

16 June 2025

At the conclusion of the Equity and Housing Committee

Community Services and Facilities Committee

Agenda

- 1. Confirmation of Minutes**
- 2. Statement of Ethical Obligations and Disclosures of Interest**
- 3. Grants and Sponsorship - Social Grants**
- 4. Accommodation Grants Program - Annual Performance Review**
- 5. Major Events and Festivals Charity Partners - 2025/2026**

Disclaimer, Terms and Guidelines for Speakers at Council Committees

As part of our democratic process, the City invites members of the community to speak directly to Councillors during Committee meetings about items on the agenda.

Webcast

In accordance with the *City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice*, Committee meetings are recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

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Consent

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Disclaimer

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Guidelines

To enable the Committee to hear a wide range of views and concerns within the limited time available, we encourage people interested in speaking at Committee to:

1. Register to speak by calling Secretariat on 9265 9702 or emailing secretariat@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au before 10.00am on the day of the meeting.
2. Check the recommendation in the Committee report before speaking, as it may address your concerns so that you just need to indicate your support for the recommendation.
3. Note that there is a three minute time limit for each speaker (with a warning bell at two minutes) and prepare your presentation to cover your major points within that time.
4. Avoid repeating what previous speakers have said and focus on issues and information that the Committee may not already know.
5. If there is a large number of people interested in the same item as you, try to nominate three representatives to speak on your behalf and to indicate how many people they are representing.

Committee meetings can continue until very late, particularly when there is a long agenda and a large number of speakers. This impacts on speakers who have to wait until very late, as well as City staff and Councillors who are required to remain focused and alert until very late. At the start of each Committee meeting, the Committee Chair may reorder agenda items so that those items with speakers can be dealt with first.

Committee reports are available at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Item 1.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the following meetings of the Community Services and Facilities Committee are submitted for confirmation:

Meeting of 5 May 2025

Item 2.**Statement of Ethical Obligations**

In accordance with section 233A of the Local Government Act 1993, the Lord Mayor and Councillors are bound by the Oath or Affirmation of Office made at the start of the Council term to undertake their civic duties in the best interests of the people of the City of Sydney and the City of Sydney Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act, to the best of their ability and judgement.

Disclosures of Interest

Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice and the City of Sydney Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to disclose and manage both pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting.

In both cases, the nature of the interest must be disclosed.

This includes receipt of reportable political donations over the previous four years.

Item 3.

Grants and Sponsorship - Social Grants

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

The annual Grants and Sponsorship programs have 2 main rounds: Summer and Winter with a small number of other programs open for the entire year. The Summer round was open from 4 February to 11 March 2025. This report covers the following funding programs:

- Community Services Grant program
- Food Support Grant program

For the Community Services Grant program, 60 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 24 grants to a total value of \$961,172 in cash and \$71,997 value-in-kind for payment in the 2025/26 financial year.

For the Food Support Grant program, 19 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 8 grants to a total value of \$359,033 in cash for payment in the 2025/26 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, Council adopted a Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the priorities set out in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

All grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Community Services Grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Community Services Grant program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Food Support Grant program as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Food Support Grant program as shown at Attachment D to the subject report;
- (E) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (F) 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
- (G) 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.

Attachments

Attachment A.	Recommended for Funding - Community Services Grant Program
Attachment B.	Not Recommended for Funding - Community Services Grant Program
Attachment C.	Recommended for Funding - Food Support Grant Program
Attachment D.	Not Recommended for Funding - Food Support Grant Program
Attachment E.	Data Report on Outcomes of Funding - Community Services Grant Program
Attachment F.	Data Report on Outcomes of Funding - Food Support Grant Program

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. On 4 February 2023, the City announced the grants program as being open for application on its website, with grant applications closing on 11 March 2023. This was for a period of 5 weeks (in 2024, it was a 4-week period).
3. The 2 funding programs with key outcomes for the social/community pillar are:
 - (a) Community Services Grant Program
 - (b) Food Support Grant Program
4. The Community Services Grant program is open to eligible not-for-profit organisations, incorporated associations, individuals auspiced by an eligible not-for-profit organisation and unincorporated community groups auspiced by an eligible not-for-profit organisation.
5. The Food Support grant Program is open to eligible not-for-profit organisations and incorporated associations.

Grants assessment process

6. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
7. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined assessment criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
8. The assessment criteria for the Grant programs was:
 - Need – why is it needed? This is where you describe what you are doing, why it is important and what will happen as a result of you doing this project.
 - Experience – how will you create the project, your skills and ability and your experience in doing projects. This may include a project plan.
 - Community benefit – who will benefit from your project, how will they benefit and how have you included the diverse communities in the local area.
 - City of Sydney funding priorities – your project should consider one of the funding priorities as these are identified areas that need assistance.

9. The assessment meeting for the Community Services Grant program was held on 9 April 2025 and the Food Support Grant program on the 8 April 2025. All applications were assessed against the relevant publicised assessment criteria. The assessment panels consisted of City staff from City Life and across the organisation with input from First Nations Leadership team.
10. Once Council approves recommended applications, a contract is developed which includes conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
11. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
12. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.
13. Attached to this report is a high level summary on the outcomes of the funding if the recommendations are approved. This provides insight into what the applicants have identified they hope to achieve if they receive the City's funding.

Community Services

14. The applications recommended for the Community Services Grant program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
15. The Community Services Grant program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2025/26	\$1,248,000	
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$250,000	
Total cash available 2025/26	\$998,000	
Recommended in Summer Round 2025/26	\$961,172	
Cash remaining 2025/26	\$36,828	
2025/26	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$2,189,697	\$71,391
Total recommended	\$961,172	\$71,391

2026/27	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$1,131,469	\$1,391
Total recommended	\$299,114	\$1,391
2027/28	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$1,088,896	\$1,391
Total recommended	\$252,760	\$1,391

Food Support

16. The applications recommended for the Food Support Grant program are outlined in Attachment C to this report.
17. The Food Support program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2025/26	\$1,500,000	
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$919,152	
Total cash available 2025/26	\$580,848	
Recommended in Summer Round 2025/26	\$359,033	
Cash remaining 2025/26	\$221,815	
2025/26	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$4,534,614	\$-
Total recommended	\$359,033	\$-
2026/27	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$3,760,458	\$-

Total recommended	\$117,865	\$-
2027/28	Cash	VIK
Total requested	\$2,060,794	\$-
Total recommended	\$0	\$-

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

18. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to community development and support active participation in civic life. They empower the community to address issues that matter to them and drive projects to create a more inclusive and resilient city.

