

Grants Review 2018 – Issues Paper Summary Document

1. Why has Council undertaken this review?

Council grants and funding program are a vital asset to support our community and to enable Council to achieve its goals via investment in community.

Darebin Council has undertaken a review of the grants and funding agreements provided by Council to community groups and organisations to ensure that our grants and funding:

- Reflect Council's strategic objectives and the needs of our diverse community.
- Are accessible and easy for community to navigate, while being distributed through a transparent and fair process.

An Issues Paper outlining the issues, recommended changes and proposed grant model has been prepared for community feedback.

This paper provides a summary of the key changes proposed with further detail available in the Grants Review Issues Paper and the proposed grants model

2. What are the key changes?

Community Grants

The review proposes that the existing Community Grants program be split into two categories:

- Small grants – up to \$2500
- Medium grants – up to \$8000 or \$15,000

Many applicants told us that they find the application onerous for the amount that they are requesting. The aim of the Small Grants to provide a simpler application process for groups seeking \$2500 or less.

Medium Grants will enable applicants to seek up to \$8000 or \$15,000 and will include four streams that reflect Council's strategic objectives. This reflects feedback from groups who are seeking more than \$6000 to enable them to deliver more robust projects.

Venue Hire

The paper recommends changing the way Council provides free or subsidised venue hire, which is currently through the Venue Hire Subsidy category of the community grants.

The proposed process would still have eligibility requirements and require an application, but aims to create a simpler, faster process for accessing free or subsidised use of applicable Council venues. It also seeks to provide access to support all year round, or until funding for that financial year has been allocated.

This proposal will be further developed prior to the opening of the 2019/2020 grants round.

Three Year Grants

The issues paper recommends establishing a Three Year Partnership Grants program in place of existing annual funding agreements with community organisations.

This model would require a number of organisations currently on annual funding agreements to apply for these funds through a competitive application process.

This will provide a clear pathway and transparent process for organisations to request larger funds for programs and services that align to Council's strategic objectives

It also seeks to provide organisations with greater financial security and the capacity to deliver greater community benefit by having a three year project term.

New grants and additional resources

The proposed model seeks to add an additional \$110,000 to the grants pool, effective 2019/2020.

This recognises where the current funding allocation does not match Council's strategic intent in relation to a number of key areas and issues. The additional resources seek to provide:

- An additional \$50,000 specifically to environment and sustainability grants, to be distributed across small, medium and grants.
- \$40,000 to a social enterprise start up grants program. This is a new proposal which would support
- \$20,000 to a youth projects grants program to support the delivery of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury Solutions. This is a new proposal, which would replace the Youth Encouragement Scheme.

3. What won't change?

For a number of existing grants programs there are no major changes recommended, just smaller changes to simplify and improve the application process and create greater consistency across all of Council's grants programs.

4. What grants will be available?

The proposed grants model for annual and three year grants, including the proposed total funding pools for each program is outlined below. The proposed model is subject to change and will not be effective until the model and associated budget is endorsed by Council.

Proposed grants model 2019/2020

Annual Grants

		Grant Amount	Total Pool
Small grants Funding to support community groups to support initiatives which reflect one or more of the Council Plan goals.		up to \$2500	\$100,000
	Christmas events for emergency relief organisations	up to \$2500	\$10,000
Medium Grants Funding to support initiatives which support the delivery of Council's Plan goals and demonstrate social, wellbeing, environmental or cultural benefits for our community.	Environment and Sustainability	Up to \$15,000	\$60,000
	Health and Wellbeing	Up to \$8,000	\$45,000
	Creative Projects – artist led initiatives	Up to \$15,000	\$75,000
	Equity and Inclusion	Up to \$8,000	\$45,000
Celebrating Darebin Grants	Community Events	\$3,000	\$56,000
	True North Events (for events in Reservoir)	\$5,000	
Social Enterprise Start up Grants Funding to support Darebin based social enterprises with start-up costs.		TBD	\$40,000
Youth Projects Projects which respond to the recommendation of the Darebin Youth Citizens Jury and support the inclusion, participation and wellbeing of Darebin's young people.		Up to \$5000	\$25,000
Leisure minor works grants Co - contribution to minor upgrades and infrastructure at Council owned recreation pavilions		Up to \$10,000 with co-contribution required.	\$66,300
Venue Hire support Free or subsidised use of selected Council venues upon application for not for profit groups to support initiatives and activities which reflect one or more of the Council Plan goals.		yearly cap per group TBC	TBC

Three Year Partnership Grants

<p>Partnership Grants</p> <p>Three years of funding to deliver programs and services that align with Council's priorities.</p> <p>Eligible organisations will be not for profit organisations that have a proven track record in the provision of quality programs and services.</p>	<p>Environment and sustainability - programs and projects that create a sustainable and address climate change.</p>	TBC	\$80,000
	<p>Reducing inequality - programs and services that improve the wellbeing, inclusion and participation of Darebin's diverse communities.</p>	TBC	\$160,000
	<p>Key Cultural organisations –funding to support Key Cultural organisations location in Darebin.</p>	8 x up to \$8,000	\$64,000
	<p>Youth partnerships - programs and services that improve wellbeing outcomes for Darebin young people.</p>	TBC	\$50,000

5. How can I provide feedback?

If you have questions about the proposed changes, would like a copy of the full Grants Review Issues Paper or would like to provide feedback you can email community.wellbeing@darebin.vic.gov.au or call the Manager, Equity and Wellbeing, 8470 8594.

Your feedback will help inform the final model which will be presented to Council for endorsement in February 2019.

Please provide feedback before **COB Friday 18th January 2019**.