

DJAKITJUK DJANGA

PROGRAM GUIDELINES





River Mint (Victorian)

Djakitjuk Djanga is a Dja Dja Wurrung language term that means Country’s food. It is used with the generous permission of the Board of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Adam Magennis’ art features throughout these program guidelines. It represents a range of Victorian native plants including Strawberry Gum, Wattle Seed and River Mint as well as some northern climate natives. Adam is from the Boon Wurrung language group and is based in Mornington on the Mornington Peninsula. He has honed his art over the past 30 years and uses a combination of graffiti, topographic and stratigraphic illustration styles in his contemporary artworks.

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Bush Tomato (northern climates)

Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
Applicant	An eligible organisation that applies for a grant under the native food and botanicals industry development program, Djakitjuk Djanga.
Community of Practice	A group of people/organisations with a common objective or interest who regularly interact to improve their work.
Cultural Safety (research)	Culturally safe programs, services and research design are inclusive, respectful, responsive and relevant, and informed by Aboriginal people through culturally safe practice frameworks.
Grant	Assistance in the form of funding. Under the program, the grant can be used by the recipient for the purchase of goods and or services for native plant production and trials with the objective of growing commercial native plant crops for sale as food or botanicals.
In-kind resources	For the purpose of this program, in-kind resources refer to any resources the Applicant contributes to the project, independent of funding under this program.
Native plant production	For the purposes of this program, native plant production refers to farming/cultivation of Australian native plants or their produce (seeds, grains, fruit etc.) for use as food or botanicals. It does not include wild harvest techniques.
Program	Djakitjuk Djanga, a native food and botanicals industry development program to support projects that will lead to the sustainable development of Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry by Aboriginal Victorians.
Project	An activity that involves native plant production or trials with the objective of growing commercial native plant crops for sale as food or botanicals, and for which funding is being sought through a grant under this program.
Recipient	An Applicant that has secured grant funding.

INTRODUCTION DJAKITJUK DJANGA

Background

It is recognised that Australia’s First Peoples have managed Country and over countless generations developed knowledge and practices in the propagation, harvesting and processing of native food and botanicals.

This knowledge has been critical to the native food and botanicals industry’s early development. However, with only a fraction of Australia’s edible and botanical plants in commercial production, the industry remains in a fledgling state.

Aboriginal Victorians, with leadership from Traditional Owners, know the time is right for them to capitalise on the broader community’s interest in locally produced native food and botanicals. Aboriginal organisations are currently growing native food and botanicals and trialling them as commercial crops.

Certainty and quality of supply need to be addressed to take advantage of growing consumer interest in native food and botanicals. Cultivation is considered a more reliable method of production than wild harvesting. However, as recognised by Aboriginal communities and others, this requires development of cultivation techniques for a range of plant species. Research and development and technological innovation/advancement are also needed to develop efficient and reliable methods to sustainably grow crops at scale.

An authentic native food and botanicals industry will only be achieved if Traditional Owners are leading at every point along the supply chain, including in the all-important production stage. To help create the circumstances for an authentic native food and botanicals industry and in keeping with the Victorian Government’s commitment to Aboriginal self-determination, Agriculture Victoria and the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (Federation) have partnered in the design and implementation of a native food and botanicals industry development program, Djakitjuk Djanga.

Djakitjuk Djanga (the program) will support Aboriginal Victorians to lead the development of Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry, starting with commercial crop development.

Program overview

The program will provide funding support for projects that boost existing activity by Aboriginal organisations working to commercialise native plant production.

Projects supported under the program will be delivered over two years and contribute to the development of an authentic native food and botanicals industry in Victoria.

Under the program, grants will be available for eligible Aboriginal owned businesses and organisations to overcome key resource related barriers they may face in undertaking commercial native plant production.

The program will be delivered by the Federation as a single competitive round.

Before applying applicants must consider the alignment of their project with the program objectives and their eligibility (see below).

What are the program’s objectives?

The program’s objectives are to:

- contribute to Aboriginal self-determination
- contribute to the development of an authentic Victorian native food and botanicals industry
- increase leadership by Traditional Owner organisations and other Victorian based Aboriginal organisations in Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry
- increase employment and business development by Aboriginal Victorians in native plant production
- develop a native plant production Community of Practice
- inform native food and botanicals research and industry development priorities as determined by Victoria’s Traditional Owners in collaboration with participating Aboriginal Victorians and other stakeholders.

The program is administered by the Federation as a partnership with Agriculture Victoria within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the department).

