

VOLUNTEER GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Opens **March 31st 2025**. Grant Closes **April 30th 2025**

1. Program Overview and Objectives

This program aligns with Foundation Murrindindi's impact area of Building Community Capacity.

Volunteer grants will support projects to engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base, and strengthen volunteering in local communities within Murrindindi Shire. Volunteer Grants support the work of local community organisations by reducing barriers for volunteers, increasing participation in volunteering and increases community capacity.

The objectives of Volunteer Grants are to:

- help not-for-profit community organisations to support the efforts of their volunteers
- encourage, support and increase participation in volunteering
- build volunteer management capability within organisations; and
- support the operations of volunteer driven grass roots community organisations.

Grants of up to \$1,500 are available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations that are based in Murrindindi Shire. The total grant funds available for this volunteer grant round is \$25,000.

Grant funds can be used for activities such as (but not limited to):

- Training and upskilling of their volunteer base eg. First aid, governance, mental health courses.
- Service subscription fees for products that enhance organisational capacity such as cloud-based online accounting, Canva Pro, Dropbox, internet etc. incurred by the community organisation.
- Purchasing communications or technology equipment such as mobile phones, computers, tablets and radios that supports volunteer engagement.
- Electronic payment devices/equipment.
- Costs associated with managing volunteers eg. software, databases, uniforms etc.
- Advertising, communication material such as banners and brochures to promotion to support volunteer recruitment
- Undertake background screening checks for volunteers.

2. Program Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding through the Volunteer 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 volunteers in the Shire of Murrindindi.
- Projects must be for charitable purposes (refer to definition below)
- Community organisations must have a minimum of 40% of volunteers working for your organisation by headcount.
- Projects must be completed by June 2026

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. 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 May 2025.
- 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.

4. Assessment Criteria

Grant applications are assessed against the following assessment criteria:

- Alignment to the purpose and objectives of Volunteer Grant Program
- Demonstrated community need
- Number of participants that will participate and benefit
- Budget reflects appropriate scope and scale of intended activity.

For more information contact Robyn Hill, Executive Officer

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Email robyn@foundationmurrindindi.org.au

For more information about the grant and how to apply, please visit our website

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

*Foundation Murrindindi's vision is for thriving, vibrant and connected communities
within the Shire of Murrindindi.*