



8.3

**COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2017-18
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING**

LOCATION/ADDRESS:

WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY

GENERAL MANAGER:

CAROL JEFFS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PREPARED BY:

**EMMA BLACKFORD, GRANTS AND
COMMUNITY PROJECTS OFFICER**

TRIM FILE NO:

46/01/109

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Confidential*- Community Grants Recommendations
2. Community Grants 2017 - 2018 Financial Allocation by Primary Target Group

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval for funding the 2017-2018 Community Grants Program as recommended by the Community Grants Assessment Panel.

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Endorses the Community Grants Assessment Panel's funding allocation recommendations for the 2017-2018 Community Grants program (as per attachment 1).
- 1.2 Makes public the list of successful applicants for the Community Grants.
- 1.3 Thanks the voluntary members of the Community Grants Assessment Panel for their valuable contribution to the community life of the City of Port Phillip.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 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.
 - 2.1.1 **Structure of the Grants Program**
 - 2.1.1.1 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.
 - 2.1.1.2 There are three categories of funding for the Community Grants program in 2017-2018: Community Strengthening, Social Inclusion and Program Support.



- 2.1.1.3 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, 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.
- 2.1.1.4 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 participate in, or contribute to the broader community. The maximum funding for each grant under the Social Inclusion category is \$5,000.
- 2.1.1.5 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.
- 2.1.1.6 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.
- 2.1.1.7 Project acquittals from previously funded organisations are checked to ensure compliance with acquittal and evaluation requirements.
- 2.1.2 **Grant Application Process**
 - 2.1.2.1 Applications for Community Grants Program 2017-18 opened on 20 February, 2017 and closed on 30 March, 2017.
 - 2.1.2.2 The grant opportunities were advertised locally in The Leader, Diversity, CoPP This! - Community Strengthening Newsletter, Council's website, and through direct emails to previous applicants.
 - 2.1.2.3 Four free Grant Writing Skills Development Workshops were offered to prospective applicants.
 - 2.1.2.4 Three public information sessions were held for prospective applicants in February to assist applicants understand the grants selection process and the use of the on-line grant application process.
 - 2.1.2.5 Once received, all applications were checked for eligibility.
 - 2.1.2.6 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.



- 2.1.2.7 All applications were assessed against established selection criteria (detailed below).
- 2.1.2.8 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.
- 2.1.2.9 All Organisations applying for funding, including those that have been funded in previous years, are required to demonstrate sound accountability practices.

2.1.3 Grants Assessment Criteria

2.1.3.1 Council Priority / Need:

- To what degree does the project address Council priorities?
- Has the need for the project been clearly demonstrated?
- How will your project meet this need?
- What benefits will the project bring to the community?

2.1.3.2 Planning and Management:

- How will the project be planned, managed, implemented and evaluated?
- Does the organisation have the necessary resources, experience and partnerships to do this effectively?
- If the project is ongoing, how will it be sustained into the future?

2.1.3.3 Budget:

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

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 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.
 - 3.1.1 This report presents Council with a list of recommended grants for 2017-2018 prepared by the Community Grants Assessment Panel. How this funding is allocated per primary target group is detailed in Attachment 2.
 - 3.1.2 This year, Council received 83 applications from 61 different organisations under three funding categories: Community Strengthening received 56 applications; Social Inclusion, received 10 applications; and Program Support, received 17 applications. A total of \$513,083 was requested.
 - 3.1.3 In total, 61 applications from 36 organisations were recommended to receive \$281,000 in funding.
 - 3.1.4 The allocation of this sum (\$281,000) is detailed in the funding recommendations attached to this report and related supplementary reports.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 Community Grant Priorities

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 Directions for the future and are evaluated according to how well they meet these Program priorities:

4.1.1 *Engaged: A Well Governed City*

4.1.1.1 Provide clear and open communication and engagement that is valued by the community.

4.1.1.2 Value transparent processes in Council decision making.

4.1.1.3 Build and facilitate a network of active and informed communities.

4.1.2 *Healthy: A Healthy, Creative and Inclusive City*

4.1.2.1 Ensure our City is a welcoming and safe place for all.

4.1.2.2 Support our community to achieve improved health and wellbeing.

4.1.2.3 Ensure quality and accessible family, youth and children's services that meet the needs of our community.

4.1.2.4 Foster a community that values lifelong learning, strong connections and participating in the life of the city.

4.1.2.5 Promote an improved range of cultural and leisure opportunities that foster a connected and engaged community.

4.1.3 *Resilient: A Resilient City*

4.1.3.1 Support community action for a resilient city.

4.1.4 *Vibrant: A Vibrant City*

4.1.4.1 Encourage viable, vibrant villages.

4.1.4.2 Ensure people can travel with ease using a range of convenient, safe, accessible and sustainable travel choices.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Eligible applications were assessed by two Assessment Panels. Assessment Panel A consisted of: Cr Louise Crawford, Senior Council Officer Samantha Ross and two local community members. Assessment Panel B consisted of: Cr Marcus Pearl, Senior Council Officer Danielle Fraser and two local community members. The four local community members have been endorsed by Council.

5.2 Panel members assessed applications individually on line 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 adopting this recommendation.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1.1 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.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

7.2.1 The Community Grants program is one way that Council ensures social justice and equity for all in its delivery of services, programs and projects funded through the community grants program. The criteria for assessment of community grants is also strongly based on social justice, social inclusion and equity principles.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

7.3.1 The Community Grants Program funds local community programs and services which enables continued employment in the Not-For-Profit Sector.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 The recommendations for funding for the 2017-2018 Community grants program align with the allocated budget.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

Following Council endorsement, letters will be sent out to both successful and unsuccessful applicants by 15 July 2017. Verbal feedback will also be offered to unsuccessful applicants.

8.1.1 Successful applicants will be posted a cheque by 11 August 2017.

8.1.2 Successful projects will be announced on the Council website in the form of an e-book.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing by post or email.

9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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