



Title of Policy	Community Grants		
This applies to	All Council employees and community members		
Author	Greg Hill	Date approved:	
Position of Author	General Manager	Authorised by:	
Legislation, Australian Standards, Code of Practice	The <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , provides at Section 356 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> empowers councils to provide financial assistance to others.		
Related Policies/Procedures	Community Grants Procedure		

AIM

Central Darling Shire Council acknowledges the contributions made by not-for-profit community based organisations, groups and individuals in the local government area and, where possible, commits limited funds to help these organisations, groups and individuals achieve their objectives.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish a consistent, equitable and transparent response to requests for financial assistance;
- Ensure that all conforming applications received are given equitable consideration for funding;
- Ensure that the funding of community grants represents value for money to Council and the community; and
- Ensure that money provided by Council to community organisations are allocated in the most effective manner.

SCOPE

The policy applies to requests for community grants from not-for-profit community based organisations, groups and individuals that meet community needs and to benefit residents within our community.

This policy enables Council to support local projects and activities put forward by those organisations, groups and individuals that offer a significant contribution to community outcomes and goals as provided in the Community Strategic Plan. Additionally, Community Grants may also be available to respond to particular emergency situations (such as drought relief) depending upon the availability of funding. In making such funds available, community grants shall be provided in a consistent, equitable and transparent manner.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

General Grants

To be eligible for consideration to receive community grants, applicants must:

- Be an incorporated not-for-profit and/or charitable organisation or individual based or residing in the Central Darling local government area;
- Target the local community;
- Fit within Council's Delivery Program & Operational Plan;
- Have no outstanding debts of any kind to Council; and
- Submit the application form by the applicable cut-off time and date.

Applicants may only receive funding up to a maximum amount of \$1,000. Community groups and individuals may apply for funding for events and one off activities at any time of year.

Community groups planning a series of events which may be eligible for funding are advised to apply for funding annually.

Individuals applying for financial support must demonstrate the value to the Shire community of the activity for which they require funding.

Community groups applying for in-kind support for the waiver of rates, fees, charges and goods is considered financial assistance within this policy and therefore may be eligible for consideration.

Recurring Grants

The groups to receive this category of funding will generally include schools (for award nights), church or community groups (for events such as Christmas luncheons) and community Australia Day celebrations (which does not include Council's centralised Australia Day event).

Funding will be limited to a maximum amount of \$200 for each group.

The Committee will determine those bodies which will receive this funding and no application form will be required.

Emergency Relief Grants

Council may, depending upon the availability of specific funding, be in a position to provide funding to members of our community adversely affected by such natural situations such as drought, flooding etc.

COMMUNITY GRANTS MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Applications

The Committee comprising the Administrator, General Manager and Shire Services Director will determine any categories that are deemed to be recurring. The amounts to be paid for these recurring community grants will generally be decided based on Council's budget.

Council has limited funding available and received requests to support so many worthwhile causes so often there are insufficient funds available to cater for all requests.

Applicants will need to re-apply each year, notwithstanding that they may have received assistance in previous years.

Except as otherwise provided, all applications are to be completed on a Central Darling Shire Council "Request for Community Grants Application Form". This can be accessed from the Council's website or Council offices. Forms may be lodged electronically, mailed or delivered to Council's office.

Assessment

All applications received will be assessed by a committee comprising the Administrator, General Manager and Shire Services Director.

The applications will be considered on their respective merits and will be assessed in conjunction with all other requests received against the following criteria relative to the amount of funding requested:

- Degree of benefit to the community aligned with the Community Strategic Plan;
- Amount of resident participation;
- Evidence of community support;
- Level of consultation and collaboration with other local groups;
- Whether the funding is for new and innovative community projects or programs;
- Organisational capacity to deliver the program or project;
- Does the project address local issues by attempting to meet a community need or shortcoming;
- Previous financial assistance to the applicant and the reasons for that assistance; and
- Applicant's access to alternative sources of funding.

Approval

All requests for Community Grants will be considered at a Council meeting for final approval pending assessment of the application. Consideration will include which applications will be funded and the amount of funding to be provided.

Reporting Requirements

Applicants are requested to provide Council with a report providing evidence of the activity funded. This can be in the form of a letter with photographs attached as applicable.

Timetable

Applications will be accepted year round. It is highly recommended that organisations planning a series of events apply in July. Applications are subject to the amount of available funding and can be refused when the allocated budget is exhausted.

PRIVACY

Applicants for Community Grants should be aware that copies of their applications may be included in a report to Council which will be published in the Council Business Paper and will be publicly available as well as being published on Council's website. All information provided will be managed in line with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.