

# Variety Freya Fund Guidelines

#### Introduction

The Variety Freya Fund is the legacy of Freya Williamson. The Williamson family, who loved and cared for Freya for 21 years have been inspired by their own lived experiences, to provide assistance for families who have children with profound disabilities.

Variety Freya Fund provides a <u>one-off</u> emergency relief payment of up to \$500 for Tasmanian families who care for a child with additional needs or a severe disability. This fund aims to relieve the burden of the everyday difficulties at times of a medical crisis and when these families are experiencing additional emotional and physical challenges.

The Fund is designed to be as flexible as possible to suit individual family needs at a time of acute need for relief and those families have no other help available to them. Eligibility for Variety Freya Fund is carefully thought-out to respect and uphold the dignity of those families. A call to those families at a time of desperate need to let them know they have been nominated and are eligible to receive \$500 relief is the best gift. Recipients should be <u>nominated</u> by a GP, therapist, specialist, teacher, coach or allied health professional. These professionals have a direct and intimate knowledge of the families' situation and we believe they are the best referee as the nominators.

## **Eligibility and Applications**

- The Variety Freya Fund is open to families and carers of children, aged 0-17 years, with severe disabilities or additional needs.
- The family cannot apply for a Variety Freya Fund grant themselves.
- Nominations can be made by Health Professionals, Allied Health Professionals, or other professionals who are aware of the family's circumstances (such as teachers, coaches, case workers).

- The nominated family must reside in Tasmania.
- The nominated family must have no access to any other support.
- Consideration may be given to nominations received from friends or family members of the family in need.
- Special consideration will be given to families who have their source of income severely impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Variety Tasmania has the right to contact nominated families as part of the grant assessment process to determine eligibility.
- Applications are open all year round.
- The Variety Freya Fund Grant is capped at \$500 per nomination.
- This is a one-off emergency relief payment.

#### **Decision**

Successful nominations:

- If the Grant is approved, the family will be notified by telephone and with a formal, written letter.
- The name of the nominator will be shared with the family only if the nomination was successful and the nominator opted to inform the family of their name.
- Families / carers have 3 months from the date of their grant approval letter to submit their bank details for the grant to be paid to them.
- Families will not be eligible for another Variety Freya Fund Grant.
- If a family is successful, they will not be able to apply for another Variety Tasmania Individual Grant or Scholarship for 12 months from the date of their grant approval letter.
- Variety's decision is final.

#### Unsuccessful applications:

- If the Grant nomination is not approved, outcome letters will be emailed to nominators approximately 4-6 weeks after their initial submission.
- Reasons pertaining to unsuccessful applications are at the discretion of Variety Tasmania.
- Unsuccessful applications will not impact the family should they wish to apply for a different Variety Tasmania Individual Grant or Scholarship.

#### **The Process**

The family is nominated by a professional through the submission of the short application form. Variety Tasmania assesses the application and if necessary, contacts the nominator or the family for more information.

The nomination is assessed by the Independent Grants Committee and the Variety Tasmania Board of Directors who meet once a month.

If the Grant is approved, the family will be notified. If the nominator ticked "Yes", the family will be notified about the identity of their nominator.

If the Grant is approved, payment to the family will be finalised on receiving banking details. If the nomination is unsuccessful, the nominator will be notified within 6-8 weeks from application date.

### **Marketing**

Variety enjoys hearing any updates on a child's progress, well-being and achievements once they've received their grant. Variety's most successful way of raising money is to demonstrate, by way of these images and personal testimonies, how donations are making a positive impact on the lives of children in need - there is nothing more powerful than seeing the beautiful smiles of the children who Variety strives to assist. Allowing Variety to tell your story and keep in touch about your child's progress, provides our partners and supporters an insight into the work we undertake and encourages more donations & support. Please let us know if we may tell our partners and supporters about your story.

<u>The form</u> has taken into consideration how busy and time-poor nominators are, so it is designed only for essential information, keeping it simple and quick! If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact Variety Tasmania on (03) 6248 4888 or <u>info@varietytas.org.au</u>.