Organisational Impact

19. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Risks

20. This recommendation is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
- (a) We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies and are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.
 - (c) The City has a responsibility to ensure that it has sufficient resources in the short, medium and long term to provide the levels of service that are both affordable and considered appropriate by the community

Social / Cultural / Community / Environmental

21. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and business, within the local area.

Financial Implications

22. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2025/26 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's approved operating budget for 2025/265 to support the recommended grants. Details and total values are provided in the tables above

Relevant Legislation

23. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
24. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for profit organisations because:
- (a) the funding is part of the following programs:
 - (i) Community Services Grant program
 - (ii) Food Support Grant program
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2025/26
 - (c) each program's proposed budget does not exceed 5% of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2025/26, and
 - (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

25. The funding period for the funding programs is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting.

Public Consultation

26. During February 2025, online and in-person briefing sessions took place where potential applicants were notified about the grants and how to apply. Separate online briefing sessions were delivered for each program, to enable people who were interested in more than one program to attend each.
- (a) Across all programs, a total of 528 attendees participated in the online sessions. This represents a 214% increase on the number of attendees to the online information session that took place for the previous Summer Round of grant programs in February 2024.
 - (b) Two in-person sessions for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community were held in Redfern (5 February 2025) and Glebe (10 February 2025). A total of 20 attendees participated in these sessions, the same number of attendees for similar sessions that took place for the previous Summer Round of grant programs in February 2024.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Jack Caswell, Grants Systems and Reporting Manager

Attachment A

**Recommended for Funding
Community Services Grant Program
2025/26**

Community Services Grant – Summer round 2025/26

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Access Sydney Community Transport Ltd	Village to Village Shuttle Bus Service	A continuation of a project providing the village-to-village cost-free shuttle service's 3 routes (green, orange, and purple) for 2025-2026, helping disadvantaged local area residents access essential services and local amenities.	\$214,446	Use of City of Sydney depot for bus parking to the value of \$70,000	\$214,446	Use of City of Sydney depot for bus parking to the value of \$70,000	Nil
BREED Australia Incorporated	CoBrewed Futures Empowering Marginalised Youth Through Coffee, Training and Entrepreneurship	A project empowering marginalised youth through barista training, coffee roasting, and entrepreneurship, creating employment pathways and sustainable social enterprises in Redfern.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$50,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
Centre For Women's Economic Safety Ltd	CWES Inner Sydney Money Clinic	To provide a part-time female financial counsellor at CWES' Sydney community-based Money Clinic to support the economic safety of domestic and family violence victim-survivors in the inner city.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$23,124 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
City Community Care Incorporated	Early Bird Cafe Meals	A project at Macquarie St providing hot breakfasts and additional prepared meals for lunch and dinner to over 200 people, six mornings a week, through volunteer efforts and donations.	\$20,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$20,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$20,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$20,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Clean Up Australia Limited	Litter Clean Ups and Prevention in Sydney Public Housing Communities	A project to mobilize public housing residents of Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe, and Woolloomooloo in clean ups over three years, plus waste workshops and litter-prevention training, fostering community leadership and social wellbeing.	\$35,160 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$47,562 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$35,160 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
Counterpoint Community Services Incorporated as auspice for Cycle Recycle Club	Cycle Recycle Club	A project in Waterloo/Redfern to continue providing free bike mechanic services, promoting recycling, sustainable transport, and supporting vulnerable community members, students, and travellers with affordable bikes and repair stations.	\$10,000	Nil	\$10,000	Nil	Nil
Dymocks Children's Charities Limited	Library Regeneration Program	A project to replenish four disadvantaged schools' libraries in the inner city with brand-new, high-quality books tailored to their needs, located on George Street.	\$10,000	Nil	\$10,000	Nil	Nil
Full Stop Australia Ltd	Aboriginal Frontline Worker Sexual Violence Response Support Network.	An initiative in Redfern and Green Square to build a support network for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander frontline workers responding to sexual violence, ensuring sustainability and cultural appropriateness.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Venue hire fee waiver to the value of \$1,391 each year for three years	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Venue hire fee waiver to the value of \$1,391 each year for three years	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Glebe Youth Service Inc	Middle Ground	A program at Glebe Public School and Glebe Youth Service that supports young people's health, wellbeing, and resilience, fostering social cohesion and cross-system collaboration through workshops, networking sessions, and parent/carer-school engagement.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$50,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
Lillian Howell Project Incorporated	Therapeutic Creative Workshop Series	Creative workshops for the refuge residents designed to enhance self-expression and develop creative skills which will foster a sense of agency and personal reflection for therapeutic and healing purposes.	\$4,991	Nil	\$1,791	Nil	Nil
Milk Crate Theatre	UNIFY: A Creative Engagement Project for At Risk Youth	A UNIFY Project in Woolloomooloo empowers at-risk youth through free creative workshops, fostering connection, skill development, and digital storytelling, culminating in widely shared digital works developed with professional artists.	\$18,800	Nil	\$18,800	Nil	Nil
New South Wales Users and Aids Association Inc	NUAA's Peers and Consumer (PAC) Forum 2025	A two-day forum at the Teachers Federation amplifying lived experience voices, uniting diverse groups in harm reduction efforts, and empowering individuals through workshops and collaborative solutions.	\$50,000	Nil	\$40,000	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Ngabul Foundation Limited	Cultural Connection Program for Aboriginal Young People	A series of cultural connection programs in Glebe for Aboriginal youth, engaging in artefact making, storytelling, and yarnning circles, culminating in a group daytrip on country to foster cultural identity and resilience.	\$42,822 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$40,339 (Year 2 - 2026/27)	Nil	\$42,822 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$40,339 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil	Applicant to submit a revised budget.
Pets in the Park Incorporated	Companion Animal Health and Welfare	A project at Darlinghurst Community Centre to acquire essential veterinary equipment for a free monthly pop-up clinic, enhancing care for companion animals of those experiencing homelessness.	\$17,697	Nil	\$17,697	Nil	Applicant to submit a revised budget
Refugee Advice and Casework Service (Australia) Inc	Refugee Women at Risk	A program providing specialised legal services to vulnerable and financially disadvantaged refugee women in the inner city, who fear or are at risk of domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$23,400 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
Stepping Out Housing Programme Inc	Female CSA Survivors' Social Inclusion Program, Counselling and Interagency Network	A series of weekly social inclusion and healthy relationships workshops for marginalized adult female child sexual abuse survivors, including counselling and establishing an interagency group for referrals and support, located at Newtown Women's Library and services within local area.	\$40,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$40,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$40,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$40,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated	The Great Good Place	Transforming Surry Hills cafe hubs into vibrant 'third places' to foster social cohesion, resilience, and inclusive community engagement.	\$30,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$31,200 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$32,760 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$30,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$31,200 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$ 32,760 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	Nil
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated as auspice for The Camp	Fitness for Social Housing Residents and Isolated Seniors	A project at Eddie Ward Park providing two free weekly 45-minute outdoor fitness workouts for Northcott social housing residents and isolated seniors to improve physical and mental well-being.	\$15,120	Nil	\$11,370	Nil	Nil
The Fact Tree Youth Service Inc	After Hours Project	A program in Waterloo that provides a free, safe, and supervised space for disadvantaged youth aged 11-18 on weekends, fostering resilience, confidence, mental health, and community through recreational, educational, and cultural activities.	\$120,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$120,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$120,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$120,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$120,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$120,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	Applicant to provide a report outlining the sustainability and effectiveness of the program Applicant to provide their 24/25 financial year annual report
The Uniting Church In Australia Property Trust (NSW)	Wayside Chapel Women's Program	A program at Potts Point providing a safe space and trauma-informed care coordination for marginalized women and non-binary individuals, addressing domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	Applicant to provide sustainability plan.

