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# Eric Fry Labour History Research Grant

**The Canberra Region Branch of the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (ASSLH) invites honours and postgraduate students to apply for a \$1,000 grant to do research at the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC) based at the ANU in Canberra.**

The NBAC is the largest non-government archives in Australia and holds an unrivalled collection of trade union and business records, along with the personal papers of many left wing and labour movement activists.

The Eric Fry Labour History Research Grant was established in 2004 to assist promising students with an interest in labour or social history to overcome the financial obstacles to doing research in Canberra. The grant honours the memory of Dr Eric Fry (1921-2007) who, together with Prof Robin Gollan (1917-2007), founded the ASSLH in 1961 and was its first Vice-President and Journal editor.

One grant is awarded each year, for a lump sum of \$1,000 to assist with fares to Canberra, accommodation and other research expenses. Students who reside in Canberra and the surrounding region are also eligible to apply.

## **To be eligible a student must:**

1. Be enrolled in an honours or postgraduate degree at an Australian university, or university in New Zealand, PNG, Timor L'Este or Fiji, in which one requirement is the production of a research thesis of at least 10,000 words.
2. Intend to write their thesis in the broad areas of labour and social history or labour movement studies. Students need not be working within the discipline of history. Students of politics, international relations, sociology, Australian studies, economics, economic history, industrial relations, management, Pacific studies, cultural studies, museum studies, and other disciplines may also be eligible. It is the nature of the thesis project only that is relevant.
3. Intend to use the resources of the NBAC as part of their research.
4. Supply a written application together with a reference from their intended academic supervisor or other academic with personal knowledge of the student. The reference must, inter alia, attest to the nature of the proposed research program, the need to use the resources of the NBAC and the ability of the student to complete the proposed thesis to a high standard and on time.

## **The criteria for the grant (in order of importance) will be:**

1. The relevance of the project to the discipline of labour history.
2. The degree to which the resources of the NBAC are relevant to the proposed thesis.
3. The academic capabilities of the student, as reflected in university results, academic reference and other evidence supplied.
4. The degree to which the grant may assist the student to do their research in Canberra.

**Acknowledgement**

The successful applicant is requested to acknowledge receipt of the grant in their thesis and to supply a copy of their finished thesis to the NBAC and the ASSLH.

**Applications**

Applications should be in the form of a letter or email addressing the above criteria, along with copies of relevant documentary evidence.

Applications for the grant will close on 30 June 2026 and the grant will be awarded in July. The decision will be made by a panel of three, consisting of two representatives of the ASSLH and one representative of the NBAC. The panel reserves the right not to award the grant and no correspondence will be entered into.

**Applications and enquiries should be directed to:**

Eric Fry Labour History Research Grant  
Australian Society for the Study of Labour History  
Canberra Region Branch  
email: [asslh@labourhistorycanberra.org](mailto:asslh@labourhistorycanberra.org)