

# **Community Grants Program Annual Acquittal and Outcomes Report 2016/17**

August 2017



## Introduction

The City of Port Phillip Community Grants Program provides Council with a strategic opportunity to support initiatives that help to strengthen the community service sector. The program aims to promote social inclusion and community engagement by supporting projects that value contribution and participation of the Port Phillip community. The 2016-17 program funded 58 applications from 38 organisations in total receiving \$264,075 in funding.

This report presents key statistical data and outcomes for three funded grant projects demonstrating the valuable work of our local community sector.



## Community Strengthening Category

The Community Strengthening category funds local organisations to design and deliver projects that:

- meet the needs of local residents
- encourage leadership and participation
- contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community
- strengthens the capacity and sustainability of the local community sector
- support human and technical resources
- assists environmental sustainability
- and enhances local neighbourhoods.

The maximum funding for each grant under the Community Strengthening category is \$10,000.

The submitted acquittal reports received a total of \$183,148 from Council, these funds supported projects to the value of \$830,073. Every dollar spent by Council has contributed a \$1.00:\$4.50 ratio.

The Community Strengthening recipients reported that 613 volunteers were involved in the projects contributing a total of 16,198 hours to the Port Phillip Community.

Community grant recipients are asked to report on the beneficiaries of their project, below is a snapshot of the reported beneficiaries.



**Community Strengthening Grant Beneficiaries 2016-17:**

Adults experiencing homelessness & disadvantage	4552
Aged Community Members	22
CALD Community Members	4
Children	158
Community Members	942
Community Members experiencing Economic Disadvantage	20
Community Members with AOD addiction	38
Indigenous Community Members	3110*
People with Disabilities	51
Rooming House / Social Housing Residents	274
Service Professionals	177
Service Provider Organisations	8
Socially Isolated	1027
Students	627
Trainees	19
Unemployed Community Members	5
Unemployed New Migrants, Asylum Seekers or Refugees.	5
Visitors/ Tourists	8814
Women experiencing homelessness and disadvantage	40
Women in the sex industry	83
Young People	205

\* Indicates numbers attending programs annually. The same participant may receive multiple counts and/or it may provide a regional service whereby non-Port Phillip participants attend also.

**Community Strengthening Grant Activity Primary Locations 2016/17:**

East St Kilda / Balaclava	1
Elwood / Ripponlea	2
Port Melbourne	3
Port Melbourne St Kilda	1
South Melbourne	1
St Kilda	17
St Kilda Rd Neighbourhood	1
Whole Municipality	4



## Community Strengthening Case Study

*Organisation:* Love Our Street 3184.

Love Our Street 3184 is a volunteer based grass roots organisation that connects likeminded people to clean the streets of Elwood.

*Project:* Love Our Street 3184 (LOS3184)

The aim of this project was to establish the Love Our Street program.

*Funding received:* \$2,000.00



*Project Outcomes:* Love Our Street 3184 group activities have created and cemented relationships between a groups of locals who are determined to raise public awareness of the issue of litter in local public places. The membership of LOS3184 has grown and we now actively engage with local schools and scouts. Our members receive positive interactions from members of the public, which give us opportunity to educate people on the impact of litter on local amenity and the health of Elwood Canal and Port Phillip Bay ecosystems. We conduct litter audits in partnership with Beach Patrol Australia who feed the data into the Australian Marine Debris Initiative's data base. Our members also enjoy socialising with each other after the clean-ups further strengthening the connections and commitment to LOS3184.

### *Project Outputs:*

Activity	Number
Street clean ups	12
Kilograms of litter removed from Elwood	142
Community Film night	130 attendees
Scout participants	25
Primary School Participants	15
Litter audits for Port Phillip Eco Centre	4



## Social Inclusion Partnerships Category

The Social Inclusion category supports community organisations and groups to partner, develop and deliver projects and activities that increase social inclusion in the community. The aim is to engage residents who, for various reasons, may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in, or contribute to the broader community. The maximum funding for each grant under the Social Inclusion category is \$5,000

All of the Social Inclusion Partnerships acquittal reports have been submitted. A total of \$18,175 was funded through Council, contributing to a total of \$89,699 in project costs. Every dollar spent by Council has contributed a \$1.00:\$4.90 ratio.

The Social Inclusion Partnerships reported that 153 volunteers were involved in the project contributing a total of 1,382 hours.

Community grant recipients are asked to report on the beneficiaries of their project, below is a snapshot of the reported beneficiaries.

### Community Strengthening Grant Beneficiaries 2016-17:

Low Income socially isolated men and women	175
New migrant families	25
People on low incomes who experience financial and social exclusion	29
School community members	80
Schools	3
Students	120

### Community Strengthening Grant Activity Primary Locations 2016/17:

Elwood / Ripponlea	1
Port Melbourne & East St Kilda	1
South Melbourne	1
St Kilda	2

### Social Inclusion Partnerships Case Study:

*Organisation:* BPD Community Victoria

BPD Community is a not for profit organization formed in 2015 to replace stigma and discrimination with hope and optimism for those with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD).