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
The Yoga Foundation	Trauma Informed Yoga for DV Survivors	A series of weekly trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness classes at St Helen's Community Centre, Glebe, supporting women who have experienced domestic, family, and sexual violence.	\$7,575 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$7,575 (Year 2 - 2026/27)	Nil	\$7,575 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$7,575 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil	Nil
University of New South Wales	Community-Led Health Impact Assessment	A project in Waterloo supporting social housing tenants to understand and advocate for measures to reduce negative health impacts and enhance positive ones from the redevelopment.	\$19,987	Nil	\$19,987	Nil	Nil
Weave Youth & Community Services Ltd	Cultural Mentoring within Weave's Aboriginal Cultural Engagement Program	A one-on-one cultural mentoring program in Waterloo that supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, facilitating healing-centred practices and providing meaningful pathways to cultural engagement.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil	\$50,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
Workventures Ltd.	Cyber Safety for Vulnerable Communities	A project in the local area providing cybersecurity assessments, awareness, and training to reduce risks for vulnerable NFP organisations, social workers, and clients.	\$50,000	Nil	\$25,000	Nil	Nil

Attachment B

**Not Recommended for Funding
Community Services Grant Program**

Community Services Grant – Summer round 2025/26

Not Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
A Sound Life Limited	Sound Mentoring	A project to empower at-risk youth through one-on-one music mentorship at the Glebe Youth Service and Fact Tree Waterloo, fostering social connection, resilience, and wellbeing through personalized support and group workshops.	\$19,750	Nil
Acon Health Limited	LGBTQ+ Affirming and Inclusive Period Care	A project at ACON Sydney office in Surry Hills providing inclusive period care to create a supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals, addressing unique needs and promoting a safe space.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$48,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$48,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jacksons) Limited	Move to Thrive: Empowering Wellness for All	A project at Jones Bay Wharf empowering vulnerable communities with fitness resources and support to promote health equity, enhance well-being, and build community networks.	\$44,777	Nil
Cancer Patients Foundation Limited	Look Good Feel Better	A national community service program offering cancer patients of all ages and genders practical strategies to manage treatment impacts through workshops at Chris O'Brien Life house and the Kinghorn Cancer Centre.	\$20,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$20,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$20,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Centipede at Glebe School Incorporated	Centipede Digital Literacy Project	A project to purchase iPads and robotics to enhance digital literacy and STEM skills for at-risk and vulnerable children at Centipede in Glebe, providing a safe space for learning and belonging.	\$10,345	Nil
Climate-Kic Australia Ltd as auspice for Climate Action Crew	Climate Action Crew	A campaign in the inner city to engage society in climate action for COP 2026, empowering youth as future climate leaders with tools and knowledge.	\$9,154	Nil
Detour House Inc	Strategic Planning, Team Building and Development	An event in the local area to strengthen project teams, enhance capacity, and collaboratively develop a long-term strategic plan for DHI, incorporating client and stakeholder feedback.	\$29,404	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Future Forte	Combating Racism	A three-part anti-racism workshop series in local area empowering international students from CALD backgrounds with practical tools, advocacy skills, and support networks to challenge racism and foster inclusion.	\$20,000	Nil
Hope and Heal Incorporated	Hope and Heal Retreat	An event at Swami's Retreat Centre for domestic violence sector workers fostering connection, education, and self-care through trauma-informed support, wellness practices, and neuroscience-based education.	\$9,800	Nil
Immigration Advice and Rights Centre Inc	Know Your Rights: Empowering Communities to Prevent Exploitation and Abuse	A series of workshops in inner city, providing visa holders with information on workplace rights, domestic violence support, and free legal assistance.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Lillian Howell Project Incorporated	The Equine Therapy Project	A project at Southeast Equestrian Club, Malabar, using equine therapy to empower at-risk teenage girls to overcome challenges, build trust, and connect with themselves and others in a safe and nurturing space.	\$12,195	Nil
Maggie's Rescue Co-operative Ltd as auspice for Kat Dopfer	Ballers: Stronger Dog Park Communities, 1 Ball at a Time.	A project in the local area installing artistic solar-powered vending machines that sell dog balls, funding dog rescues, enhancing park experiences, and fostering community connections.	\$18,500	Nil
Mentoring Men Ltd.	Mentoring Men Strengthening Community Cohesion, Resilience and Well-being	A project in the local area providing free one-to-one life mentoring support for at-risk men, focusing on mental health, social inclusion, and community resilience.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Moore Park Tigers Junior Australian Football Club Incorporated	Professional Training for Youth Sports Coaches focused on Educational Psychology	A series of workshop at Bat and Ball Oval and Surry Hills to equip coaches with essential skills, addressing youth sports participation, frustration, turnover, and mental health challenges.	\$6,900 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$6,900 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$6,900 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Older Women's Network New South Wales Inc	Stronger Together: Connecting Older Women to End Isolation and Loneliness	A project at Newtown Wellness Centre providing free new moves, Ukulele, and art therapy sessions to foster connection and wellbeing for older women facing isolation and financial barriers.	\$22,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$22,550 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$23,114 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Qtopia Ltd	Education Programs - Metro	A suite of education programs in Darlinghurst subsidising participation to ensure all local area students can understand LGBTQIA+ challenges, community importance, inclusivity, and diversity.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Rally4ever Limited	RALLY4EVER Mental Wellbeing and Social Connection	A community program in the local area offering weekly Tennis, Pickleball, and other outdoor activities for First Nations communities and marginalized groups, fostering belonging and connection over 3 years.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Redfern Legal Centre Ltd	Redfern Legal Centre First Nations Engagement	A project in the local area ensuring culturally safe, accessible services for First Nations clients through outreach, legal education, and community engagement.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Rule of Law Education Centre Incorporated	Bringing Justice to Life	A project to create a culturally safe space within Sydney Court Precinct for students on excursion to the Downing Centre Courts, enhancing community connection, resilience, and trust, located on Elizabeth Street.	\$50,000	Nil
Salamfest Incorporated	Women Wisdom Circle	A project in North Sydney Community Centre to engage Muslim women through creative, therapeutic, and community-building activities, including mental health counselling and storytelling circles.	\$20,000	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Sher Foundation Ltd	Senior Voices Digital Lab	Empowering older residents to create and share social media videos, preserving cultural stories while building digital literacy through hands-on workshops held in City of Sydney community spaces.	\$36,500	Nil
St Francis Social Services	Leveling Up - Centre 360 Youth Advisory Council	A project in Paddington empowering disadvantaged youth through the Youth Advisory Council, providing leadership, advocacy, and community engagement opportunities to strengthen social cohesion, resilience, and wellbeing.	\$28,873 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$28,873 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$28,873 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
