



Community Development Stream

Overview

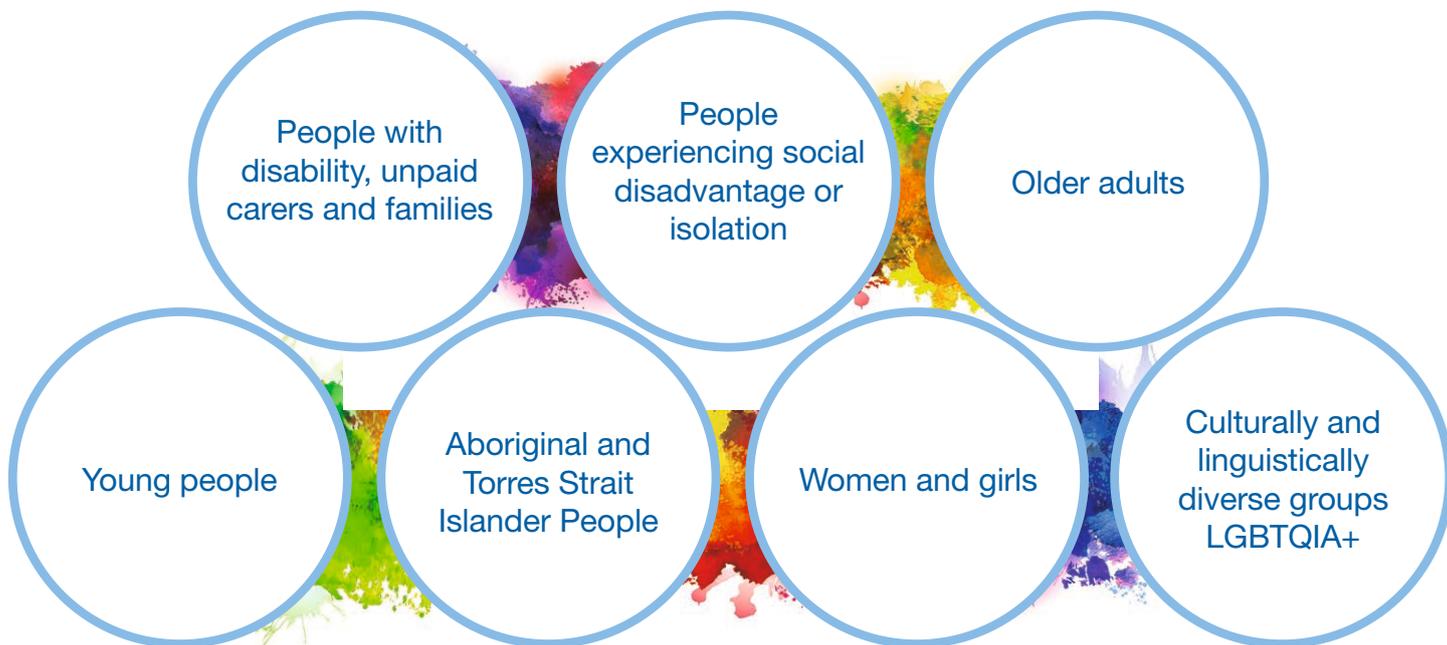
Grants for Community are part of Yarra Ranges Council's contribution to a connected and inclusive community. The grants support local not for profit groups and organisations to lead projects that harness community strengths, identify and respond to community needs and aspirations with confidence and creativity.

What is Community Development?

Community development describes a way of working that is people focused, taps into the wisdom and experience of communities and builds resilience. It draws on the principles of justice, equity, inclusion and mutual respect.

Within any community there is a wealth of knowledge and experience which can empower community led action and be channelled into projects that achieve exciting outcomes and positive change. Grant projects can also help as we recover from the pandemic and storms/ natural disasters of the past few years.

This includes initiatives that focus on the needs of priority groups, particularly:



The selection criteria reflect the strategic priorities of Council to create a healthy and connected community.

For community development enquiries please contact our

[Urban Community Development Officer](#)

[Valley Community Development Officer](#)

[Hills Community Development Officer](#)

[Upper Yarra Community Development Officer](#)

For enquiries about disability access and inclusion please contact our [Disability Inclusion Officer](#)

or call 1300 368 333

Create a vibrant
Yarra Ranges
together!





The following areas reflect key Council priorities. Consideration of how projects support the ongoing Recovery from the pandemic and storms/natural disasters is encouraged.

Projects should address one or more of the following focus areas.

Health and Wellbeing

This category fosters connected and healthy communities through projects that:

- Build and enable mental wellbeing by supporting strong and sustainable social connections
- Promote and support physical health
- Support disaster preparedness and build resilience
- Nurture thriving local communities

Priority will be given to applications that address one or more of the following strategic goals of Council:

- Yarra Ranges residents have the capacity to consume healthy food, built on a sustainable food system that provides access to healthy, affordable food for all. *e.g. Projects that support people to grow and prepare nutritious food or projects that increase food affordability.*
- Yarra Ranges residents have increased social connection through participation in group activities. *e.g. Projects that promote increased social connection and wellbeing particularly for people who may be more vulnerable or isolated.*
- Yarra Ranges residents are physically active and can participate in a range of inclusive, physical activities. *e.g. Projects that encourage low cost, inclusive physical activities that also bring people together.*
- Women and children live free from abuse and violence through a culture of gender equity and respect. *e.g. Projects that challenge gender stereotypes and build respect and inclusion.*
- Council encourages all applicants to consider how their project supports residents' sense of belonging, equal participation and more inclusive communities. *e.g. Projects that increase participation of people with disability,*

people from diverse cultural backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and LGBTQIA+ community members.