*Partner Organisation:* Mind Australia



Mind is a leading provider of community mental health services; supporting people to live connected, productive and satisfying lives.

*Project:* BPD Information and Support

The aim of this project was to replace stigma and discrimination with hope and optimism through support and up to date information to those with lived experience of BPD, their families and friends and those who work with them.

*Funding received:* \$2,500.00

*Project Outcomes:*

Carers group meetings:

The carer's group meetings have been described as 'powerful' and 'life-changing'. Attendees recognise the value of sharing experiences and the education sessions where they learn about the principles and practise the techniques to help them achieve acceptance and compassion. They acknowledge their own personal development and how they have learned to live with the challenges of BPD in their family.

Members value the sharing of experience in support session at the start of the meeting, this is especially so for new participants. They feel they are in a safe place where others understand how they feel, for example:

- "I have felt welcome and supported since coming to these meetings" (Mother of older son with BPD)
- "Coming to the meetings has given me confidence in setting boundaries and looking after myself" (Mother of adult daughter with BPD)

The learning sessions are valued because participants are able to connect with their feelings at a deeper level and gain new insights. The learning reinforces the benefits of validation, the importance of boundary setting, being mindful and self-reflection, for example:

- "Since attending the first session, I haven't had a 'cross word' with my daughter. Coming here has turned my life around – it was acceptance that made this possible" (Father of adult daughter with BPD)

Information Nights:

The Information Nights are the places to disseminate accurate information, promote discussion and help develop a sense of community. They consistently attract an average of 23 participants, different people attend for different topics. Many return again. At the last Information Night the overwhelming response was that the night either exceeded their expectations or was better than expected. The respondents all indicated they were likely to attend again. The Information Nights are deemed successful ways of creating a sense of community through shared experience.



### Project Outputs:

Activity	Number
Carer's group attendees	77 people
Information night attendees	86 people

## Program Support Category

The Program Support category recognises that many small groups require funding to run their activities which form an important part of people's lives and wellbeing, regardless of whether or not they are project based. Activities are generally social, such as group outings, or physical such as walking groups. The maximum funding for each grant under the Program Support category is \$1,000.

Due to the fact that these recipient can only receive a maximum amount of \$1,000.00 the reporting requirements are far simpler than the other two categories. Therefore the amount of statistical data available is limited.

The submitted acquittal reports received a total of \$7,800 from Council, these funds supported projects to the value of \$56,923.00. Every dollar spent by Council has contributed a \$1.00:\$7.30 ratio.

The Program Support recipients reported that 1,892 community members were affected by the projects and a total of 948 volunteer hours were contributed to the Port Phillip Community.

### Program Support Case Study:

*Organisation:* Star Health

Star Health provides a range of health and community services to people primarily living in Port Phillip with a specific focus on responding to local community needs and to supporting and empowering individuals and groups of people with significant needs – encompassing physical, social, emotional and financial issues.

*Project:* 'Social Spoons' Social Café Meals Project

Social Spoons aims to improve community connectedness by enabling socially isolated community members to access a subsidised meal at one of 5 'gold spoon' cafes. Objectives include:

1. Enhanced member social inclusion via increased participation in community life
2. Increased confidence & knowledge in accessing cafes and other local services
3. Increase in capacity of cafes to support socially isolated community members.



### *Project Outcomes:*

Evaluations indicated our members gained new experiences and opportunity for friendly social interactions, had increased access to healthy food & trying different menu items, increased motivation to get out of the house & overall confidence building in being out in the community. Members also gained confidence in eating alone & found a subsidised meal lessened financial stresses.

Almost 70% of respondents described feeling more connected with the community following Social Spoons program involvement. Many have tied a Social Spoons outing into other community activity, including accessing local transport links, visiting parks, the beach and exploring other local services. The program also fosters improved community attitudes towards marginalised people: "I didn't get treated like a second class citizen which I normally do" – testimonial from Social Spoons Member.

Many members form comfortable relationships with café staff and continue to attend regularly beyond their 6 month participation in the program, displaying new confidence built during their Social Spoons membership.

## **Summary**

The 2016/17 Community Grants program and the funded projects had a positive impact in contributing to the Health and Wellbeing of Port Phillip.

Council's contribution of \$264,075 to the total project spend of \$976,695, every dollar spent has contributed an average \$1.00:\$3.70 value ratio. Recipients reported 20,613 beneficiaries from the grants with 766 volunteers contributing to 18,528 volunteer hours.

At the time of writing this report 47 acquittal reports had been submitted by the grant recipients. Four of the recipients has received an extension for their project, due to unforeseen circumstances and seven acquittals had yet to be submitted. All grant recipients are reminded that failure to meet their reporting requirements affects eligibility to apply for future funding applications.