St Vincent De Paul Society NSW	OLC Outreach at Waterloo Estate	A project to engage tenants of Waterloo Estate in defining and participating in services and programs that address social disconnection and disadvantage, providing safe and inclusive community engagement opportunities at Philip Street, Waterloo.	\$19,900	Nil
Steps Retreats (Australia) Limited	Sober Housing	A project in the local area furnishing a sober house, providing a supportive environment with house management and transport to AA meetings, promoting stability, healing, and long-term sobriety.	\$45,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$22,500 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$22,500 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
Sydney Community College Limited	Sydney Community College's First Nations Tutor Accelerator & Yarning Circle	A program in Rozelle that empowers First Nations educators through training and mentoring, increasing their representation in adult education and expanding public access to First Nations-led workshops and cultural learning.	\$45,000	Nil
Sydney Street Choir Foundation	Sydney Street Choir	A series of weekly rehearsals, social outings, performances, and social-welfare support at Redfern Park, empowering those experiencing hardship through the Sydney Street Choir.	\$20,000	Nil
The Freedom Hub Ltd	The Freedom Hub Waterloo Cultural Cafe Project	An initiative in Waterloo to celebrate Indigenous heritage, promote social cohesion, and provide employment pathways for at-risk groups through the Freedom Hub Cultural Café Project.	\$50,000	Nil
The Girls & Boys Brigade	Holiday Programs for Disadvantaged Young People	A project in Surry Hills delivering eight free school holiday programs over 12 months, providing educational, recreational, and support services for disadvantaged children and youth.	\$26,450	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
The Junction Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Making Nutrition Fun: Healthy Eating for Seniors	A partnership between JNC and OzHarvest to offer NEST, a six-week nutrition and health education program at St Helen's Community Centre, teaching older social housing residents healthy, budget-friendly cooking and accessing aged care services.	\$18,650	Nil
The Men's Table Limited	Healthy Communities for Sydney	A project to form and support a new men's table in inner city, reducing isolation, improving men's mental well-being, and fostering healthier masculinities and resilient communities, with meetings in a private room with food service.	\$12,500	Nil
The Trustee for Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Grants Administration Fund as auspice for St John's Anglican Church	Narrative Therapy	A series of weekly professional narrative therapy sessions in Glebe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, facilitated by an Anglicare Counsellor and an Indigenous Community Worker.	\$48,360	Nil
The Trustee for Sydney Community Foundation Tax Deductible Fund	Schools for Impact (S4I): Building Resilient Communities	A project to expand educational opportunities across multiple public high schools in local area, fostering inclusion, resilience, and community engagement through targeted support and participation programs.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 2025/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 2026/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 2027/28)	Nil
The Warrior Woman Foundation Ltd	The Young Warrior Woman Program	A program at York St supporting 30 vulnerable young women at risk of homelessness, empowering them to become financially independent through mentorship and evidence-based programs.	\$50,000	Nil
Variety - The Children's Charity (NSW/ACT)	Just Like You - Disability Awareness Workshops	A series of disability awareness workshops to reach primary school students in the local area, fostering understanding, empathy, and inclusion through interactive activities and real-life stories led by facilitators with lived experience of disability.	\$10,000	Nil
Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW	Enhancing Community Safety and Engagement	Enhancing communication and operational efficiency in Sydney Harbour's emergency response vessels by replacing electronic devices, including VHF radios, rugged iPads, and Dropbox software.	\$4,311	Nil
Youth off the Streets Limited	Youth Off The Streets (YOTS) First Nations Services	A project in the inner city providing specialised support for First Nations youth at risk of homelessness, integrating wellbeing programs, individual support, and justice interventions.	\$50,000	Nil

Attachment C

**Recommended for Funding
Food Support Grant Program**

Food Support Grant Program Summer Round 2025/26

Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Addison Road Centre for Arts, Culture, Community and Environment Ltd	Food Security Program	A project in the local area to expand a food relief program, increasing access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food for vulnerable communities by providing free rescued food and low-cost staple items.	\$193,203 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$128,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$131,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$65,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Funding to go towards kitchen coordinator salary only.
Alfalfa House Community Food Cooperative Ltd	Refresh, Replenish and Survive: Newtown Station Kitchen Garden	Expansion of Asylum Seekers food distribution program with client involvement in growing produce, increased volunteer support, updated equipment, purchase of accessibility tools, and replenishing seed stock and supplies.	\$19,999	Nil	\$19,999	Nil	Nil
Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre Incorporated	Food Access and Distribution Project	A project at Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre to address food insecurity by providing access to healthy food, distributing frozen vegetarian meals, and offering nutrition education classes for Aboriginal families, LGBTQA+ community, and people living with HIV.	\$28,512 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$29,652 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$31,135 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$28,512 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Sydney University Settlement	Food Support, Education and Capacity Building	A project in Darlington to expand food support, access, and education for children, young people, families, and the community through a multi-tiered program and local partnerships, building on the success of the Food Safety Program.	\$125,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$125,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$125,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$117,865 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$117,865 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil	Nil
The Trustee for Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney Grants Administration Fund as auspice for St John's Anglican Church Glebe	Glebe Assistance Partnership Enhancement Program (GAPP)	A project in Glebe to enhance GAPP's capacity for sustainable food relief and healthy community meals through facility upgrades and training, benefiting the most vulnerable at St John's House.	\$20,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$103,400 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$107,900 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$20,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)	Resourcing and Resilience Program	A program at Wayside Chapel to improve resourcing and build resilience in their Community Cafe, addressing the rising demand for affordable meals and ensuring operational sustainability amidst economic struggles and food insecurity.	\$143,028 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$147,319 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$151,739 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil	\$50,000 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Applicant to submit a revised budget
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)	The Pantry	A project at Uniting Harris Community Centre to expand the pantry, providing affordable, culturally diverse essentials and subsidised CHEX gift cards to vulnerable groups facing food insecurity and financial hardship.	\$59,170	Nil	\$12,600	Nil	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested	\$ Amount Recommended	VIK Recommended	Additional Conditions
Womens and Girls Emergency Centre Incorporated	Food Access	A community-driven program in inner-city to empower women through food preparation and employment pathways, addressing food insecurity, social isolation, and employment barriers for vulnerable women.	\$250,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$250,000 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil	\$45,057 (Year 1 only)	Nil	Nil

