

6.2.7 2021-2022 Community Wellbeing Support and Festival and Event Grants

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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- Approve 53 Festival and Event Grants to the value of \$248,166.24.
- Approve 49 Community Wellbeing and Support Grants to the value of \$97,258.81.

Attachments

Nil.

Executive Summary

The Festival and Event Grant Program and Community Wellbeing and Support Grant Program both seek to support Cardinia's Liveability Plan outcomes through a range of financial grants for community initiatives.

Applications for the 2021-2022 Festival and Event and Community Wellbeing and Support Grants opened for applications on 25th January and closed on 12th March 2021.

Fifty-three applications were received under the Festival and Event Grant program requesting \$250,623.74. Four ineligible application items were removed, and application discrepancies identified, which left a total of \$248,166.24 applied for under this category.

Seventy-five applications were received under the Community Wellbeing and Support Grant program with 68 eligible for assessment, totalling \$167,712 applied for under this category.

Following an extensive assessment process involving a multidisciplinary group of Council staff, senior leadership, and Councillor Grant Assessment Panel, it is recommended that 53 applications under the Festival and Event Grant program be approved totalling \$248,166.24 and 49 applications under the Community Wellbeing and Support Grant program be approved totalling \$97,258.81.

Background

Applications across both programs were assessed by a multidisciplinary group of Council officers from the areas of Actives Reserves, Arts and Culture, Passive Reserves, Traffic Management, Social and Community Planning, Community Development, Youth Services, Community Places, Cultural Diversity and Risk, Health and Safety.

These assessments were then taken to the Councillor Grant Assessment Panel and Senior Leadership Team for further input before going to Council Meeting for endorsement.

Below are the outcomes following this process:

Application status	Festival and Events	Community Wellbeing and Support
Fully supported	53	41
Partially supported	0	8
Not supported	0	19
AMOUNT ALLOCATED	\$248,166.24	\$97,258.81

Below is a breakdown of all eligible applications received via Ward:

Ward area	Festival and Events	Community Wellbeing and Support
Beacon Hills	7	5
Bunyip	7	6
Central	2	3
Henty	7	15
Officer	2	6
Pakenham Hills	0	2
Ranges	17	13
Toomuc	5	6
Westernport	6	10
Shire wide	0	2

Total applications and amounts approved via Ward:

Ward area	Festival and Events	Community Wellbeing and Support	Total Allocated
Beacon Hills	7	4	\$36,298
Bunyip	7	6	\$31,854.43
Central	2	2	\$19,500
Henty	7	9	\$57,045.71
Officer	2	3	\$16,537
Pakenham Hills	0	1	\$840.00
Ranges	17	11	\$99,710.10
Toomuc	5	5	\$48,620
Westernport	6	8	\$35,017.81

Total Community Wellbeing and Support Grant applications approved via grant category:

	Applications approved	Total Allocated
Seeding Grant	14	\$57,553.31
Volunteer Support Grant	6	\$12,760
Small Change Grant	29	\$26,954.50

Total eligible applications and amounts declined due to not meeting grant criteria:

	Ward Area	Number of applicatons	Total amount
Community Wellbeing and Support Grants	Beacon Hills	1	\$1,000.00
	Bunyip	0	0
	Central	1	\$2,379.00
	Henty	6	\$16,990.00
	Officer	3	\$13,000.00
	Pakenham Hills	1	\$5,000.00
	Ranges	2	\$8,000.00
	Toomuc	1	\$927.00
	Westernport	2	\$4,000.00
	Shire wide	2	\$7,344

COVID-19 considerations

Council will include a standard condition requiring grant recipients comply with State Government COVID-19 requirements at all times.

For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Festival and Event grants a commitment was made to cover event organisers out of pocket expenses up to the value of the grant amount. In 2021-2022 it is proposed that this clause is again included in the letter of offer.

Policy Implications

Both grant programs align to Council priorities and objectives, along with Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan 2017 - 2029.

Relevance to Council Plan

1.1 We empower our communities to be healthy, connected and resilient

1.1.1 Plan for, and support the delivery of, accessible health and social services that address critical gaps in provision.

1.1.2 Enrich local identity and opportunities for the community to connect through art, history and cultural expression.

1.1.3 Lead by example in creating an inclusive and welcoming community for all by facilitating community education, capacity building, connection and celebration of our diversity.

Climate Emergency Consideration

N/A

Consultation/Communication

A comprehensive communications plan was undertaken and widely promoted through various newsletters and distribution channels including community leaders and groups, Council's web and Facebook pages, Connect, the Councillor Bulletin, as well as local community newsletters and social media.

The grant round opened online via Smartygrants on the 25th January and closed 12th March 2021.

The staff who assessed the applications came from a variety of areas across Council including Actives Reserves, Arts and Culture, Passive Reserves, Traffic Management, Social and Community

Planning, Community Development, Youth Services, Community Places, Cultural Diversity and Risk, Health and Safety.

The Councillor Grant Assessment Panel comprised Mayor Cr Brett Owen, Cr Carol Ryan and Cr Tammy Radford.

Following final endorsement at the July 2021 Council meeting, successful applicants will be advised of the outcome via a letter of offer through Smartygrants. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified via a letter through Smartygrants.

Financial and Resource Implications

Festival and Event grants

The proposed budget for 2021-2022 is \$250,000. The total amount required to fully support the 53 grant applications is \$248,166.24.

Community Wellbeing Support grants

The proposed budget for 2021-2022 is \$97,305. The total amount required to support 49 of the recommended grant applications is \$97,258.81.

Conclusion

The grant programs align to and add value to Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan and support community reconnection in a post-COVID environment.

It is recommended to support funding of 53 Festival and Event grant applications to the value of \$248,166.24 and 49 Community Wellbeing and Support Grant applications to the value of \$97,258.81.