



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **INQUIRY INTO THE INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 July 2020**

The Public Accountability Committee of the NSW Parliament has recently established an inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grants programs.

The inquiry will consider in detail a range of grant programs across various portfolios, examining the availability of funding opportunities for eligible organisations in sectors like the arts, local government and community sports, and for start-ups in the private sector.

In particular, through a focus on specific programs, the committee will explore issues surrounding the administration, probity and governance of NSW Government grants, considering whether the manner in which funding decisions are made meets community expectations.

'This inquiry is about bringing greater transparency and public accountability to a range of Government funding schemes, including the well-publicised Stronger Communities Fund. It is incumbent on the Government to demonstrate that funding decisions have been made based on sound principles, rigorous/established guidelines and independently of political processes. The committee will examine whether past funding decisions meet these parameters, and are defensible from a public accountability perspective,' said Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC.

'This being public money, it is imperative that Government grant schemes deliver public benefit, not political objectives,' Mr Shoebridge added.

The committee welcomes submissions from interested stakeholders and members of the community, and expects to hold public hearings in September and October. For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and hearing dates and locations, please visit the committee's website.

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge, on 9230 3030*