The Federation and Agriculture Victoria may amend these program guidelines by agreement as required.

ELIGIBILITY



Finger Lime (northern climates)

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible applicants must:

1. Be a legal entity¹ with an ABN.
2. Be either:
 - a non-profit incorporated Aboriginal organisation or association; or
 - an Aboriginal business, Company or Sole trader as defined by Kinaway Chamber of Commerce

Who is either:

- engaged in commercial native plant production in Victoria for a minimum of six months; or
 - presently trialling native plant production in Victoria; or
 - has a fully developed and costed plan for a native plant production trial or commercial operation.
3. Specify the resources (including in-kind and cash) they will contribute to the project.
 4. Agree to participate in at least two Community of Practice events and future program evaluation activities.
 5. Meet all industrial relation obligations as an employer in accordance with the National Employment Standards.
 6. For funding applications in excess of \$50,000, provide audited financial reports for the last two financial years (for businesses which have existed longer than two years) or, where the accounts are unaudited, provide the financial report by the Applicant's accountant. Where the latest financial report is more than six months old, provide an up-to-date Management or Interim Accounts for the current year including: Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet to enable a Financial Risk Assessment to be conducted.

Who is not eligible to apply?

Ineligible applicants include:

Ineligible applicants include:

- government departments or agencies
- applicants not based in Victoria
- industry associations
- publicly funded research institutions.

If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact the Federation's Operations Advisor on **0412 322 303** or **jasmine.yarran@fvtoc.com.au**

How much can I apply for?

Applicants can apply for grant funding of **up to \$200,000** (excluding GST).

Applicants are permitted to apply for one grant. Multiple applications from the same Applicant will not be accepted.

What will be funded?

The program will fund projects that align with the program objectives.

Projects supported under the program will be those that allow eligible businesses and organisations to:

- develop, expand or progress existing commercial native plant production; or
- develop, expand or progress an existing native plant production field trial; or
- implement a fully developed plan for a native plant production field trial or native plant commercial production.

Table 1 provides some examples of eligible expenditure under the program. The list is not exhaustive, and applicants may propose other activities if they align with the program objectives.

What will not be funded?

Ineligible expenditure includes the following:

- business or feasibility plans
- costs associated with applying for grants and funding programs
- the purchase, lease or acquisition of land
- activities that can be implemented through another government funding program
- basic professional services such as ongoing, routine accounting, tax and legal business requirements
- projects, activities, or purchases already undertaken prior to execution of the Grant Agreement
- any other expenditure determined by the Federation and the department to not align with the program objectives.

Table 1 Examples of eligible expenditure

HUMAN RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hire of staff to implement the project• hire of technical expertise/consultants e.g. agronomy, horticulture, irrigation, orchard/nursery design etc.• other human resources required to enable the project to be undertaken as planned.
PURCHASE OR LEASE OF MATERIALS AND SMALL-SCALE EQUIPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• raw materials, e.g. tube stock, seeds• pest management materials• watering systems e.g. tanks, pumps etc.• fencing• digital technology such as sensors and other technology to assist with production• other equipment required to enable the project to be undertaken as planned.
OTHER
Other small-scale infrastructure including equipment and materials for which a strong case can be made as being necessary to the success of the project.

Wattle Seed (Victorian)



¹A legal entity is an association, corporation, trustee of a trust, or individual that has legal standing in the eyes of the law. A legal entity has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right, and to be held responsible for its actions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Read these guidelines carefully to establish your eligibility.
2. Contact the Federation (see page 8 for details) to discuss your proposed application.
3. The Federation will provide you with a link to the online application form. You will also be provided with the standard terms and conditions for the Grant Agreement which you should read.
4. All sections of the application form must be completed. The Federation can assist with advice on completing an application form.
5. All eligibility and assessment criteria must be addressed in the application to proceed to assessment. Guidance on the assessment criteria is set out in table 2 below.
6. Relevant supporting information or evidence should be provided with your application to support the best possible case for funding.
7. You must complete and submit your application form before the close date for funding, which will be advertised on the Federation’s website.

Strawberry Gum (Victorian)

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1. At the close of the funding round, all applications will be assessed for eligibility by the Federation, against the criteria published in these guidelines. Applicants may be contacted to provide any missing required information as necessary.

2. Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed by a separate assessment panel comprising Federation and Agriculture Victoria staff.

3. The panel will assess all applications on merit against the assessment criteria. The assessment documents will be based only on the assessment criteria specified in these guidelines.

