

Item 3.**Grants and Sponsorship - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and Ad Hoc Grant - Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program****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 Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is open all year for applications until the annual budget is exhausted.

This report considers 4 eligible applications for funding under the 2025/26 round of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund. Three grants are recommended for a total cash value of \$110,000 from the 2025/26 financial year budget.

In addition, one application is submitted for consideration for an Ad Hoc grant. Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc has sought support for assistance to repair its damaged roof. Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc (ABN 98 732 869 630) (Wyanga) is a registered charity. Wyanga, based in Redfern, is a home care service that supports Aboriginal Elders to live independently. Recent adverse weather has significantly damaged the roof of its premises at 35 Cope Street, Redfern. Support for the repair of the facility's roof through an Ad Hoc grant of up to \$50,000 is proposed to be sourced from the 2025/26 General Contingency Fund.

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 \$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.

Attachments

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| Attachment A. | Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund |
| Attachment B. | Not Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund |
| Attachment C. | Letter from Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc - Urgent Support Request - Emergency Roof Works at Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc |

Background

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

1. On 8 July 2025, the City announced the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications open all year round, until budget is exhausted.
2. Information on this grant program (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the grant programs through the corporate website, content marketing, e-newsletters, paid and organic social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn), and AdWords. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs.
3. As per the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations and is open to eligible not-for-profit organisations, incorporated associations, corporations, co-operatives, partnerships, sole traders, trustees of a trust and an individual or unincorporated community group auspiced by an eligible not-for-profit organisation or corporation.
4. Two eligible applications were received from for-profit organisations and sole traders through the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and both are recommended for approval in this report:
 - (a) Wildflower, Gardens for Good Limited
 - (b) Indigenous Women in Business (Jennifer Turner)

Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc

5. In early September 2025, the City received a request from Jarin Ingram-Baigent, CEO of Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc (Attachment C), 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.
6. The insurance policy held by Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc covers only internal damage and not the external repairs required to fix the roof and allow on-site services to recommence.
7. The total cost of the repair work has been independently estimated and quoted by a third-party contractor (Sterland Roofing) to be up to \$49,785.52. The letter sent to the City indicates that Sterland Roofing will contribute a \$10,000 in-kind donation of labour.
8. Separate to this, to date, the organisation has raised a total of \$2,890 through public crowd funding to support the cost of this work and another third-party roofing supply company (Lysaght) have indicated a potential donation of materials.

9. This report seeks Council support to provide Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc up to \$50,000 depending on the evidence of other contributions and the final costs of repair, with payments to be made in instalments by the City on receipt of relevant and required evidence of the progression of the repair works.

Grants Assessment Process

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is:
 - Why is there a need for the project and what are the proposed outcomes, capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project?
 - What is your experience in delivering projects?
 - How have you included the local diverse community and how will they benefit and/or being engaged?
13. Applicants who requested more than \$20,000 in cash per year are also assessed against the following additional assessment criteria:
 - How does the project rate against the funding priorities?
14. The assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund was held on 13 August 2025. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the First Nations Leadership team.
15. Once assessed, application recommendations are decided by Council, and approved applicants are awarded a contract which includes conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
16. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
17. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.
18. Ad Hoc grants are provided by the City outside of the City's Grants and Sponsorship Program and are typically funded from the City's General Contingency Fund. Grants awarded under this mechanism are not assessed in competition against any other applications and are recommended to Council typically to address an immediate, unforeseen and/or urgent need within the community.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

19. The applications recommended for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.

20. The program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2025/26	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$235,000
Total cash available	\$265,000
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	4
Total cash value requested from applications	\$279,000
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	3
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2025/26	\$110,000
Cash amount remaining for allocation in 2025/26	\$155,000

Ad Hoc Grant - Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc

21. Due to the uncertain levels of third-party and public donations and contributions to the cost of the repair work to their facility's roof at 35 Cope Street, Redfern, a final set figure of the value of the Ad Hoc Grant to be awarded by the City to Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc cannot currently be confirmed. It is therefore recommended that Council approve a grant of up to \$50,000, with payments of the full amount (calculated on the basis of the evidence of other contributions and the final costs of repair) to be made by the City in instalments on receipt of relevant and required evidence of the progression of the repair works.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

22. 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 report 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

23. 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

24. This recommendation is within the City's risk appetite, which states:
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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

25. 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

26. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2025/26 grants and sponsorship budget and 2025/26 General Contingency Fund included in the City's approved operating budget for 2025/26 to support the recommended grants.

Relevant Legislation

27. 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.
28. 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 program:
 - (i) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2025/26
 - (c) the program's proposed budgets do not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2025/26
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government

Critical Dates / Time Frames

29. The funding period for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund for financial year 2025/26 is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Ad Hoc Grants have no set time frame for the completion of their funded project. However, it is noted that the grant to Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care Program Inc has been indicated that it is required urgently and it is anticipated that the works will be completed as soon as possible once the required funds have been secured.
30. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting.

EMMA RIGNEY

Executive Director City Life

Jack Caswell, Grants Systems and Reporting Manager