Attachment D

**Not Recommended for Funding
Food Support Grant Program**

Food Support Grant Program Summer Round 2025/26

Not Recommended for Funding

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Barayamal Limited	FirstCard: Indigenous Food Access Program	A digital platform in Gunnedah connecting Indigenous Australians with free and discounted food, partnering with businesses, supermarkets, and restaurants to provide cost-of-living relief and improved food security.	\$250,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$250,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$250,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil
Better Days Initiative Limited	Ease the Cost-of-Living Crisis for Aussie Families	A not-for-profit dedicated to easing cost-of-living pressures for Australian families by providing food assistance, bill relief, school supplies, and community support to those in need in the inner city.	\$50,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$50,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$50,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil
Blue Peony Foundation Ltd	OnePantry	A project in the local area connecting people in need with fresh food and ready meals through an app and delivery system, reducing food insecurity, minimizing waste, and promoting social responsibility.	\$650,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$350,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$350,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil
Harvest for Humanity Limited	Wild Harvested Venison for Food Security Project 2025-2026	A project to provide low-cost, ethically sourced wild venison to food relief services across the inner city that aims to address food insecurity for homeless, low-income, and First Nations communities.	\$750,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$750,000 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil
Indians in Sydney Welfare Association Inc	Meals for Everyone	A community-driven initiative in the inner city providing affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate meals every Saturday evening to diverse groups across NSW, fostering inclusion, connection, and support for those facing housing instability.	\$70,000	Nil

Organisation Name	Project Name	Project Description	\$ Amount Requested	VIK Requested
Medius Dei Limited	Bread Connections - Smart Logistics, Less Waste, More Hope	A project in the local area to scale Bread Connections delivery model, creating jobs, reducing waste, and supporting charities across Sydney with efficient and sustainable bread distribution.	\$245,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$245,000 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$245,000 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil
Mission Australia	The Bloomfield Pantry	A project at Mission Australia Centre in Surry Hills to establish a community food pantry, combatting food insecurity through fresh produce partnerships, volunteer-led distribution, and a welcoming café space promoting healthy choices.	\$226,506 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$224,717 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil
Nourish Nation Foundation Incorporated	CALD Community Kitchen and Food Hub	A project in the local area to support CALD communities by providing culturally appropriate meals, nutrition workshops, and vocational training, promoting food security, social inclusion, and economic empowerment for vulnerable families.	\$250,000 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$249,850 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil
SecondBite	More meals for Sydney	A project to purchase a vehicle for delivering nutritious food and meals to residents facing food insecurity, significantly increasing the volume and variety of food through a network of charity partners.	\$294,069	Nil
South Eastern Community Connect Inc	The Big Give	A project in the local area providing emergency food relief, nutrition education, and community engagement initiatives through SECC's People's Pantry, supporting individuals and families experiencing food insecurity across the local area.	\$238,500 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$238,500 (Year 2 - 26/27)	Nil
The Trustee for the Bill Crews Charitable Trust	Project ASH	A project in Ashfield to expand kitchen operations with double shifts and enhance food storage and production capabilities, doubling mobile services to address food security for vulnerable communities in the local area.	\$671,627 (Year 1 - 25/26) \$619,020 (Year 2 - 26/27) \$619,020 (Year 3 - 27/28)	Nil

Attachment E

Data Report on Outcomes of Funding – Community Services Grant Program

Community Services - June 2025

Cash Recommended FY25/26	VIK Recommended FY25/26
\$961K	\$71K
Cash Recommended FY26/27	VIK Recommended FY26/27
\$299K	\$1K
Cash Recommended FY27/28	VIK Recommended FY27/28
\$253K	\$1K

Total Cash and VIK Recommended

31

\$1.6M

representing 29% of the total project value of

\$5.47M

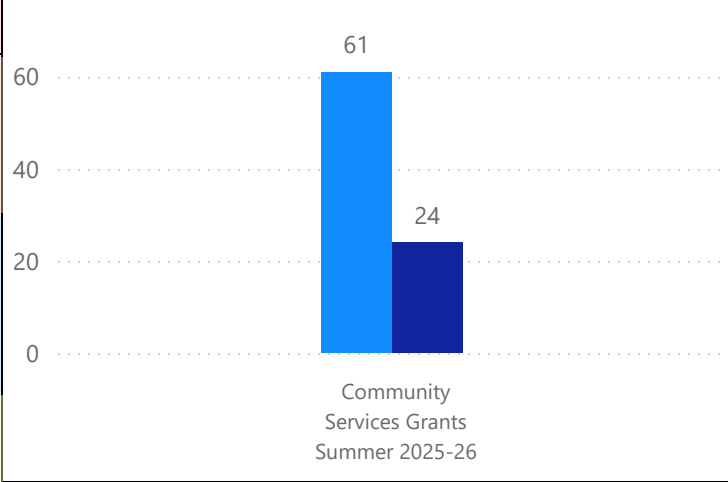
Number of Staff employed by Applicant Organisations to deliver projects

82

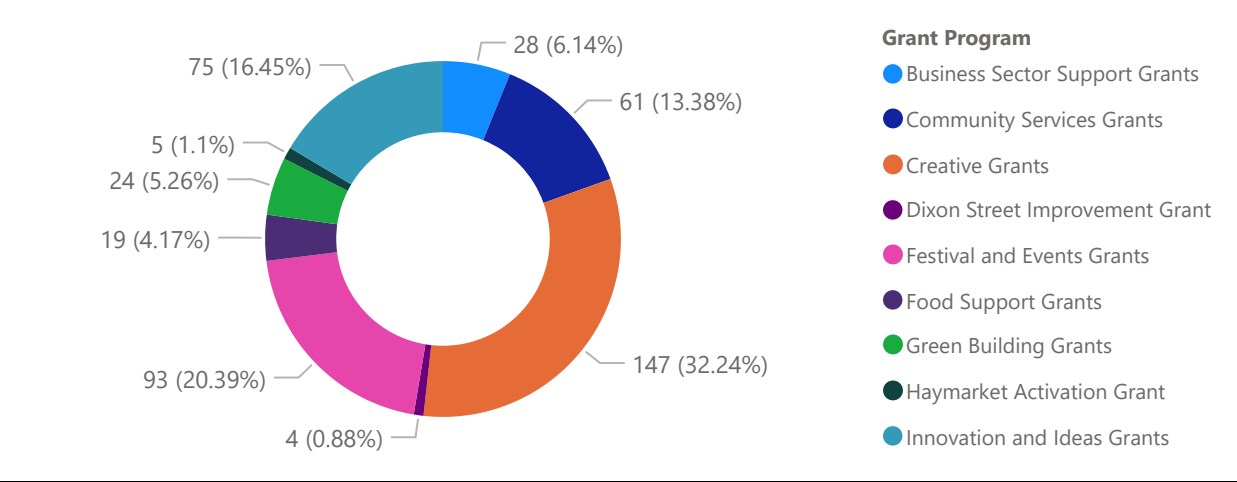
Number of Volunteers engaged to deliver projects

