

Category: A Vibrant Healthy Community

Adoption:

Date: 24 November 2015

Review period: 2 years

Review Date: 1 December 2017

Responsible Manager: Manager Community Partnerships

CEO Signature



Date: 24 November 2015

Policy Purpose

The Council Grants Policy (Policy) provides a framework to ensure that community requests for financial support through Council grants are managed in a consistent, transparent and equitable manner in line with Council goals and priorities.

Policy Objectives

To ensure that the provision of Community Grants is aligned with Council plans and strategies and:

- Assists the community to establish, extend and improve programs and services that address local needs, and are not provided by any tier of government or the private sector
- Encourages voluntary activity, community participation and the contribution of local groups and organisations to community life
- Encourages innovative approaches to emerging issues and needs
- Assists groups and individuals in developing opportunities that will return benefits to the Mount Alexander Shire community

Policy Scope

The Policy applies to direct financial assistance provided by Council through its grant programs to support projects initiated and delivered by the community.

The Policy applies to eligible individuals, community groups and organisations seeking financial support from Council either based in Mount Alexander Shire or with some demonstrated links to the communities within it.

The Policy does not apply to indirect support such as provision of buildings, land or facilities, in-kind support or assistance from Council staff.

The Policy does not apply to payments to organisations for delivery of specified services on behalf of Council which are subject to the Procurement Policy.

The Policy does not apply to sponsorship by Council of festivals and events.

Policy Content

Council will provide financial support to eligible individuals, community groups and organisations that undertake activities and services that benefit the community in line with the objectives of this Policy through the following three funding programs:

A. Community Grants

The Community Grants Program provides support to projects and initiatives that provide community benefit to the Shire. Applications are open once every financial year.

Assessment of requests and their eligibility will be subject to the Community Grants objectives and guidelines. Funding approvals will be determined at a meeting of Council.

B. Quick Response Youth Grants

The Quick Response Youth Grants Program provides support to local young people aged between 12 - 25 years to run their own youth focused activities and projects. Young people can apply for a Quick Response Youth Grant at any time of the year.

Assessment of requests and their eligibility will be subject to the Quick Response Youth Grants objectives and guidelines. Funding approvals will be determined by the delegated Council officer.

C. Special Grants

The Special Grants Program provides support to community projects that face unanticipated and exceptional circumstances and arise outside the annual funding round of the Community Grants Scheme. Applications can be made at any time of the year.

Assessment of requests and their eligibility will be subject to the Special Grants objectives and guidelines. Funding approvals will be determined by the delegated Council officer.

Council will ensure that its grant programs and processes are fully accessible and widely promoted throughout the Shire.

Total amounts allocated to each funding program will be determined in Council's annual budget process.

Requests for financial support that do not meet the objectives, criteria or timeframe of either the Community Grants Program, Quick Response Youth Grant Program, or Special Grants Program may be considered at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Once budget allocations for the Community Grants Program, Quick Response Youth Grant Program, or Special Grants Program have been exceeded in any given financial year, any further funding approvals will be at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Recognition of Council's financial support by all grant recipients is required in any promotion, media or advertising of the project being funded.

Responsibilities

Community Grants Program, Quick Response Youth Grant Program and Special Grants Program will be administered by the Community Partnerships Team.

Related Policies

Access and Equity Policy
Community Support Policy
Fee Waiver Policy
Public Art Policy
Risk Management Policy