

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GUIDELINES 2025

Through its Community Grants Program, Gannawarra Shire Council provides financial support for community groups and organisations to undertake projects, programs, events and activities which will contribute to the municipality and align with the community vision identified in the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

COMMUNITY VISION

Our community will be proud, connected and inclusive as we actively seek opportunities that enhance lifestyle and liveability. We will recognise and appreciate the value of the natural environment and how it connects our communities. We will strive to be resilient to a changing environment through innovation and collaboration. The Gannawarra will grow through encouraging economic diversity, creating unique tourism destinations, and embracing our cultural and natural assets.



HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR?

Applicants can apply for **up to \$5,000** towards their project, program, event or activity

The 2025 Community Grant Program has a total available budget of **\$50,000**



AM I ELIGIBLE?



Applicants must be a not-for-profit organisation with either an Incorporation Certificate and/or an ABN. If you are unsure if your organisation is a registered not-for-profit (e.g. if you are an Other Unincorporated Entity, a State Government Entity, a Trust, a Registered Charity or local Committee of Management), please contact Council to discuss eligibility



Applicants must be located within the Gannawarra Shire and primarily serve residents of the Gannawarra Shire



Schools are eligible to apply for projects that have a broad community benefit



Applicants located outside the Gannawarra Shire who provide a service that primarily serves residents of the Gannawarra Shire are eligible to apply



Please note, applicants who have current outstanding projects that have not been acquitted are **ineligible** to apply for **any** funding until their project acquittal has been received and approved by Council. This includes applications submitted with an auspice arrangement.



ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Your project **MUST** meet the following three Essential Criteria to be eligible for funding

1.



Project budget **MUST** be completed accurately and must include quotes or a detailed budget

2.



Project can be delivered within the funding timelines - by 30 July 2026

3.



Project **MUST** demonstrate that access and inclusion for different demographics (such as abilities, genders, cultural backgrounds and ages) have been considered



ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

In addition to the three Essential Criteria above, your project should consider the following to be eligible for funding

4.



Project supports community development and builds community capacity, knowledge and skills

5.



Project is innovative and/or a new idea

6.



Project aims to create long term financial or environmentally sustainable outcomes

7.



Project shows evidence of community partnerships and collaboration

8.



Project encourages social connectedness and/or supports the development of liveable communities



WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED?



Applications submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses



Projects that are eligible for other sources of funding.
For example: Sporting club uniforms and equipment, shade structures, and crime prevention such as lighting and CCTV. Applicants should attempt to apply through funding programs specific for these purposes prior to applying for Council's Community Grants Program



Recurrent operating or maintenance costs for day-to-day operations of the organisation/group
For example: new tennis balls every year for a tennis club, utility bills, internet costs, salaries/wages, office/stationery supplies etc



Projects which have already commenced/been completed or for costs that have already been expended



Travelling expenses, e.g. petrol costs, private vehicle hire etc



Projects which have a political or religious purpose and objective



Projects that are deemed to be inappropriate and/or offensive



Prizes, trophies, gifts, sponsorship or donations



Projects or activities that benefit a single person only



A project which promotes (or if your Organisation supports) gambling, alcohol or tobacco use



APPLICATION PROCESS

Read these guidelines and refer to resources on Council's website

Consider if your project may require a permit, and/or landowner permissions

Discuss your project with Council's Community Partnerships team, if required

If eligible under the guidelines, begin your application via the online Grants Portal (SmartyGrants) at <https://gannawarra.smartygrants.com.au/>

Obtain and attach quotes and complete the budget for your project

Review your application

Submit your application online via SmartyGrants

An automated reply email is sent to the applicant from SmartyGrants to confirm application has been submitted



ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Council assessment panel assess applications against the criteria and make recommendations

Recommendations are presented to Council for a final decision at a Council Meeting

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within eight weeks of submission

Meeting the eligibility criteria is not a guarantee of funding. The decision made by Council is final. Council will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of an applicant's anticipation of successful funding



SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Projects, programs, events or activities are to be completed by 30 July 2026, unless an extension of time is approved by Council for exceptional circumstances by Council

Successful applicants are required to enter into a funding agreement with Council, which must be signed and returned prior to funds being paid

Successful applicants must acknowledge Council's support in any marketing/promotional materials, utilising the logo files provided

An acquittal report on how the funds were spent is due (via Smartygrants) within one month of project completion

QUESTIONS?



If you require any further information or need clarification please visit Council's website www.gsc.vic.gov.au/grants or contact Council's Community Partnerships team on 03 5450 9333 or via email grants@gsc.vic.gov.au