED and aligns with the Strategy's government focus by "*facilitating access to market information and international conferences*".

MAGS is designed to:

- Assist Western Australian companies working in health and medical life sciences to advance their business and products;
- Assist them to build business relationships and get exposure to new markets in order to grow their commercial opportunities and jobs; and
- Showcase talent and build the profile of the Western Australian industry;

The MAGS supports travel to and/or participation in major domestic or international events that relate to the health and medical life sciences industry. These can be:

- Conferences
- Expos
- Exhibitions
- Showcases

## Funding

- A maximum of \$5,000 (excl. GST) per company is available to support travel of one representative. There is no minimum amount. Applications seeking funding in excess of \$5,000 will not be considered.
- Recipients are required to provide a net cash co-contribution of at least 20:80 applicant-to-Western Australian Government funding.
  - For example, a travel cost of \$6,250 (total cost excluding GST) would involve the recipient providing a minimum of \$1,250 (plus any GST), from their own means, to supplement the \$5,000 grant.
- To be eligible for MAGS 2026 travel must be completed by 30 June 2026 and acquitted within 30 days of undertaking travel. Prior to receiving funds, successful grant applicants must enter into a signed Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) with DEED (Conditions and Obligations for Funding).
- Upon notification of success in the MAGS 2026 round, recipients may book and purchase air tickets and conference passes to capture early bird specials from the date of notification, prior to the FAA being executed. MAGS cannot be used to support reimbursement for costs incurred prior to notification of a MAGS award. That is, any expenditure prior to notification will not be reimbursed.

- This agreement must be executed (signed) before funding is received. Successful grant applicants will receive 90 per cent of the grant up front. The remaining 10 per cent upon acquittal.
- Grant recipients should note that if it is determined, during the acquittal and post-project reconciliation process, the project has unspent grant funds, those funds must be returned to DEED, following processes as outlined in the FAA.

## Eligibility Criteria for MAGS 2026

Applicants are eligible if they:

- Have applied through [mags.grantplatform.com](https://mags.grantplatform.com).
- Live in Western Australia.
- Are a company that operates in the Health and Medical Life Sciences sector and are developing or expanding health and medical life science technology in Western Australia (does not extend to include consultants).
- Are not requesting funding for activities that are supported through another funding program external to your company.
- Are a registered business based and headquartered in Western Australia plus at least one of the following:
  - Have been operating for at least 24 months at date of application
  - Are a spin-out of a university or medical research institute
- Your business is targeting a market(s) for your partnering, investment, export and/or trade activities.
- Your business/organisation is a small to medium enterprise that employs fewer than 200 people.
  - This excludes government agencies, hospitals, service providers, medical research institutes, peak bodies, universities and industry association/business council.
- Your business/organisation holds at least one of the following:
  - A valid Certificate of Incorporation
  - A current Australian Business Number (ABN)
  - A current Australian Company Number (ACN)

- Your business/organisation is a legally solvent entity.
- Your business/organisation is willing, and has the financial capacity to contribute, at least 20:80 applicant-to-Western Australian Government funding.
- Your business/organisation confirms that only one application by your company has been submitted for the grant.
- Your business/organisation confirms that it will utilise the funds (if successful) only on eligible travel costs to the stipulated major industry conferences or business events.
- Your business/organisation confirms that the requested eligible expenditure is for future activity that will commence 1 January 2026 and be completed by 30 June 2026.
- Can justify alignment with the Health and Medical Life Sciences Strategy and the proposed outcomes generated for your business and Western Australia.
- Can demonstrate a proposed travel budget with quotes and costs to the value of your asking amount.
- Your business/organisation has NOT previously received nor is likely to receive other Western Australian Government funding, for the same project/initiative.
- Declare any funding received or likely to be received from Commonwealth or other State/Territory Government agencies for the same project/initiative.

## Eligible Expenditure for MAGS 2026

MAGS 2026 is a limited access grant. The grant funds can be used towards:

- Event registration/access cost.
- Event exhibitor space/booth.
- Associated business events (i.e official conference dinners – does not include travel meals).
- Economy airfares.
- Accommodation (moderately priced hotels – 3 or 4 stars).
- Ground transportation.
- Visas.
- Travel insurance.

A draft Budget will be required along with the applicant's grant submission that includes quotes for any of the applicable expenditure items.

## How to apply

Applications must be submitted using the online form that can be accessed at [mags.grantplatform.com](https://mags.grantplatform.com)

Applications for MAGS 2026 are limited to one successful application per company, to support one representative commencing and completing travel between 15 January 2026 to 30 June 2026.

The applicant will not need to nominate the staff member at the time of application. The staff member using the grant must be a full time employee of your company at time of use.

## Decision Making Process

MAGS 2026 applications must be submitted via the [Good Grants Platform](#) by 5pm AWST Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to be considered.

Applications are assessed against the Eligibility Criteria, and Eligible Expenditure outlined above.

DEED will review the Eligibility Criteria to determine shortlisted applications based on the criteria outlined above, and make recommendations for funding.

To assist with decision making, DEED may seek advice from individuals with expertise in the area/s under consideration.

DEED may also request further information from applicants if needed, to support claims against the criteria.

DEED decisions and all related information and material are strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (see Conditions and Obligations 1.8).