2093

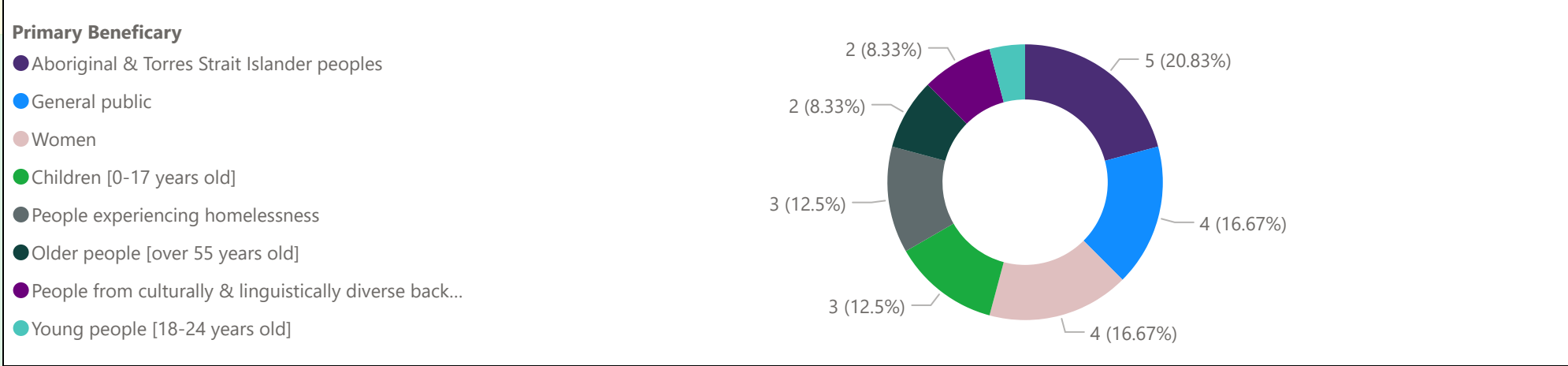
Applications received vs Grants Recommended



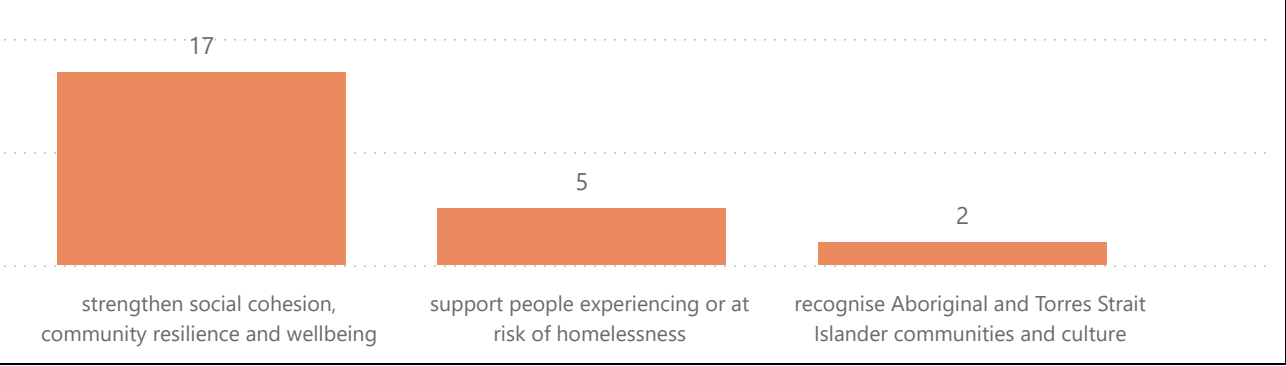
Total Number of Applications Assessed across Programs



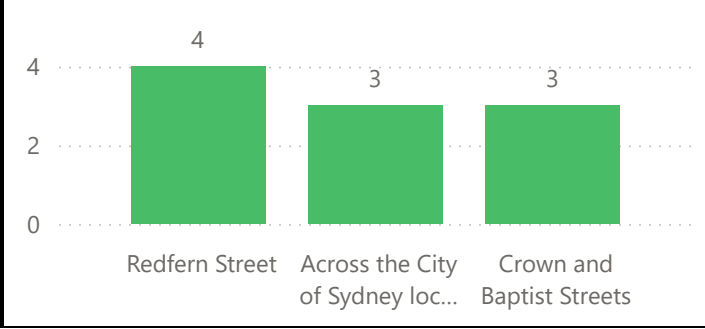
Recommended Grants - Primary Community Beneficiary selected by Applicant



Primary Funding Priority nominated by Recommended Grants



Number of Recommended Grants by Location (City Village) - Most frequent selections



Attachment F

Data Report on Outcomes of Funding – Food Support Grant Program

Cash Recommended
FY25/26

\$359K

Cash Recommended
FY26/27

\$118K

Cash Recommended
FY27/28

\$0

VIK Recommended
FY25/26

\$0K

VIK Recommended
FY26/27

\$0

VIK Recommended
FY27/28

\$0

Total Cash and VIK Recommended

∞

\$477K

representing 9% of the total
project value of

\$5.2M

Number of Staff employed by Applicant
Organisations to deliver projects

37

Number of Volunteers engaged to
deliver projects

633

Applications received vs Grants Recommended

Category	Value
Applications received	19
Grants Recommended	8

Total Number of Applications Assessed across Programs

Grant Program	Count	Percentage
Business Sector Support Grants	28	6.14%
Community Services Grants	61	13.38%
Creative Grants	147	32.24%
Dixon Street Improvement Grant	4	0.88%
Festival and Events Grants	93	20.39%
Food Support Grants	19	4.17%
Green Building Grants	24	5.26%
Haymarket Activation Grant	5	1.1%
Innovation and Ideas Grants	75	16.45%

Recommended Grants - Primary Community Beneficiary selected by Applicant

Primary Beneficiary	Count	Percentage
People experiencing homelessness	2	25%
People from culturally & linguistically diverse backgrounds	2	25%
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples	1	12.5%
General public	1	12.5%
People of diverse sexualities and genders and intersex	1	12.5%
Women	1	12.5%

Number of Recommended Grants by Location (City Village) - Most frequent selections

Location (City Village)	Count
Crown and Baptist Streets	2
Glebe Point Road	1
Glebe Point Road, Across the City of Sydney local area	1
Harris Street	1
King Street	1
Macleay Street and Woollahroomooloo	1
Redfern Street, Across the City of Sydney local area	1

Item 4.

