

Sunshine Association of Tasmania

Eligibility Criteria

Northern Area

Child and Family Profile

- **Age and Residency:** The child must be between **0-18 years of age** and a resident of Tasmania.
- **Medical or Special Needs:** The request must address a specific medical condition, disability, or a special need that significantly impacts the child's well-being and development. This includes needs related to physical health, mental health, education, or essential care.
- **Financial Need:** The family's financial situation must demonstrate a **genuine need** for assistance. If necessary, the financial need assessed by comparing household income against a poverty line or a defined low-income threshold. For the purposes of the Sunshine Association, the Social Worker will have access to school records to verify claims.
- **Alternative Funding:** The family should seek to use all available funding options, including personal savings, insurance coverage, and government subsidies. The charity's funding should be supplementary or the last resort.

Request-Specific Criteria

Justification of Funds

- **Specific Purpose:** The request must clearly outline the purpose for the funds, such as a specific medical procedure, assistive technology, therapy sessions, or educational support.
- **Itemised Breakdown:** A **detailed, itemised breakdown** of the costs commensurate with the amount requested must be provided, including vendor quotes, invoices, or a professional's estimate. Vague or lump-sum requests may be returned for more information.
- **Urgency:** The request's urgency should be assessed. Priority may be given to time-sensitive needs, such as an urgent medical procedure or a limited-time opportunity.

Ethical and Procedural Criteria

Verification and Transparency

- **Professional Verification:** The request should be authenticated by the Social Worker or other qualified personnel with validation for the need and the proposed intervention.
- **Direct Payments:** To ensure accountability, funds should be paid directly to the service provider or vendor (e.g., a hospital, a supplier of medical equipment, or a school) wherever possible.
- **Charity's Mission:** The funding request must align with the **Sunshine's mission and scope**.
- **Follow-Up and Reporting:** A system for follow-up and reporting is essential to ensure the funds were used as intended. The family or professional should be required to provide a report or receipts after the service or item has been acquired.

Exclusionary Criteria

Acknowledging the main outline for this criteria was developed using Google Gemini AI

Situations to Deny Funding

- **Non-Essential Items:** Funds should not be granted for non-essential items, luxury goods, or for costs that do not directly benefit the child's health, development, or well-being.
- **Unverified Claims:** Requests lacking professional verification or a clear breakdown of costs should be denied.
- **Fraudulent Activity:** Any suspicion of fraudulent claims or misrepresentation of information should result in an immediate denial and potential reporting to authorities.
- **Insufficient funds:** Where the Sunshine association available funds are not sufficient to meet the amount of money required