



**9.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2018-19
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CAROL JEFFS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY: EWA ZYSK, COMMUNITY GRANTS AND FUNDING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the recommendations for funding for the 2018-2019 Community Grants Program by the Community Grants Assessment Panel.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Grants Program provides funding to community organisations to deliver programs that build on local strengths to develop active, healthy, connected and inclusive communities.
- 2.2 This year, Council received 71 applications from 44 organisations under three funding categories: Community Strengthening received 52 applications; Social Inclusion received four applications and Program Support received 15 applications. A total of \$491,587 was requested, with \$281,000 available funding.
- 2.3 Eligible applications were assessed by two Assessment Panels, each consisting of one councillor, two local community members endorsed by Council and a City of Port Phillip Senior Council officer.
- 2.4 The report presents Council with a list of recommended grants for 2018-19 prepared by the Community Grants Assessment Panel.
- 2.5 In total, 47 applications from 25 organisations are recommended to receive \$281,000 in funding.
- 2.6 The allocation of this sum (\$281,000) is detailed in the funding recommendations attached to this report and the related supplementary reports. How this funding is allocated per primary target group is detailed in Attachment 2.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the Community Grants Assessment Panel's funding allocation recommendations for the 2018-2019 Community Grants Program (as per Attachment 1).
- 3.2 Makes public the list of successful applicants for the Community Grants Program.
- 3.3 Thanks the community members who have volunteered their time to the Community Grants Assessment Panel.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The 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.
- 4.2 Structure of the Grants Program
- 4.2.1 The Community Grants Program is an annual funding round established to support and encourage community organisations to develop and deliver projects and programs that respond to the needs of the Port Phillip community.
- 4.2.2 There are three categories of funding for the Community Grants Program in 2018-19: Community Strengthening, Social Inclusion and Program Support.
- 4.2.3 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, support human and technical resources, assist environmental sustainability and enhance local neighbourhoods. The maximum funding for each grant under the Community Strengthening category is \$10,000.
- 4.2.4 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 contribute to, participate in, or contribute to the broader community. The maximum funding for each grant under the Social Inclusion category is \$5000.
- 4.2.5 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.
- 4.2.6 Funding under the Community Grants Program is for a one-year period. Projects that have received funding previously may apply and be considered for funding in subsequent years. Projects that can demonstrate longer term sustainability are favourably viewed. There is no limit to how many applications a community organisation can submit in the three categories.
- 4.2.7 Project acquittals from previously funded organisations are checked to ensure compliance with acquittal and evaluation requirements.



4.3 Grant Application Process

- 4.3.1 Applications for Community Grant Program 2018-19 opened on 19 February 2018 and closed 9 April 2018.
- 4.3.2 The grant opportunities were advertised locally in the Leader, Divercity, Council Social Media, CoPP This! (Community Strengthening Newsletter), Council's website and through direct emails to previous applicants.
- 4.3.3 Three Grants Writing Skills Development workshops were offered to prospective applicants.
- 4.3.4 Three public information sessions were held for prospective applicants in February and March to assist applicants to understand the grants selection process and the use of the on-line grant application process.
- 4.3.5 Once received, all applications were checked for eligibility.
- 4.3.6 Eligible applications were then assessed by two Assessment Panels, each consisting of one councillor, two local community members endorsed by Council and a City of Port Phillip Senior Council Officer.
- 4.3.7 All the applications were assessed against established selection assessment criteria (detailed below).
- 4.3.8 Applications which did not rate well against the selection criteria were not recommended for funding. All unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity to receive feedback.
- 4.3.9 All organisations applying for funding, including those that have been funded in previous years are required to demonstrate sound accountability practices.

4.4 Grant Assessment Criteria

- 4.4.1 The following criteria were used to assess applications.
- 4.4.2 *Council Priority/need:*
 - a) To what degree does the project address Council priorities?
 - b) Has the need for the project been clearly demonstrated?
 - c) How will your project meet this need?
 - d) What benefits will the project bring to the community?
- 4.4.3 *Planning and Management*
 - a) How will the project be planned, managed, implemented and evaluated?



- b) Does the organisations have the necessary resources, experience and partnerships to do this effectively?
- c) If the project is ongoing, how will it be sustained into the future?

4.4.4 *Budget*

- a) Does the budget reflect value for money?
- b) Is there evidence of in kind or other financial contribution?

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Eligible applications were assessed by two Panels. Panel A consisted of: Cr Louise Crawford, Emma Blackford (Team Leader Community Facilities Activation) and two local community members. Assessment Panel B consisted of: Cr Marcus Pearl, Danielle Fraser (Coordinator Community Planning and Programs) and two local community members. The four local community members have been endorsed by Council.
- 5.2 Panel members assessed applications individually online prior to convening for group discussion and assessment over three separate meetings.
- 5.3 Panel members also provided feedback on the Community Grants Program and assessment process.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no known risks to Council in endorsing this recommendation.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The recommendations for the funding for the 2018-19 Community Grants Program align with the allocated budget.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The Community Grants Program encourages applicants to apply for funding to deliver sustainability projects and/or to consider sustainability in their project planning and implementation.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The Community Grants Program promotes social inclusion and community engagement by supporting projects that value contribution and participation to the Port Phillip community.
- 9.2 The Community Grants Program is one way that the Council ensures social justice for all in its delivery of services, programs and projects. This is achieved through the criteria for assessment having a strong emphasis on social inclusion and equity principles.



- 9.3 The Community Grants Program funds local community programs and services which enables continued employment in the Non-for-Profit Sector.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Applications are sought for projects that enhance diversity, enable community participation and decision making, and contribute to the building of healthy, strong and inclusive communities. Projects should contribute to the Council Plan Strategic Directions and are evaluated according to how well they meet program priorities.

10.1.1 *We embrace difference, and people belong:*

- a) A safe and active community with strong social connections.
- b) Supporting programs that create social connections and strengthen community networks.
- c) Building community capacity by harnessing the knowledge, expertise and spirit within our community.
- d) Supporting programs that reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drug use, family violence and enabling all people to reach their health potential.
- e) An increase in affordable housing.
- f) Establishing and facilitating partnerships to support delivery of diverse and innovative projects to reduce the risk of homelessness.
- g) Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community.
- h) Facilitating access to relevant services that cater for all ages and life stages.
- i) Exploring partnerships and innovative ways of delivering services.
- j) Community diversity is valued and celebrated.
- k) Supporting programs and events that engage, honour and are inclusive of our diverse social and cultural communities.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Following Council endorsement, letters will be sent to both successful and unsuccessful applicants by 20 July 2018. Verbal feedback will also be offered to unsuccessful applicants.
- 11.1.2 Successful applicants will be posted a cheque by 11 August 2018.
- 11.1.3 Successful projects will be announced on the Council website in the form of an e-book.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 18 JULY 2018



11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 Applicants will be advised of the outcomes of their application in writing by post or email.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. *Confidential*- Attachment 1: Community Grants Program Recommendations 2018-19
2. Attachment 2: Financial Allocations by Primary Target Group 2018-19