

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES' SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Grant Opens **15th July 2024**. Grant Closes **11th August 2024**

1. Program Overview and Objectives

Foundation Murrindindi's vision is to foster thriving, vibrant connected communities within the Shire of Murrindindi. Our connecting communities program aims to support our vision and help communities to stay connected. Community groups and not for profit organisations are invited to apply for small grants of up to \$500 to support community-led initiatives, activities, projects or events that reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, increase social participation and inclusion, foster community connections and enhances a sense of belonging. Successful projects must be implemented quickly and assist community groups to continue to support and respond to identified needs that improve the health, wellbeing and capacity of their community.

Program Outcomes:

- increase community participation, access, connection and inclusion
- empower community to identify and respond to local issues and priorities
- foster community spirit

2. Program Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding through the Connecting Communities Grant Program, applications must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation or community group with a current ABN.
- Applicant organisations must be located within the Shire of Murrindindi with the project providing benefits to locals in the Shire of Murrindindi.
- Funded activities must create opportunities for community members to experience greater connection to their community through opportunities that improve access and participation.
- Funded activities must align with 1 or more impact areas as described by Foundation Murrindindi.
- Projects must be for charitable purposes (refer to definition below).
- Projects must be completed by March 31 2025.

Funding will not be considered for:

- Activities with a political focus
- Commercial or profit-making activities or individual businesses
- Fundraising activities, competitions, prizes or award events
- Activities that have already commenced or occurred
- Salaries and wages
- Activities that are for the purpose of sport (see further information below).

Charitable Purposes

In accordance with its Constitution, Foundation Murrindindi must only provide funds for a charitable purpose. This includes:

- Advancing health
- Advancing education
- Advancing social or public welfare
- Advancing culture
- Promoting reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance between groups of individuals that are in Australia
- Promoting or protecting human rights
- Advancing the security or safety of Australia or the Australian public
- Preventing or relieving the suffering of animals
- Advancing the natural environment
- Promoting or opposing a change to any matter established by law, policy or practice in the Commonwealth, a state, a territory or another country, and
- Other similar purposes 'beneficial to the general public' (a general category).

(reference The Charities Act 2013 (Cth))

Note: The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law. Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the normal sporting activities of the club.

3. Auspice Organisation

An auspice organisation maybe required if the community organisation delivering the project is not incorporated and without an ABN. They can then partner with a local organisation within Murrindindi Shire that is incorporated and holds an ABN that will manage the grant and hold the funds on their behalf. In this situation, a letter from the funding partner organisation stating their willingness to accept and administer a grant or the project **must be provided** with this application

If there is an auspice organisation, that is applying on behalf of an organisation, then the auspice organisation will be the official applicant for the grant submission.

The auspice organisation will be responsible for signing the funding agreement if the grant is successful, and will also be responsible for writing the Completion Report. Grant funds will be held by and administered by the auspice organisation on behalf of the applicant organisation.

It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of their responsibilities for a grant application is submitted. Please discuss the any auspice arrangements with the Executive Officer, Foundation Murrindindi.

4. Assessment Process

After the application period has closed and we have received your application:

- You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application through SmartyGrants online portal.
- Your application will be assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Funding recommendations will be advised by Foundation Murrindindi Grants & Programs Sub Committee.
- Foundation Murrindindi Board will make the final decision on the outcome of all eligible applications.
- All applicants will receive a notification via email with the result of their application by the end of August 2024.
- Information about grant decisions will not be given over the phone.
- The list of successful applicants will be published on the Foundation Murrindindi's website and social media platforms approximately a month after all applicants have been notified of the outcome of their application

5. Assessment Criteria

Connected Communities Small Grant applications are assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- Alignment to the purpose and objectives of Connected Communities Small Grants
- Demonstrated community need
- Number of participants that will participate and benefit
- Target demographic group/s
- Budget reflects appropriate scope and scale of intended activity.
- Geographic location/s of intended activity or event.

For more information contact Robyn Hill, Executive Officer

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Please apply online via our website

<https://foundationmurrindindi.org.au/>