

Relevant Information for Community Services and Facilities Committee

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 15 September 2025

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 3 – Grants and Sponsorship - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and Ad Hoc Grant - Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve an Ad Hoc cash grant of up to **\$100,000** ~~\$50,000~~ to Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc (ABN 98 732 869 630) to contribute to the repair the roof of its facility at 35 Cope Street, Redfern, with funding to be sourced from the 2025/26 General Contingency Fund;
- (D) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and

- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Purpose

To provide an Alternative Recommendation with a revised grant amount for Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc following receipt of an updated support request.

Background

In early September 2025, the City received a request from Jarin Ingram-Baigent, CEO of Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc (Wyanga), for urgent financial support to repair the roof of their facility at 35 Cope Street, Redfern following recent adverse weather. The damage to the roof has caused the closure of half of the facility and relocation of all the organisation's Elders programs, severely impacting the organisation's service delivery and the safe, culturally appropriate care they would typically provide.

On 15 September 2025, the City received a revised urgent request from Wyanga seeking support for the repair of the roof at 35 Cope Street, Redfern and additionally seeking urgent technology replacements and upgrades to enable the displaced team to maintain communications, deliver services, and keep the organisation running until the premises are restored.

Wyanga has also sought support/funding from other organisations without success to date. Wyanga does not have the financial resources to meet the remaining costs independently.

Memo from Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

Prepared by: Erin Cashman, Manager OCEO

Attachments

Attachment A. Revised Letter from Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc - Urgent Support Request - Emergency Roof Works at Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc

Approved

P.M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A

**Revised Letter from Wyanga Aboriginal
Aged Care Program Inc - Urgent Support
Request - Emergency Roof Works at
Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc**



Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care

-  02 9319 7175
-  care@wyanga.org.au
-  www.wyanga.org.au
-  @wyangaelders
-  @wyangaredfern

Attn: Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney

Re: Urgent Support Request – Emergency Roof Works at Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care

Dear Monica,

I write to you in my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care to seek urgent assistance regarding emergency roof repairs required at our premises following recent significant heavy rains, as well as critical technology requirements to maintain operations.

The storm damage has left our entire building compromised and closed. Not only have all Elders' programs been forced offsite, but our staff are unable to access the building at all. Without the necessary technology and facilities to work remotely at scale, Wyanga is unable to remain fully functional, which is having a severe impact on our ability to provide safe, culturally appropriate care and connection for Aboriginal Elders in our community.

While Wyanga has a current insurance policy, we have been advised that it will only cover internal damage and not the external repairs required to restore the roof. Without urgent works, our operations and ability to deliver essential programs remain severely restricted.

We have obtained a detailed quote from Sterland Roofing (attached), which already includes a \$10,000 in-kind donation of labour. In addition, we are awaiting confirmation from Lysaght, a roofing supply company, regarding a potential donation of materials. Should this support be confirmed, the overall cost of the roof repair will reduce, but at this stage we have no guarantee and no other source of funding.

To ensure Wyanga can continue operating during this crisis, we are also in urgent need of technology replacements and upgrades. These are essential to enable our displaced team to maintain communications, deliver services, and keep our organisation running until our premises are restored.

We are therefore respectfully requesting the City of Sydney's support of \$100,000, which would cover both the roof repairs and the essential technology needs of our organisation. While we have already raised \$2,890 through public crowdfunding, Wyanga does not have the financial resources to meet the remaining costs independently.

We have written to other agencies seeking support, and should they come through, we would not need to call on the City of Sydney for the full amount. However, at this stage, no commitments have been confirmed, and the urgent need remains.

Your support would ensure Wyanga can urgently restore our premises, equip our team to function effectively in the interim, safeguard our Elders, and resume delivering our vital services from our community-based facility as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering this urgent request. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and provide any additional information required.

Yours sincerely,



Jarin Ingram-Baigent
Chief Executive Officer
Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care