Accommodation Grants Program - Annual Performance Review

Document to Follow

Item 5.**Major Events and Festivals Charity Partners - 2025/2026**

File No: X117689.005

Summary

The City appoints a charity partner for each of its 3 major events: Sydney Christmas, Sydney New Year's Eve and Sydney Lunar Festival. The selected charity partner for each event is promoted through event marketing and communications.

Association with these major events provides charity organisations with a highly visible platform to build awareness of their work and use the events program as an opportunity for fundraising. It gives event audiences the opportunity to reflect on broader community issues and needs.

Charity partners for each event are chosen through an open and competitive process in accordance with the City's Support for Charities Policy. The recommended charity partners for the 2025 / 2026 event season (with option to extend one year) are:

Sydney Christmas - Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT)

Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT) delivers vital support to children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage, or living with disability. The charity creates long-term benefits for families and communities across Greater Sydney. They provide support such as funding for therapy, mobility and communication equipment and inclusive programs that help children build independence, confidence and connection.

Sydney New Year's Eve - Beyond Blue Limited

Beyond Blue Limited is one of Australia's most well-known, trusted and visited mental health organisations in Australia. Since 2000, they have continually evolved to meet community needs and maximise their impact. The charity works across the country to help people get well earlier and stay well. The organisation works with a number of services, organisations and institutions to raise community awareness about anxiety and depression and reduce the associated stigma.

Sydney Lunar Festival - Kids' Cancer Project

Kids' Cancer Project is a national charity dedicated to funding innovative childhood cancer research across Australia. The charity aims to provide scientists with the funding needed to make discoveries, translate pioneering research, advance treatments and build support programs. Their vision is to see 100% of children, adolescents and young adults not only survive cancer, but go on to lead long, healthy lives without the lasting side effects of harsh treatments.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the appointment of Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT) (ABN: 38 003 354 934) as the charity partner for Sydney Christmas 2025, with the option to extend to 2026;
- (B) Council approve the appointment of Beyond Blue Limited (ABN: 87 093 865 840) as the charity partner for Sydney New Year's Eve 2025, with the option to extend to 2026;
- (C) Council approve the appointment of Kids' Cancer Project (ABN: 13 061 138 181) as the charity partner for Sydney Lunar Festival 2026, with the option to extend to 2027; and
- (D) authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into agreements with Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT), Beyond Blue Limited, and Kids' Cancer Project to establish their charity partner status for the respective events.

Attachments

Nil.

Background

1. An Expression of Interest was advertised seeking proposals from suitable charitable organisations to partner with Sydney Christmas 2025 (with the option to extend one year), Sydney New Year's Eve 2025 (with the option to extend one year) and Sydney Lunar Festival 2026 (with the option to extend one year).
2. The Expression of Interest was promoted through the City of Sydney News announcement and email digest, LinkedIn advertising and posts, the City's corporate webpage, and the Major Events and Festivals charity database on 10 April 2025 and was open until 11:59pm 1 May 2025.
3. The benefits offered by the City to charity partners include incorporation in the City's event marketing materials and event collateral, the opportunity to support on-site event activations and conduct fundraising at the event, the opportunity to conduct an online campaign to raise awareness, provide speaking opportunities (as appropriate) and leverage opportunities through other event partners (where possible).
4. The City received 41 submissions from 26 organisations. They responded to the criteria for each of the events, listed on the City's corporate webpage.
5. Organisations had the opportunity to apply for more than one event.

Sydney Christmas

6. Sydney Christmas runs from the last Saturday in November through to Christmas Day and consists of up to 5 outdoor Christmas concerts, a Christmas street fair, a choir program, decorations (including lighting installations) throughout the CBD and neighbourhoods including the Martin Place Christmas tree, and a program of associated events.
7. Previous charity partners include: Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation (2023 - 2024), Kids' Cancer Project (2021 - 2022), OzHarvest (2020), Surf Lifesaving Australia (2019), Variety - The Children's Charity (2017- 2018), Guide Dogs NSW / ACT (2015 - 2016) and the Australian Children's Music Foundation (2011 - 2014).
8. In the selection of a charity partner for Sydney Christmas, the following criteria were considered:
 - (a) The charity undertakes work which produces significant benefit to our communities.
 - (b) The charity has an organisational focus that is compatible with our values and the Sydney Christmas event.
 - (c) The charity has demonstrated experience in successful online and / or face to face fundraising including the ability to provide and manage employees and volunteers to operate an interactive paid activation on site (minimum of 2 employees or volunteers per activation).
 - (d) The charity has point of sale infrastructure and floats for interactive activations.
 - (e) The charity has a cash handling policy.

- (f) The charity is an official registered charity or public benevolent institution with no religious affiliation.
 - (g) The charity must hold insurance reasonably required by the City of Sydney.
9. The recommended charity partner for Sydney Christmas 2025 (with the option to extend one year) is Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT). Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT) provide practical, life-changing assistance that promotes inclusion, independence and opportunities for people who face barriers to accessing support through mainstream systems. They do this through funding therapy services, inclusive education programs, events, provision of equipment and more, giving children the opportunity to be able to thrive.
10. Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT) demonstrated its capacity to deliver beyond the minimum requirements for the Sydney Christmas charity partnership through their understanding and addressing of compatible values with the City and the event and their ability to align strategically with Sydney Christmas. They demonstrated their excellence and experience in both face to face and online fundraising through their established processes and inclusion of elements used for fundraising activations.
11. The charity partnership is an opportunity for Variety - the Children's Charity (NSW / ACT) to build awareness around their work through brand and face to face activation as part of Sydney Christmas, continuing their support of children who are sick or disadvantaged as well as build empathy and awareness in the community to foster more inclusive behaviour.