- Yarra Ranges residents are engaged in community-led social recovery and preparedness for extreme weather events. *e.g. Projects that build disaster resilience by: strengthening social connection and networks, and increase knowledge, skills and planning for emergencies.*

Applicants can find out more by exploring Council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy [here](#).

Council has highlighted the above goals as they reflect significant preventable causes of poor health and wellbeing in Yarra Ranges. Projects in these priority areas have potential to improve health and wellbeing and to build capacity in communities to respond to the health and social impacts of public health and natural emergencies. Applicants applying for projects that focus on Health and Wellbeing are encouraged to talk to [Council's Health and Wellbeing Development](#)

Environment

This category is designed to support projects that engage and empower the community in environmental sustainability locally.

Priority will be given to applications that address one or more of the following objectives:

- Encourage those who live and work in the Yarra Ranges region to act as environmental stewards, caring for and protecting natural environments.
- Involve communities in protecting native plants, animals and their habitats.
- Improve and protect the region's iconic natural places.
- Improve resilience of communities in the face of changing climate and extreme events.
- Protect and preserve our water resources.

Reconciliation

Council is committed to Reconciliation. This category seeks to strengthen the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Priority will be given to applications that address one or more of the following objectives:

- Celebrate and protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.
- Break down stereotypes and discrimination.
- Increase understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.
- Enhance community driven initiatives that contribute to community wellbeing, economic participation, and cultural strengthening.

Applicants applying for projects that focus on Reconciliation are encouraged to talk to [Council's Indigenous Development team](#).

Young People

If you are a young person aged 12 to 25 years, and part of a Not For Profit Community group/organisation, you can apply for a grant.

If you are a Not For Profit organisation, you can also apply for a grant to run a program for young people aged 12 to 25.

All applicants must show evidence that their project is supported by young people from the Yarra Ranges region, this could be through a co-design process, consultation and/or other supporting documents, such as a letter of support.

Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate one or more of the below objectives:

- Promote opportunities for young people to actively engage in their community, build social connection, and have a voice in decision-making.
- Your uniqueness is an asset, we welcome applications by, or that support, young people from diverse backgrounds including race, gender, ability, LGBTQIA+ and more
- Strengthen respectful relationships with a focus on building resilience and promoting gender equality.

- Increase soft skills and pathways to employment for young people.

Programs targeting young people in the diverse locations in Yarra Ranges will be prioritised. These locations include Warburton, Healesville and small townships across the region will be favoured.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to talk with a member of the [Youth Team](#) about their project when applying.

Note: Council will not fund camps and overnight camps/activities for children and young people.

Early Years, Middle Years and Families

This category encourages innovative projects that enhance the wellbeing and resilience of children and young people 0-14 years, and their families living in the Yarra Ranges.

Priority will be given to applications that address one or more of the following objectives:

- Improved outcomes for children, young people and families experiencing vulnerability.
- Increased and timely access for children, young people and their families to services and supports that enhance wellbeing and promote resilience
- Children, young people, and their families have greater access to culturally safe and appropriate activities and opportunities to connect with each other and the broader community.
- Promote opportunities for children, young people and families to actively engage in their community.

Note: Child Safe Standards compliance is essential. Council does not fund overnight camps /activities for children and young people.

For more information about Child Safe Standards see [here](#).

For more information about Council Grants Child Safe requirements see attachments [here](#).





Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the desired outcomes and priorities for the Community Development Stream and following criteria:

Community benefit

30%

- How the project responds to demonstrated community need/s
- Demonstrates an alignment with one or more Council key strategies or priorities
- Backed by evidence (data, letters of support) where appropriate
- Identifies short or medium term impacts of the initiative

Partnership and collaboration

25%

- Demonstrates strategic partnerships between existing and new groups, or across sectors
- Includes evidence of community engagement in project design and delivery
- Harnesses volunteer effort and builds community capacity to respond to local issues, needs and opportunities

Organisational capacity

15%

- Demonstrates capacity to effectively deliver the program or service, including evidence of strong governance (transparent, documented policies) and a well-defined project plan
- Clear measures of success are outlined

Budget

15%

- Includes a clear and well documented budget
- Project is achievable within the proposed budget
- Project has funding and/or in-kind support from other sources, including a contribution from the applicant¹

Inclusion

15%

- Demonstrates consideration for inclusion principles, specifically including culturally and linguistically diverse groups, gender diversity and people living with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

¹ Please indicate in your budget if you have applied for other funding and mark whether the funding is confirmed.

