



## DIRECT GRANTS PROGRAM

Through the Direct Grants program, we help South Australian's experiencing acute or chronic financial stress to stabilise their situation by providing one-off small grants that pay for a specific item, service or bill at the time it's most needed.

### What areas do we fund?

Our Direct Grants provide assistance in four main streams:

#### 1. Housing Stability

Housing Stability Grants aim to assist applicants to regain control of a household budget or stabilise a housing situation. Essential domestic goods and services including utility bills, rental or mortgage arrears, removal costs, essential household furniture or white goods may be funded.

#### 2. Youth Education

Youth Education Grants aim to assist families or independent students with expenses related to early childhood, primary and secondary school education, in particular, expenses which support education retention, for example school uniforms, school fees and camp costs.

#### 3. Vocational Training

Vocational Training Grants aim to promote and maintain engagement with vocational pathways leading to employment opportunities.

#### 4. Work Start

Work Start Grants aim to provide necessary assistance for applicants to gain or retain employment. Examples may include work tools, registrations or an industry licence.

### Who is eligible?

Wyatt's Trust Deed requires grant applicants to meet the following basic criteria:

- > Are on a low income and are experiencing financial hardship;
- > South Australian residents (have lived in SA for five years).

### What do you take into consideration?

Grant applications will only be considered where the referrer:

- > has an informed understanding of the client's financial situation and financial priorities
- > has shown a compelling reason for financial hardship
- > has explored alternative funding options such as government funding, concessions, No Interest Loans (NILS), repayment plans and hardship options; and
- > has indicated how the grant has the potential to make a significant impact.

Due to demand, Wyatt will prioritise grants for applicants who have not received a Direct Grant (within the same grant stream) in the two years prior to the application.

From time to time Wyatt is asked to distribute money on behalf of other organisations, and will use its discretion in processing requests as a Wyatt or alternative grant in order to maximise fund impact.

## Who can apply?

Applications are accepted from professionals within referring agencies on behalf of eligible clients. Wyatt does not accept applications from individuals on their own behalf. Individuals experiencing financial hardship should speak with their caseworker, support worker, financial counsellor or referring agency about a possible application.

## How do I apply for a Wyatt Direct Grant?

Referrers apply for a Direct Grant on a client's behalf through Wyatt's Online Grants Application System (OLGA).

To access the OLGA portal for the first time please go to [www.wyatt.org.au](http://www.wyatt.org.au) and click on the **Professionals Login** tab in the main menu, where instructions are provided for downloading and installing the OLGA desktop application for either PC or Mac. Once the app is downloaded click on the non-accredited user link for instructions to commence your application. The application is used to submit and track applications you have made on behalf of your clients.

For queries about downloading the desktop application, please get in touch with our web developers JastWorks Pty Ltd. They can be contacted on Ph 0404 678 660 or email [james@jastworks.com.au](mailto:james@jastworks.com.au)

## The Assessment Process

Wyatt Grants Assessors will communicate with referrers during the assessment process via the OLGA system. We aim to advise referrers of the outcome of an application within 2-3 weeks. The assessment process can be delayed if the application is not complete or there are more complex circumstances that need assessing.

## How is the grant paid?

If an application is successful, the grant is paid directly to the nominated service provider or supplier. Wyatt does not pay the applicant directly nor reimburse for expenses already paid. Payments can only be made via BPay or EFT.

## What is not funded?

Although Wyatt seeks to be flexible in meeting applicants' needs, the following are outside of guidelines:

- > **Cash or loan servicing** including cash advances, credit card bills, personal loans, reimbursements or retrieval of pawned items.
- > **Legal fees or fines**
- > **Medical costs** including ambulance subscriptions or bills, chemist bills or medical treatment
- > **Vehicle purchases and petrol** including cars, motorbikes and mobility scooters
- > **Built In / Non-portable air conditioners**
- > **Pet-associated costs** including vet bills
- > **Pay TV**
- > **Private school fees**
- > **University course fees or textbooks**
- > **Funeral costs, plaques or memorials.**

Funding is specifically for eligible individuals and families. Applications for project costs, staff salaries, overheads or agency fees cannot be considered.