

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY

Policy Number:	5.1.5
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	December 2021
Date of Next Review:	May 2022
Applicable to Unit(s):	Communities, Facilities & Emergencies
Responsible Officer:	Manager Communities, Facilities & Emergencies
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Community Assistance Grants Scheme Funding Guidelines and Assessment Criteria Quick Response Grants Scheme Funding Guidelines and Assessment Criteria
Statutory Reference:	Nil

OVERVIEW

To establish policy for the management of the Community Assistance Grants Scheme inclusive of the Quick Response Grant Scheme and Australia Day Grant.

THE POLICY

The aim of Council's Assistance Grants Scheme and Quick Response Grant Scheme is to encourage the development of community initiatives in line with our Council's Wellington 2031 Vision, Council Plan 2021-25 and Healthy Wellington 2021-25.

It aims to build community capacity by encouraging participation, promoting inclusion, growing partnerships, providing learning opportunities and supporting social connectedness by utilising and activating our open spaces, community, and cultural facilities.

Key concepts within the Wellington 2031 Vision that underpin the Community Assistance Grants Scheme are available in the Council Plan 2021-25 under Strategic Direction 3 Livability and Wellbeing.

The following strategic objectives and related strategies are noted in theme 1:

Council Plan Outcome: 3.1 *"An inclusive, diverse, and resilient community."*

Council Plan Initiative: 3.1.2 *"Facilitate activities and events that celebrate and promote inclusion and engagement of our culturally and socially diverse communities."*

Council Plan Outcome 3.3 *"Opportunities for everyone to work, learn, create, play, and share."*

Council Plan Initiative: 3.3.1 *"To assist in recovery from COVID-19, facilitate support for and capacity building of community volunteers in Committees of Management and other community groups that deliver community outcomes."*

Council Plan Initiative: 3.3.7 *"Establish partnerships that improve and grow access to cultural experiences and provide learning opportunities and social connectedness by utilising and activating our open space, community, and cultural facilities."*

An annual budgeted amount of funding as determined by Council is available to be applied for by not for profit groups for projects, events and facilities. Applications are received twice yearly under the Community Assistance Grants Scheme and all throughout the year under the Quick Response Grants Scheme and annually under the Australia Day Grants. Assessment panels review funding applications based on;

✓ The applicant' planning and capacity

Has the applicant:

- Provided clear details about the event/project?
- Is the project achievable?
- Demonstrated the ability to deliver the project?
- Provided promotion and marketing information and schedule?
- Provided evaluation details; schedule and information?
- Considered Access and Inclusion issues and considered the needs of all the community and user groups?
- Attached relevant support material?

✓ Community need and benefit outcomes

Has the applicant:

- Provided information relating to the community need for the event/project?
- Provided information relating to the community benefit for the event/project?
- Attached relevant support material?

There are times when Council may choose to vary the types of grants offered to support the response to a significant incident or event impacting on the community.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

Any program guidelines and assessment criteria developed for the purpose of implementing this policy shall incorporate reference to and consideration of Council's Human Rights Policy and Human Rights Charter Checklist.