



# MLC Old Collegians' Club

## Val Kerr Fellowship Grant

### Information for Applicants

#### **Old Collegians' Club**

The MLC Old Collegians' Club (OCC) was founded in 1904. A key purpose of the OCC is to maintain MLC's mission to promote learning, increase social awareness, and contribute meaningfully to the wider community.

MLC has an extensive global alumnae community of over 20,000 members whose fields of work are diverse. The OCC Council hopes to support alumnae in their chosen fields to have a positive impact on society, in order to uphold the College's values.

The OCC Council established the Val Kerr MLC Old Collegians' Fellowship Grant to facilitate this vision.

#### **The Old Collegians' Val Kerr Fellowship Grant**

The Fellowship Grant offers financial support to Old Collegians who plan to undertake a not-for-profit venture that promotes the empowerment of women. This venture could encompass female leadership, education or entrepreneurship.

While the venture may simultaneously empower the recipient of the Fellowship Grant, it must also have a measurable community-wide impact to be eligible.

Examples of suitable ventures that might receive support from the Fellowship Grant:

- A trip to remote Australia to teach at a First Nations school that involves travel costs and expenses for teaching materials
- Undertaking a research project
- Developing a business case for a social enterprise.

Recipients of the grant must be willing to share the outcome of their efforts with the OCC Council and the wider MLC community. This will include:

- Regular reports to the OCC Council detailing the status of the venture
- A formal presentation to the OCC Council at the completion of the venture
- Articles to be published in MLC community communications (e.g. The MLC Star, social media) summarising what was achieved
- Potential opportunities to speak at OCC and MLC events.



The grant is not intended to cover:

- Tertiary education fees, or course fees of a similar nature
- Taxes and fines
- Profit-making ventures
- Personal expenses, including but not limited to:
  - Medical expenses
  - Personal motor vehicle expenses
- Employment costs, such as salaries.

**If the venture has previously received funding from the OCC, it is ineligible for the Val Kerr Old Collegians' Fellowship Grant.**

### **Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee is responsible for assessing applications, short-listing candidates, and conducting interviews.

The Selection Committee consists of the following people:

- President of the OCC Council
- Vice President of the OCC Council, who is the Chair of the Selection Committee
- Ordinary council member, appointed by the President based on expressions of interest
- A non-council member.

The President of the OCC Council will review the Selection Committee every two years.

### **Fellowship Grant Value**

Financial support up to \$10,000 is available. You may apply for less than the full grant amount.

The amount awarded is at the discretion of the Selection Committee and the OCC Council.

Any funds unused at the completion of the venture are to be returned to the OCC.



## **Applicant eligibility**

An applicant:

- must be a member of the MLC Old Collegians' Club, as defined by the Constitution of the MLC OCC
- must have experience in and be able to show commitment to the field of the proposed venture
- must submit complete documentation as specified on the Application Form by the closing date
- must be willing to comply with the terms in the Fellowship Grant Agreement if they are successful
- cannot have received the Fellowship Grant for the same venture
- must not be a current member of the OCC Council.

## **Assessment criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Venture – which may include matters such as the following:

- How well the venture aligns with the values of the OCC.
- How well the venture meets the objective to empower women.
- The need for this venture at either a local, national or global level.
- The benefit the venture provides to society at either a local, national or global level.
- The achievability of the venture.

2. Applicant – which may include matters such as the following:

- Commitment to and experience in the chosen field.
- Demonstrated understanding of the principal objectives of the Fellowship Grant, and the vision and values of the OCC Council.
- Commitment the applicant shows to women's welfare.
- Intention to communicate the positive outcome of the venture with the MLC community.



### **Key dates**

March	Applications open
30 June 2026	Applications close
July	Applications reviewed and shortlist prepared
Late July	Shortlisted applicants interviewed
Early August	Final selection made
August	Applicants notified

### **Application process**

#### *Initial assessment:*

Applicants are required to complete the [online application form](#) by 30 June, 2026.

All satisfactorily completed applications will be assessed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Selection Committee may request further information to assess the application.

#### **Short-listing and final selection:**

Short-listed applications will be interviewed in July and August.

A list of recommended recipients and proposed grant amounts will be finalised by the Selection Committee. This list will be presented to the OCC Council for final review and approval.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by September.

Successful applicants will be required to sign the Val Kerr Old Collegians' Fellowship Grant Agreement, which outlines the terms of the grant and the recipient's obligations after accepting the funding.

Unsuccessful applicants may apply again for the grant in subsequent years.