

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 29 June 2026

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Executive Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 10.4 – Grants - Social Grants (Further Information)

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide further information about Food Support Grants under the Social grants program.

Background

At the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee on 22 June 2026, further information was sought regarding the recommendations for funding under the Social Grant Program.

In addition, representation has been sent to Councillors regarding the Glebe Youth Service Food Circle program.

Glebe Youth Service Food Circle program

Glebe Youth Service (GYS) is a not-for-profit charity committed to supporting young people to reach their potential, achieve their goals and contribute positively to their community.

In 2020, Glebe Youth Service launched their Food Circle program, a weekly food relief initiative to address rising food insecurity across Glebe.

Food Circle redirects surplus and rescued food from partners including FoodBank, OzHarvest, Coles and First Nations Response, preventing edible food from going to landfill and ensuring it reaches households in need. In addition, Glebe Youth Service have reported strong partnerships with diverse volunteers and other community organisations including Pyrmont Cares, Living Hope, Tree House, Service NSW, Counterpoint and local universities.

In June 2024, Council approved \$73,625 in cash funding each year for 2 years for the program through the Food Support Grant. The funding for Year 1 has been fully acquitted and for Year 2, \$66,300.00 was paid in July 2025 with the remaining \$7,352 due to be paid on acquittal, i.e. 30 June 2026.

In Year 1, of the total funding \$65,000 was used for staffing costs and \$4,236 was used for groceries. The remaining funds covered general program costs such as travel, admin and couriers.

City of Sydney staff will encourage Glebe Youth Service to continue participating in the Food Operations Working Group so that they can continue to collaborate with larger food rescue organisations and other community organisations to secure donations and access food and essential items for distribution through the Food Circle.

Additional Food Support Programs in Glebe

First Nations Response is a grassroots Aboriginal Women-led organisation that was founded in 2020 to provide culturally appropriate support and urgent food relief to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in the inner west and inner City of Sydney areas.

First Nations Response currently deliver food to Elders in Glebe and have a weekly delivery of 12 to 15 boxes of fresh produce to Glebe Youth Service. They have advised that most of their home deliveries are in Glebe.

Glebe Assistance Partnership Program is run by St John's Church, Glebe. The program provides emergency assistance with food parcels, food vouchers. It is open for people to drop in and have a coffee and a safe place. Other services include, a family worker, counsellor, sponsorship for work and development orders in relation to fines and an Indigenous Community Worker. The program offers a drop-in service 2 days per week which is open to all. People can collect fresh produce, bread and eat a meal or snacks on site.

Pocket City Farms is a community and education hub at Camperdown Commons that focuses on providing local communities with green and open space to learn and connect around food and nature. Through a City of Sydney Food support grant, Pocket City Farms currently divert locally grown produce to the Glebe Assistance Partnership Program free of charge.

In addition, Glebe Treehouse at Glebe Public School has a small cupboard pantry that is mainly accessed by families from Glebe Public School, and the Office of Kobi Shetty MP has a small pantry which is restocked once per week and open to anyone who needs it.

Grant Support - Youth Services

Glebe Youth Service

Glebe Youth Service receives substantial funding from the City of Sydney and has received a Community Services Grant since at least 2011.

In June 2024 Glebe Youth Service were awarded a total of \$1.1M in cash funding through the Community Services Grant program over 3 years as outlined below.

- \$349,448 (Year 1 - 24/25)
- \$356,500 (Year 2 - 25/26)
- \$363,566 (Year 3 - 26/27)

2025/26 Grant Funding - Youth Services

As a total, in 2025/26 the City of Sydney provided over \$1 million through our grants programs to youth organisations and organisations delivering youth programs. This included:

- \$356,500 in cash funding to Glebe Youth Service (as outlined above);
- \$120,000 in cash funding to Fact Tree Youth Service, Waterloo;
- \$50,000 in cash funding to Weave Youth and Community Services, for services provided in Waterloo, Redfern and Woolloomooloo;
- \$50,000 in cash funding to Redfern Youth Connect (approved in 2024/25, still being delivered in 2025/26);
- \$43,000 in cash funding to PCYC Woolloomooloo (approved in 2024/25, still being delivered in 2025/26); and
- \$17,500 in cash funding to Counterpoint Community Services, Waterloo

Along with:

- \$350,000 in cash funding to Launchpad Youth Community, a Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) supporting young people and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the City of Sydney and
- \$153,715 in cash funding to grant program applicants who identified youth as a primary beneficiary for programs delivered across the City of Sydney.

Future Actions

The City of Sydney will work with the Department Communities and Justice and will engage a consultant to undertake a full review of youth services across the local area. This review will consider current youth programming, including programming for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, youth and community need, and will identify any programming gaps. Through the review, a set of recommendations will be developed for consideration.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Executive Director City Life

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Approved

P.M. Barone

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Chief Executive Officer