

Further Details on Funding

At SJSC we recognise that most not-for-profit organisations have very little spare money for research projects. SJSC is not given funding for research projects either so funding needs to be applied for. There are a number of sources including:

1. UWS – The two most useful research grant schemes at UWS are the UWS grants and the UWS partnership grants. The former require no input from the community partner but do not have a high success rate. The latter require half the funds to come from the partner and have a very high success rate.
2. Foundations – SJSC is familiar with a range of charitable foundations who are willing to support research for the community benefit.
3. Government departments have a range of research grant schemes which can be matched to the concerns of the community partner.
4. Australian Research Council – these are the most competitive and prestigious grants but SJSC does have a reasonable success rate. For Linkage grants, the partner makes a contribution in cash and in kind but exemptions can be obtained for the cash component.
5. A combination of several community organisations with other players. Also, community organisations can apply for research grants that the centre can not apply for itself. Peri to give examples

At the time of the grant application, a budget is negotiated and agreed upon by the community partner and SJSC. Most funders only allow researchers to apply for the direct costs of the research project such as staff employed to collect data or recording equipment for interviews. When funding is received, the budget is reviewed as costs or the amount of funding may have changed.

The contract can then be signed off by the partners and the university specifying the nature of the project, and the contributions of all the parties. “The major purpose of having an agreement is to prevent misunderstandings during the research process, furthering a smooth cooperative effort. Cooperation and understanding are the keys to an effort that reciprocates or benefits everyone involved” (Community-Based Research: A Handbook for Native Americans p 276).

Does UWS or SJSC charge a fee?

With large projects or well-funded grants the UWS charges 15% but small grants from non-profit organisations are exempt. SJSC does not charge a fee.

All the funding for the project is placed in a separate project account and monthly balance sheets are issued by the university.

When the community partner has been allocated part of the grant to conduct part of the research, the usual procedure is for all the grant money to be sent to SJSC and the partner’s allocation is reimbursed on presentation of an invoice.