

How We Work

For centres and staff

Playcentre Aotearoa receives many funding requests across the motu. To help us access as many opportunities as possible, we encourage centres to identify and research local funding opportunities that could support their centre or community projects.

Working together in this way allows us to strengthen applications, avoid duplication, and ensure we meet funders' requirements.

Important: Please contact the Grants Team first

Before starting any grant application, please email AskGrants@playcentre.org.nz

All grant applications must be approved through the National Grants Committee, which passes the required resolutions and ensures Playcentre meets funder requirements. This also allows us to track the funding we receive, so we can appropriately acknowledge supporters in our Annual Report and meet compliance obligations.

How the process works

Some funders require **national applications through our online portal**, while others allow centres to apply directly. In those cases, we may either:

- provide guidance so your centre can apply directly, or
- send you the application questions so you can prepare responses, which we will submit through the national portal.

Many funders also have specific formats or submission schedules, so early communication helps ensure applications are submitted correctly.

Understanding the difference: Grants vs Sponsorship or Fundraising

Grants are different from fundraising or sponsorship. Most grant funders have **strict eligibility criteria and reporting requirements**, which Playcentre Aotearoa must meet as the legal entity receiving funds.

For this reason, it is important that applications are completed accurately and aligned with national processes.

Opportunities Centres Can Apply for Directly

Centres can apply directly for some opportunities.

Please let the Grants Team know when you apply and the outcome so we can track support received across Playcentre.

Examples include:

- **Paper4Trees** – free trees for recycling participation
- **Digital Wings** – refurbished laptops for community organisations
- **Local business sponsorship**

If successful, please remember to:

- thank the funder
- share photos or stories where appropriate
- acknowledge the support on your centre's social media.

Community Groups Centres Can Approach Directly

Centres can approach these organisations directly and complete applications that **do not require Playcentre bank account information**.

Please let the Grants Team know when you apply and the outcome so we can track support received across Playcentre.

Examples include:

- Rotary Clubs
- Lions or Lioness Clubs (not the Lion Foundation)
- Rural Communities Trust
- Corporate foundations such as:
 - Z Good in the Hood
 - Fonterra
 - ANZ Staff Foundation
 - Goodman Foundation
 - Harcourts Foundation

If bank account information is required, please contact the Grants Team so we can assist.

If successful, please remember to:

- thank the funder
- share photos or stories where appropriate
- acknowledge the support on your centre's social media.

Applications That Must Be Submitted Nationally

Some grants **must be submitted by the Grants Team** because they require applications through our national portal or involve gaming funding regulations.

Centres are welcome to research these opportunities and speak with funders about local needs, but the application must be coordinated nationally.

These include:

- Gaming Trusts (e.g. Four Winds, Lion Foundation, Grassroots Trust)
- Community Trusts and Foundations
- Local, regional, and district councils

- Energy Trusts (e.g. Trust Horizon, Central Lakes Trust, WEL Energy Trust)
- Perpetual Guardian
- Public Trust

If you identify an opportunity, please complete the **Grant Enquiry Form** or contact the **Property Team**, who will liaise with the Grants Team.

National-Only Applications

Some funders only accept **national-level applications**, so centres cannot apply directly to them. These include:

- Lotteries
- Rātā Foundation
- T G Macarthy Trust

We are also currently **working with Pub Charity** regarding future applications.

Reporting and Accountability

If a grant is awarded, there will usually be **reporting requirements**. The Grants Team will support centres with this process.

- **If the application was submitted by the Grants Team**, we will coordinate the reporting with you.
- **If the centre submitted the application directly**, the centre will complete the report and send a copy to the Grants Team so we can close the grant nationally.

Building Better Grant Support for Centres

Over the coming months, we will be expanding the grant resources available on the Playcentre website.

Our goal is to make it easier for centres to access funding while ensuring Playcentre works in a coordinated and compliant way nationally.