4. Applications that rank highest against both the assessment criteria and other applications will be recommended by the assessment panel for funding.
5. The assessment panel may recommend variations to requested grant amounts, up to the maximum grant amount of \$200,000 (excluding GST).

6. A Financial Risk Assessment and probity check will be carried out for recommended applicants before funding is awarded.

7. The final determination of grants awarded will be made jointly by the Federation and Agriculture Victoria.

8. Applicants will be advised of outcomes by 10 weeks after the close date for applications, subject to the number of applications received.

9. Successful applicants will be required to execute a Grant Agreement with the Federation before commencing the project.

Table 2 Funding application assessment criteria

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	YOUR RESPONSE	WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR
Assessment Criteria 1 Extent to which your project could contribute to the development of Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry (weighting 30%).	Will describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what you are already doing in relation to native plant production• how the project will allow you to develop, expand or progress your current activities or how the project will allow you to implement a fully developed plan for native plant production; and• your project objectives and what the outcomes and benefits will be.	We want to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what your project will achieve• how your project aligns with the program objectives• how your project will contribute to the development of Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry.
Assessment Criteria 2 The need for funding support to enable the project to be implemented (weighting 40%).	Will describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• your two-year project plan• what resources you require (including in relation to short, medium and long term project outcomes)• how the funding will allow you to achieve the project objectives (including, where relevant, how the hire of staff or expertise to implement the project will contribute to the development of your business).	We want to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• what you plan to do• what resources you need to help you achieve the outcomes of your project.
Assessment Criteria 3 Demonstrated capacity to manage the project and received funds (weighting 30%).	Will describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• who will manage the project and their experience in implementing similar initiatives• the governance in place to oversee the project and available resources to manage and acquit the grant funds• the resources (including in-kind and cash) you will contribute to the project.	We want to understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the governance and financial arrangements you have in place to support you in executing a Grant Agreement and expending the funding in accordance with a documented project plan. <p>It is expected that applicants demonstrate capability to manage the project and received funds.</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT YOUR APPLICATION

Please note that the following questions will not be used as part of the assessment process but the information you provide will help inform other activities to support culturally informed industry growth.

Your ideas for a Community of Practice as a vehicle to progress Aboriginal leadership of Victoria’s native food and botanicals industry. Please explain how you would like to work with others to share and build your knowledge and skills of native plant production.

What would be the elements of a culturally informed and safe native plant production research program?

FUNDING

Funding conditions

Successful applicants must sign a Grant Agreement that includes a standard set of terms and conditions and project-specific obligations, to receive the approved grant.

The project cannot commence, and project expenditure cannot be incurred until after the Grant Agreement is executed (signed by both the Recipient and the Federation).

Duration of funding

Funded projects are to commence and be completed within the agreed period as specified in the Grant Agreement.

Payment conditions

Grant payments will only be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and on the satisfactory delivery of each milestone as determined by the Federation.

Project expenditure cannot be incurred until after the Grant Agreement has been executed (signed by both the Recipient and the Federation). Grants will not be provided for retrospective activities (activities, expenditures or purchases that occurred prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement).

Payment milestones may include prepayment for expenditure to be imminently incurred by the Recipient.

PUBLICITY

Grant recipients may be asked to assist the Federation and the department in promotion of the program.

This may include involvement in media releases, case studies or promotional events and activities.

The Federation or department may request recipients to fact check any text and seek approval to use any owned imagery associated with the project prior to the publication of any such promotional materials.

Recipients must not make any public announcement or issue any press release regarding the receipt of a grant without prior written approval from the Federation or department.

The Federation or department may include the name of the Recipient and/or grant amount in any publicity material and in annual reports.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Federation and the department are committed to protecting the privacy of personal information.

Any personal information provided by the Applicant in an application will be collected by the Federation for the purpose of program administration, reporting and promotion. This information will be provided to the department for the purposes of assessing applications and program reporting and promotion. If confidential personal information about third parties is included in an application, applicants are required to ensure that the third party is aware of the contents of this Privacy Statement.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and other applicable laws.

Enquiries about access to information should be directed to the Federation Operations Advisor.

The department's Privacy Policy can be found online at djpr.vic.gov.au/privacy

Warrigal Greens (Victorian)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional information about the program can be found on the Federation's website or by contacting:

Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations

Operations Advisor

Telephone **0412 322 303**

Email jasmine.yarran@fvtoc.com.au

Web fvtoc.com.au

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land as the First People of this Country.