

Thursday 8 March 2018

IMPROVED COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM TO DELIVER FOR THE CITY FOR RYDE

The City of Ryde is to make improvements to its Community Grants Program that will result in a doubling of community grant rounds, an increase in the maximum amount of funding that can be allocated for each project or event and the introduction of a new social inclusion grant.

The Community Grants Program supports not-for-profit organisations and groups within the community so that they can deliver projects and events that align with Council's strategic plan.

Last financial year, more than 40 projects received funding under the program. Examples of projects that received funding include a school readiness program for Ryde children who are hearing impaired, the Ryde Language Festival and a telephone counselling service for the Korean community.

Grants are currently issued for the following categories:

- Seniors
- Capacity Building
- Events
- Community Projects
- Sports and Recreation
- School Excellence Awards

Under the improvements, which will come into effect from 1 July 2018, an additional community grants round will be introduced, bringing the community grants' rounds from one a year to two each calendar year.

A Social Support and Social Inclusion Grant will also be introduced as a way to engage with organisations and small businesses to support inclusion, a key goal for the City of Ryde as part of its strategic plan.

Other key improvements include:

- The introduction of a separate Events category with an escalating funding scale based on attendance, up to \$7500
- An increase in funding for the School Excellence Awards from \$100 to \$200 for high school awards and from \$50 to \$100 for primary school awards
- An increase in funding for the Capacity Building category and the Small Grants scheme
- The ability for groups funded through the Social Support program to roll over that funding into a second year

The City of Ryde, at its meeting on Tuesday 6 March, endorsed the improvements unanimously following support by the Works and Community Committee. The improvements were developed following a review of the current Community Grants Program, which included an extensive round of consultation with stakeholders.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the improvements would mean more local community groups, clubs and organisations could access funding under the Community Grants Program.

“These annual grants are one of the ways the City of Ryde supports our local community groups to grow, prosper and carry out special projects and events that contribute to community well-being and help build a vibrant community culture,” Clr Laxale said.

[Click here for more information on the Community Grants Program.](#)

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