The final approval for applicant funding lies with DEED. DEED's decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

## The Timeline for the Grants Process

The table below provides indicative timing:

Steps in the process	Timing
<b>MAGS 2026 Opens</b>	5 November 2025
<b>MAGS 2026 Closes</b>	5pm AWST on 15 December 2025
<b>Assessment and notification of outcomes to applicants</b>	Within four weeks of application submission
<b>Execution of Financial Assistance Agreement</b>	Within five days of notification of outcome
<b>First payment</b>	With 14 days of the execution of the Financial Assistance Agreement
<b>Completion of activities</b>	No later than 30 June 2026
<b>Claim for final payment submitted</b>	Within 30 days of travel

## Travel activities

The MAGS 2026 supports travel to and/or participation in major domestic or international events that relate to health and medical life sciences such as:

- Conferences
- Expos
- Exhibitions
- Showcases

The events need to take place before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and travel must commence and be completed by then to be eligible.

## Outcome Communications and Feedback

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via the email address provided by the applicant in the application form.

The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, may announce the successful applicants in a media statement. As part of this, DEED may disclose select details such as business and project aims and expected outcomes. Recipients agree to disclosure of this information as part of the FAA with DEED.

Due to confidentiality, feedback cannot be provided on the Evaluation Panel's deliberations.

However, queries regarding an application can be obtained by contacting [lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au).

## Conditions and obligations for funding

- The grant will be on a co-investment basis at a ratio no less than 20 per cent (applicant) to 80 per cent (State Government) funding. Co-investment items cannot be in-kind and may be subject to an independent audit.
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a legally binding FAA with the Western Australian Government acting by and through DEED.
- The terms and conditions of the FAA will not be negotiable at the time a funding offer is made.
- The funded project must be completed no later than 30 June 2026.
- Only eligible expenditure incurred after the notification of receipt of a MAGS award can be claimed by successful applicants.
- Applicants are responsible for any/all additional costs incurred by them as a result of fulfilling their obligations under the grant and FAA.
- The Western Australian Government will not accept liability for any damages, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses claimed or incurred by the successful applicant in connection with this grant.
- An upfront payment of 90 per cent will be made after the FAA is signed by the successful applicant and endorsed by DEED. The final 10 per cent of funding will be provided on acquittal after you have completed your travel. It will be based on relevant invoices and/or quotations itemised in the proposed project's budget. On conclusion of the project, grant recipients must ensure that project cost estimates correspond with final proof of purchase receipts.
- Payments to successful applicants will be made via electronic funds transfer upon assessment of claims and evidence, to the satisfaction of DEED.
- DEED's view is that the grant is not regarded as payment for a supply and, therefore, does not incur GST. Furthermore, DEED will not reimburse a grant recipient for GST paid or payable to a third party.
- Failure to provide all necessary information may result in forfeiture of all or part of the grant.

## **Acquittal report**

Following project completion, successful applicants must provide within 30 days:

- A final acquittal report, which must be submitted to DEED.
- Proof of payments for the project/eligible expenditure, which are either included in the online form or emailed to [lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au).
- Proof of project completion, including acknowledgment of the travel and a report on the outcomes.
- Or such other information required by DEED as evidence of eligible expenditure and completion of the project. Failure to provide the above information may result in forfeiture of all or part of the grant.

## **Availability of funding**

The provision of financial support under this program is at the absolute discretion of the State of Western Australia and is subject to the availability of funds.

## **Audit, compliance and risk management**

As a Western Australian Government agency, DEED is required to ensure the most prudent and effective use of its financial assistance schemes.

Grant recipients will, therefore, be required to:

- Liaise closely with DEED to assess whether expected outcomes are being achieved.
- Provide, if requested, additional information that may assist DEED's internal audit, evaluation and review processes.
- Respond, if requested, to a client survey. The survey is used to obtain general feedback from clients on the effectiveness and efficiency of DEED's services.

## **Conflict of interest**

Applicants are required to disclose any information that may be relevant to an actual, likely or perceivable conflict of interest.

## **Review of program**

This program is subject to an internal review at the end of each financial year. The guidelines may be updated periodically to reflect any changes in the program, priority sectors or markets.

## **Participation in review of project and surveys**

All financial support provided by DEED under this program is subject to a post-funding review. Recipients must make themselves available to participate in surveys conducted by DEED up to two years after the funding ceases. Surveys are generally 5 to 10 minutes long and seek feedback on inputs, activities, results, usage and impacts related to the funding.

## **Release of confidential information**

The content of all applications will remain strictly confidential. DEED will store personal information collected in this process, supporting documentation and any payment administration, monitoring and evaluation activities in compliance with its obligations in the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Successful projects may be promoted in a way that retains the commercial integrity of the project in the public domain.

Government records are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (Western Australia), which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and local Government agencies. Exemptions do apply in certain circumstances. Further information on the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (Western Australia) can be obtained from DEED's website.

By submitting an application to this grants program, the Applicant consents to information provided by the Applicant or collected by DEED relating to the Applicant or their Application being used by DEED to assess their application, administer funding under the MAGS, and administer FAAs relevant to this grants program.

## **Media and promotion**

Grant recipients are required to formally acknowledge the grant throughout the life of the project across any social, digital and/or onsite promotional opportunities once the Minister has formally announced the recipients.

Recipients may be provided with a Media Tool Kit to assist in promotional work and will be asked to consent to provide contact details, including a name, phone number and email address, to be shared for media and promotional purposes.

## **Disclaimer**

The provision of financial assistance by the State Government is at its absolute discretion. Nothing in the application process or the selection process shall give rise to any legal relationship or any other obligations between the applicant and the State.

Any obligations and responsibilities of the parties will be the subject of an FAA between the Western Australian Government and successful applicants.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact DEED by emailing [lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:lifesciences@jtsi.wa.gov.au)