



**Moreland**  
City Council

# COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM REVIEW

Engagement Findings and  
Proposed Program Outline  
April 2022

Prepared for Moreland City Council  
By Conversation Co.

*Conversation Co.*



# Have Your Say

We have developed a Draft Policy and Draft Guidelines for the Community Grants Program and invite you to have your say.

Visit [conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au](https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au) to view the draft documents, provide your feedback online and register for one of the community workshops.

Have your say on the proposed program before 17 May 2022.

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# About this review

Since 1996, Moreland City Council has provided a variety of community grants to support community projects and initiatives that facilitate well-being and strengthen the community through networks and partnerships. These grants have a wide-reaching impact and are highly valued within the community. They provide community groups, organisations and individuals with financial support to implement community-led initiatives that benefit the Moreland community.

The Community Grants Program (the Program) is being reviewed to make sure it meets changing community needs and aligns with the newly adopted Council Plan. It will continue to provide close to \$800,000 to projects across Moreland.

This paper summarises findings from the first stages of the project and outlines the proposed changes Council will make to the Community Grants Program.

## Review stages



# Who we spoke to

## Since October 2021 we have...



Analysed Program alignment with Council policies and plans



Analysed initiatives funded since 2017



Interviewed 5 other councils to understand how they award grants

## Since November 2021 we have held...



5 x Interviews with previous applicants



1 x Community survey (73 participants)



3 x workshops with Council staff (23 participants)



1 x survey for Council staff (28 participants)

## 128 total participants

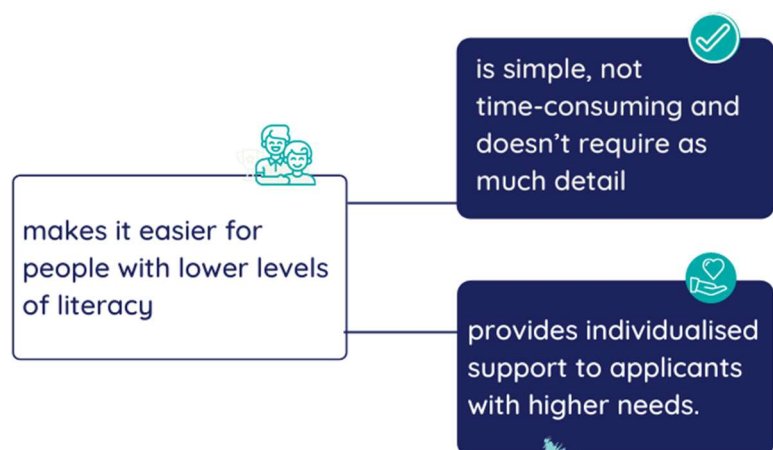
# What we heard

We heard that you want a program that:



Full details of the engagement findings are outlined in *Community Grants Review: Stage 2 Engagement Summary Report, December 2021*.

We heard that you want an application and acquittal process that:



# Changes Council will make

Council aims to make changes to the Community Grants Program based on the feedback received from the community as well as Council staff.

Whilst some changes can be implemented immediately, others will take more time and resources to achieve.

## **Proposed changes to the Program:**

- The Program Objectives will be changed to be the same as the Council Plan Objectives.
- Funding categories will be reduced from 10 to 5, to reduce confusing around which funding stream to apply to.
- Funding Priorities will be reviewed annually to meet changing community needs, such as responding to COVID-19.
- Assessment criteria will be simplified.
- Organisations will be able to apply for more than one grant a year, as long as there are different outcomes for different stakeholders.
- Community representatives will help to assess applications.






## **Changes to the application and acquittal process:**

- We will provide more help for unincorporated organisations to get auspiced.
- We will provide more help to all applicants and have a central contact point for all questions.
- You will only need to provide quotes for items costing more than \$1,000.
- We will simplify the language in application and acquittal forms, reduce the number of questions we ask and make it easier to apply and acquit.

# Proposed Program Structure

The existing Community Grants Program is outlined on the left of the table below and proposed changes on the right. Category names have been changed to reflect its intended outcome.

**Proposed changes to the Community Grants Categories**

Existing Category		Proposed Category
Project Grant (Up to \$5,000)		<b>Community Building Grant</b> (Up to \$7,000)
Capital Works Partnership Grant (Up to \$40,000)		<b>Structural Improvement Grant</b> (Up to \$10,000 for small projects) (Up to \$40,000 for larger projects)
Organisational Support Grant (Up to \$10,000 per year for 2 years)		<b>Organisational Establishment Grant</b> (Up to \$10,000 per year for 3 years)
Operational Grant (Up to \$10,000 per year for 3 years)		
Membership Activity Grant (Up to \$2,000)		<b>Membership Activity Grant</b> (Up to \$2,000 per year for 3 years)
Individual Development Grant (Up to \$500)		<b>Community Participation Grant</b> (Up to \$3,000 for groups/organisations Up to \$500 for individuals)
Quick Response Grant (Up to \$1,000)		
Youth Initiative Grant (Up to \$3,000)		
Female Participation Grant (Up to \$3,000)		