



COMMUNITY GRANTS AND IN-KIND ASSISTANCE POLICY

DOCUMENT NO: A4935598

1.1 Objectives:

The objective of this policy is to outline how Ipswich City Council provides funding to support community organisations through its Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program.

1.2 Introduction:

The City of Ipswich is home to over 200,000 people with the population expected to double to approximately 520,000 by 2041, making it the fastest growing local government in Queensland. This population growth brings opportunities, but also challenges for our community and for Council.

Ipswich City Council acknowledges and respects the significant role played by local community organisations and groups in developing and delivering initiatives that encourage participation in community life, foster social cohesion, celebrate diversity, and contribute to a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city.

1.3 Regulatory Authority:

Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)

Local Government Regulation 2012(Qld)

Ipswich City Council - Advance Ipswich

Ipswich City Council - Corporate Plan 2017-2022

1.4 Policy Statement:

The purpose of this policy is to outline how Ipswich City Council invests in community outcomes by providing funding to support community organisations through its Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program. This policy will be a tool for community organisations, clearly articulating Council's funding priorities and the resourcing opportunities available.

This policy establishes clear expectations around Council and community roles, sets out an accessible yet rigorous and robust approach to governance and accountability and ensures the process of allocating and monitoring the Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program will be fair, transparent and inclusive.

Council's Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program is administered by the Arts, Social Development and Community Engagement Department.

1.4.1 Policy Context:

Section 195 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) states:

*“A local government must prepare and adopt a policy about local government grants to community organisations (a **community grants policy**), which includes the criteria for a community organisation to be eligible for a grant from the local government.”*

Further, section 194 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) states:

“A local government may give a grant to a community organisation only –
(a) if the local government is satisfied –
(i) the grant will be used for a purpose that is in the public interest; and
(ii) the community organisation meets the criteria stated in the local government’s community grants policy; and
(b) in a way that is consistent with the local government’s community grants policy.”

This policy complies with the above legislative requirements.

This policy also supports Ipswich City Council’s vision for the future and the key themes identified in [Advance Ipswich](#):

1. Strengthening our Local Economy and Building Prosperity (Jobs)
2. Managing Growth and Delivering Key Infrastructure
3. Caring for Our Community
4. Caring for Our Environment
5. Listening, Leading and Financial Management.

This policy specifically reflects Council’s approach to grant making within the Ipswich Local Government Area with consideration to local government’s role in achieving community cohesion, civic participation and capacity building.

Ipswich City Council’s Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Policy has also been developed in the context of Council’s strategic planning framework, which allows Council and the community to identify community needs and aspirations on an ongoing basis.

1.5 Scope:

Ipswich City Council’s Community Grants Program includes four categories of grants, each category seeking to support the development and implementation of innovative initiatives that deliver targeted social, cultural and community outcomes:

1. Triennial Grants

Triennial Grants support community organisations to pilot or trial innovative programs that address gaps in services within the Ipswich community. Triennial Grants are allocated over a 3 year period and designed to support community

organisations to attract further ongoing funding to assist the initiative to become sustainable.

2. Community Development Grants

Community Development Grants support community organisations developing and delivering a one-off community initiative that addresses local needs and achieves community development outcomes.

3. Quick-Response Grants

Quick-Response Grants support community organisations in delivering small community initiatives that address local needs and achieve community development outcomes.

4. Christmas/Festive Season Grants

Christmas/Festive Season Grants support community organisations developing and delivering a community Christmas event or activity or other celebratory event relevant for the broader community.

In-Kind Assistance is also available within Council's Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program. In-Kind Assistance is provided to community organisations to support the delivery of community and sporting events within the City of Ipswich that engage the broader community and improve the social, economic and/or environmental outcomes of the community.

An Applicant Guidelines document will be available each year. This guidelines document will outline eligibility and exclusion criteria, assessment criteria and required documentation to be submitted with applications.

1.6 Funding Principles:

Ipswich City Council applies the following principles when providing support through its four grant categories:

- Asset based thinking and building on the strengths that exist within community
- Evidence based approach that acknowledges and responds to the needs and aspirations of our community
- Access and equity to ensure a socially inclusive community
- Valuing local collaborations and partnerships
- Valuing the social, economic and environmental sustainability of our City.

In addition, Council is committed to the efficient and effective delivery of the Community Grants and In-Kind Assistance Program and transparency and accountability in decision making.

1.7 Funding Priorities:

Ipswich City Council's four grant categories support initiatives that:

Connect People

Build diverse, cohesive and connected communities

- Increase participation of people who are at risk of isolation
- Increase trust, awareness and understanding between people and across community groups
- Facilitate inclusion and equitable access to facilities, services, open spaces and activities
- Provide access to information and training

Increase Opportunity

Reduce vulnerability and disadvantage

- Facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities
- Improve social and physical wellbeing through a prevention and early intervention approach
- Encourage participation in civic and community activity for marginalized community members
- Facilitate engagement with and/or self-determination of vulnerable and disadvantaged community members

Build Community Capacity

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- Increase capability and coordination of community services and participation in decision making
- Raise awareness about social sustainability in the community
- Strengthen governance and accountability in community organisations
- Improve collaboration and coordination of community support and services
- Encourage participation in civic and community activity
- Share knowledge through the creative use of existing resources, new technologies and/or the knowledge and experiences of our diverse communities

Appreciation of Arts & Culture

Appreciation of Arts & Culture

- Increase cultural education
- Increase access to and participation in creative expression and arts and cultural experiences

- Raise awareness about the value and importance of the arts and culture
- Improve collaboration and coordination within the arts and cultural community
- Contribute to artistic and cultural outcomes for marginalized community members

An Applicant Guidelines document will be available each year. This document, in addition to outlining eligibility criteria, assessment criteria and required documentation, may also outline further community priorities (in addition to those mentioned above) that grant applications will be required to align proposed initiatives with.

1.8 Expected Program Outcomes:

Ipswich City Council expects that initiatives for which a grant is provided will have measureable social, cultural and community outcomes. Examples of measurable outcomes are detailed in the relevant Applicant Guidelines document available each year.

1.9 Assessment Process:

An Applicant Guidelines document will be available each year and this document will outline the assessment criteria and process that will be used to assess applications. The assessment process will also be supported by an internal procedure document.

1.10 Terms and Conditions That Apply to Successful Applicants:

All successful applicants will receive the approved funding or assistance from Council subject to terms and conditions which are outlined in the relevant Applicant Guidelines document.

1.11 Ethics Framework:

Ipswich City Council will not support any activities, entities, or individuals associated with entities, that are considered to impinge upon the ethical framework of Ipswich City Council.

1.12 Roles and responsibilities:

All relevant Council Officers are responsible for adhering to this policy.

1.13 Policy Author:

The Community Engagement Manager is responsible for the reviewing this policy.

Date of Council Resolution: 26 June 2018

Committee Reference and Date: City Management, Finance and Community Engagement Committee No. 2018(06) of 19 June 2018

No. of Resolution: 13

Date to be Reviewed: 26 June 2020