Sydney New Year's Eve

12. Sydney New Year's Eve is an annual event viewed by more than one million people around the harbour foreshore and an estimated 425 million around the world.
13. Previous charity partners include: National Breast Cancer (2023 - 2024), The Smith Family (2021 - 2022), Refugee Council of Australia (2019), Habitat for Humanity (2015 - 2016), Engineers Without Borders (2013 - 2014), the Fred Hollows Foundation (2012), and CARE Australia (2011).
14. In the selection of a charity partner for Sydney New Year's Eve, the following criteria were considered:
- (a) The charity undertakes work which produces significant benefit to our communities.
 - (b) The charity has an organisational focus that is compatible with our values and Sydney New Year's Eve.
 - (c) The charity has demonstrated experience in successful online and / or face to face fundraising.
 - (d) The charity is an official registered charity or public benevolent institution with no religious affiliation.
 - (e) The charity must hold insurance reasonably required by the City of Sydney.

15. The recommended charity partner for Sydney New Year's Eve 2025 (with the option to extend one year) is Beyond Blue Limited.
16. Beyond Blue Limited offers mental health support for individuals and their supporters, which is easily accessible, personalised and allows people to feel safe and connected. Their aim is to ensure people have access to the right support at the right time. Their services include support services, peer support forums, and webchats to optimise counsellor support time.
17. Beyond Blue Limited demonstrated their impact over the last financial year where over 276,000 people reached out to their charity for support. The feedback they received for their support services demonstrated successful outcomes in people feeling less distressed, able to receive the information they were seeking, and allowing people to feel that they were being heard and understood. This successfully results in people feeling more hopeful after using their support forums.
18. Beyond Blue Limited were able to address the criteria successfully around their values and alignment with the Sydney New Year's Eve event, through their focus on community and fostering positive, collaborative and inclusive environments, empowering people to proactively take charge and get the support they need. New Year's Eve is a time for new beginnings, new outlooks and a time for hope, and their goals align successfully with spirit of New Year's Eve celebrations.

Sydney Lunar Festival

19. Sydney Lunar Festival is a celebration of the Lunar New Year. It is one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations outside of Asia and includes the Lunar Streets event in Haymarket, decorative installations, community performances and associated event programs.
20. Previous charity partners include: Settlement Services International (2024 - 2025), Benevolent Society (2022 - 2023), OzHarvest (2021), The Fred Hollows Foundation (2020), Surf Lifesaving NSW (2019), Guide Dogs NSW / ACT (2018), Cure Brain Cancer Foundation (2016 - 2017), Barnardos Australia (2015), Chinese Parents Association - Children with Disabilities (2014) and Taronga Foundation (2012 - 2013).
21. In the selection criteria for Sydney Lunar Festival, the following criteria were considered:
 - (a) The charity undertakes work which produces significant benefit to our communities.
 - (b) The charity has an organisational focus that is compatible with our values and Sydney Lunar Festival.
 - (c) The charity has demonstrated experience in successful online and / or face to face fundraising.
 - (d) The charity is an official registered charity or public benevolent institution with no religious affiliation.
 - (e) The charity must hold insurance reasonably required by the City of Sydney.

22. The recommended charity partner for Sydney Lunar Festival 2026 (with the option to extend one year) is Kids' Cancer Project. The charity presented a submission highlighting their work which is dedicated to funding innovative cancer research and treatments for children that aim to be less invasive and more effective. The ultimate goal of the charity is for children to survive cancer and go on to lead long, healthy lives.
23. Kids' Cancer Project clearly outlined their core values and alignment with the City through their community focused work with other stakeholders, their work with families to ensure integrity, their research and innovation, and their respect for equitable access for all. The charity were able to successfully address and respond to our criteria around fundraising and were able to demonstrate the success of their work, which includes established campaigns as well as accessible community-based opportunities for families.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

24. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This sponsorship is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the charity partnership is an open opportunity for local charities to engage with the community and leverage their brand and cause from the impact of our events. The recommended charities aim to provide the best possible services for the community through research, support services, community awareness, and inclusive programs.
 - (b) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - charity partnerships contribute to the creative and cultural life of the events they represent through the activations and programs they offer.

Organisational Impact

25. The impact of the charity partnership is minimal in terms of staff support, guidance and contract management. Charity partnership programs are designed for external organisations to be able to leverage from existing work that the City is already presenting.

Risks

26. Partnering with appropriate charities for the City's major events reflects a recognition of the fact that our reputation is a valuable asset that influences stakeholder trust. The recommendations in this report are within the City's risk appetite, which states:
- (a) We make decisions that align with our corporate objectives, policies and strategies and are committed to conducting our activities in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and relevant industry standards.
 - (b) We foster a culture of ethics, integrity and responsible behaviour across our organisation. By creating a strong ethical foundation, we aim to minimise the likelihood of reputation-damaging incidents and enhance our ability to respond effectively when challenges arise.

Social / Cultural / Community

27. The appointment of charity partners each year is intended to engender a favourable community sentiment for the selected charity, the City and the event.
28. Festivals and events add to a city's cultural layer and they also attract economic benefits for retail, hospitality and tourism sectors. A charity partnership allows not-for-profit organisations to leverage community awareness from the cross-promotional opportunities associated with the City's major events and festivals.
29. As outlined in the City's Draft Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2021 - 2025, Direction 1: Positive community attitudes and behaviours, the City aims to increase the understanding of the importance of social inclusion through community programming at City events. The successful charity partner has the opportunity to increase client event participation and a forum to conduct community awareness programs.

Environmental

30. Any proposed activities provided by the Charity Partner would be guided by the City's Major Events sustainability guidelines and principles.

Economic

31. Only registered charities are able to respond to the Expression of Interest. Involvement of the charities in the program is directly related to fundraising and has no impact upon local businesses.

Financial Implications

32. To support the work of the Charity Partner, the City may produce a paid activity which would be operated by Charity volunteers. All income is paid directly to the Charity partner. The cost of the activity is provided for within the 2025 / 2026 draft operating budget of the Major Events and Festivals unit.
33. There is no payment made to a Charity Partner by the City as part of the arrangements, in line with the Support for Charities Policy.

Relevant Legislation

34. Any support is subject to the applicant meeting the definitions of charity and charitable purpose under the Charities Act 2013 (Cth).

Critical Dates / Time Frames

35. Signed Charity Participation Agreements with the appointed charity partners are required by mid-July 2025, to enable:
- (a) public announcement of the appointment as part of the first release of the event information
 - (b) sufficient time to produce effective initiatives and attract sufficient numbers of volunteers to plan and implement such initiatives
 - (c) integration of partnership opportunities into event programming for the 2025/2026 event season

Options

36. There are no other options available. The process for the appointment of a charity partner is specified in the City's Support for Charities Policy.

Public Consultation

37. No public consultation was undertaken. Charities have been recommended through an open Expression of Interest.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Stephen Gilby, Producer, Major Events and Festivals

Joanne Chan, Audience Manager, Major Events and Festivals