



Clarence City Council Community Grants Review

Clarence City Council has a long history of supporting sporting and community organisations through the provision of **Financial Assistance Grants** for public events and projects.

Council is now reviewing the 18 year old **Financial Assistance Grants policy**, and would like to hear suggestions for improvement from within the community.

If you or the community organisation you belong to has ever desired financial support from Council, or received or applied for a grant, we would value your feedback. This feedback will shape the development of a new draft policy which will be open for public comment at a later date.

By filling in this short survey, you will be contributing valuable information to the development a new draft grants policy.

If you would like more information or would prefer to speak to someone, please call Suzanne Schulz, Community Development Officer, on 62458664.

Thanks for your time!

Name	
Organisation / Group (if applicable)	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

QUESTION 1:

Have you ever received one of Clarence Council's Financial Assistance Grants?

- No – proceed to question 2
- Yes – proceed to question 3

QUESTION 2:

If no, why have you not received them?

- Did not hear about them
- Was not eligible
- Applied but was not successful
- Other:

QUESTION 3:

If yes, how many times have you received a financial assistance grant? _____

Name the projects or events that you have received a grant for:

How did the community benefit from receiving this assistance?

Where did you first learn about the financial assistance grants?

- Advertisement in the Mercury
- Council website
- Council news
- Other:

One a scale of 1 to 10, how easy was the application process?
(1 represents very easy, 10 being too difficult)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Give a reason for your score:

One a scale of 1 to 10, how easy was the acquittal / reporting process?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Give a reason for your score:

QUESTION 4:

Do the current eligibility criteria include or exclude your group?

Include

Exclude

Please add any additional comments about the eligibility criteria:

What would you change about the current grants policy?

Suggestions for a new policy framework:

Clarence City Council is developing a new framework for the Community Grants Policy, and would like to receive some feedback from the community concerning how it proposes this new policy will work. We are exploring the following two options as possible models for our grants policy:

Option 1:

Retaining and enhancing the current policy, giving financial assistance to achieve *an immediate one-off* benefit for the recipient groups eg. assisting with the purchase of sports uniforms. The grants would continue to be provided once a year.

Other improvements to the current policy being considered are:

- an increased budget,
- better promotion, and
- revision of the eligibility criteria.

Option 2:

A two level approach:

A) Quick response grants – These are grants of small amounts of money (eg. up to \$200) that can be accessed through a simple application process at any time of year. Through the quick response grants, support could be given for such things as travel to sporting events or contributing to a small community group event.

B) Development Grants – Development grants aim to achieve *long term community development goals*. Provided twice a year, development grants would be a way for Council to partner with community groups to work toward goals that both Council and community see as important. These grants would be seen as an investment, so they could be for larger amounts of money and could be funded over several years. As an example, Council already provides this kind of support to the Ready Set Go (RSG) program. RSG assists people in gaining their drivers licence, however this achieves other aims as participants can go on to access education, employment and social opportunities. Through development grants, programs that have these types of outcomes can have better, longer term support.

QUESTION 5:

Which option do you prefer?

- Option 1
 Option 2

Council Policy

C1.25 Financial Assistance to Community Groups

A. Provision of Funds - 19.3.01

The Council will advertise annually for sporting and community organisations to make application for financial assistance, to assist them in the following categories:

- i. **Public Event - (cash assistance)**
The provision of a cash donation to assist a community group, which is engaged in the provision of a special event, which is open to the participation by the general community. Such assistance can be directed at either operational, or asset expenditure purchases which directly relate to the event being held.
Funding to be limited to a maximum of \$1,000 in any given grant year, per application.
- ii. **Projects (cash assistance)**
The provision of a cash contribution on the basis of matched funding to assist community organisations, in the funding of specified projects involving the purchase of, or cost associated with tangible assets for use by that organisation.
The release of such contributions will be conditional upon the presentation of proof of expenditure, incurred on the specified project. Funding to be given on a matched dollar for dollar basis, with a maximum limit of \$500 in any given grant year, per application.
- iii. **Public Event ("in kind" assistance)**
The provision of appropriate in kind assistance to a community group which is engaged in the provision of a special event, which is open to participation by the general community.
Assistance will be given at the discretion of the General Manager, dependant upon availability of resources.

B. Exclusion from Eligibility - 19.3.01

- i. Large scale professional clubs and/or licensed clubs which operate commercial enterprises for profit, to support the club's activities.
- ii. Charities which conduct doorknocks or other large-scale public appeals.
- iii. Organisations not based in Clarence.
- iv. (iv) Government related organisations, schools, churches, and similar not-for-profit organisations.