

Premier's Department



Grant decisions under Premier's Discretionary Fund 2023-24 allocation

Briefing for the Premier

Issue

Approve or decline grant funding under Premier's Discretionary Fund (PDF) 2023-24 allocation for Wayside Chapel, The Salvation Army NSW (Street Level), St John's Community Services (Rough Edges).

Purpose

The Premier's Department has assessed the merits of the Proposed Grants having regard to the PDF Program Guidelines and the key principles of value for money and community benefit. The Premier's Department assessment offers advice to the Premier to ensure adherence to the key principles of grants administration specified in the Grants Administration Guide (Guide) and is contained in Attachment C. To inform the Premier's determination that the grants are an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of money, see Attachment C.

The process for recommending proposed grants for funding through the PDF complies with the Guide. The Guide is issued under a Premier's Memorandum, which is binding on Ministers, officials and Ministerial staff, and compliance with the Guide is required under section 10.3A of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW) (GSF Act).

Background

A. Grant(s) administration process

Application and selection process

Requests for funding from the PDF are identified or received on an ad hoc basis throughout the year for a broad range of purposes. The Premier previously approved the awarding of grants from the PDF using a method other than a competitive, merit-based assessment process (A5537046). The application and selection process, including eligibility and assessment criteria, are outlined in the PDF Program Guidelines.

Probity and conflict of interest management

The Premier's decision to approve or decline a grant must be recorded in writing, including any reasons for departing from the recommendation of the Premier's Department. All records are managed in accordance with the requirements of the State Records Act 1998 (NSW). Where a request for funding is supported, the Premier has discretion to determine the funding amount (this may be either the full funding amount requested, or a portion of the funding request). The Premier's decision and reason for departing from the funding amount recommended in this brief must be recorded in writing.

Grants from the PDF are not considered complex, high-risk or high-value in nature under the Premier's Department's risk management framework and as such the requirement under section 6.1 of the Grants Administration Guide (2022) to obtain probity advice does not apply.

The processes for managing conflicts of interest are outlined in the PDF Program Guidelines.

Document tendered by

PD_000000457

Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Received by

Samantha Jeffery

Date: 27 / 6 / 25

Resolved to publish Yes / No

B. Grant recommendations**Recommended grant:**

The Wayside Chapel	A5963585 PDF-005220	Amount Requested \$100,000	PDF Amount \$50,000
Funding towards employing two specialist Care Coordinators working on the Pathways Program for 12 months. Note: The Premier's Department will recommend that the Special Minister of State (SMOS) approve a co-contribution of \$50,000 from the Local Small Commitment Allocation for this request. If PDF and LSCA funding is approved, a joint 'successful' letter will be prepared for both the Premier and SMOS to sign.			
The Salvation Army (NSW) - Street Level	A5963599 PDF-005221	Amount Requested \$30,000	PDF Amount \$30,000
Funding would go towards community meals, outreach provisions, and contributing to the installation of CCTV cameras at the Crown St Centre, Sydney.			
St John's Community Services - Rough Edges	A5963605 PDF-005222	Amount Requested \$30,000	PDF Amount \$30,000
To contribute funding towards employing a Social Worker working within the Rough Edges Community Assistance and Partnership Project.			

C. Next steps**Notification to applicants**

If the Premier approves the Proposed Grants, the Premier's Department will advise the Proposed Grantees in writing and has drafted letters for the Premier's signature for this purpose (**Attachment B**) to The Salvation Army and St John's Community Services.

Terms and conditions of the grant

The Premier's Department will liaise with the grantees to sign funding agreements in favour of the Premier's Department on behalf of the State of NSW and arrange payment from the PDF in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The funding agreement will clearly state the purpose of the grant.

Records and publication requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Guide (section 6.5 and Appendix A), relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined. All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).

Financial impact

Premier's Discretionary fund (cost centre 20061105) - Total Allocation	\$2,300,000
Supplementation to date from the Secretary's Reserve (cost centre 20001005)	\$1,125,000
Current uncommitted balance	\$1,965,000
New Grant: (excluding GST)	
1. The Wayside Chapel	\$50,000
2. The Salvation Army (NSW) - Street Level	\$30,000
3. St John's Community Services - Rough Edges	\$30,000
New uncommitted balance if Proposed Grants are approved	\$1,855,000

Recommendations

- Consider the advice in this brief, including attachments and recommendations.
- Record final decisions on funding to be awarded from the Premier's Discretionary Fund by using the template attestation at Attachment A.
- Approve the use of the Premier's e-signature on the letters (Attachment B) if unable to hand sign.
- Note that the Premier's Department will email instructions to the grant recipient regarding the return of the signed funding agreement.
- Note: A joint 'successful' letter will be prepared for the Premier and SMOS to sign if both PDF and LSCA funding is approved for the Wayside Chapel request.

Approvals

Premier's Department final approver
Approval status: Submitted for approval
Group Name: Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group
Premier's Office final action due date

Premier's comments	Date	Approved/Not approved/Noted
	29/2	

Responsible Department Officer
Leanne Byrne, Director, Protocol, Community and Events,

Premier's Discretionary Fund (PDF) 2023-24 allocation

DECISION:

I have received the attached brief from the Premier's Department, dated 14 February 2024 (Brief A5967294), recommending that I approve 3 grants for funding totalling \$110,000 from the PDF 2023-24 allocation. I have considered the contents of the Brief, including the attachments to that Brief, which include, in accordance with the *Grants Administration Guide* and section 10.3A of the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018* (NSW) (GSF Act), advice on:

- the application and selection process, including the eligibility and assessment criteria used to select the recommended grantees,
- the merits of the proposed grants, having regard to the PDF Guidelines and the key principle of achieving value for money,
- the extent to which the PDF is an efficient, effective, economical, and ethical use of money, and achieves value for money,
- the key principles of grants administration in relation to PDF,
- the applicants and projects recommended for funding,
- the proposed funding amounts for each recommended grantee,
- relevant input from key stakeholders and the consideration given to that input in the assessment process.

[Delete option not applicable]

I AM SATISFIED that the projects recommended by the Premier's Department in its Brief:

- have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the PDF Guidelines, and
- have been found to be eligible and have merit,
- are an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of money and achieve value for money.

I APPROVE the awarding of funding to these projects in the amount set out in the Brief for each project.

OR

I AM SATISFIED that [insert number] projects listed in the annexure to this document and recommended by the Premier's Department in its Brief:

- have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the PDF Guidelines, and
- have been found to be eligible and have merit,
- are an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of money and achieve value for money.

I APPROVE the awarding of funding to those listed projects for the amount set out in the Brief for each of these projects OR for the amount set out in the annexure to this document for the reasons listed in that annexure.

I DO NOT APPROVE the awarding of funding to the remaining [insert number] projects listed in the annexure for the reasons listed in that annexure.

[Attach an annexure clearly setting out: (1) which recommended projects are approved, (2) (only if the approved funding amount is not the same as the amount recommended in the brief) the funding amount approved for each of those projects and the reasons for departing from the recommendation in the brief, (3) which recommended projects are not approved and reasons for non-approval]

AND (if relevant)

I APPROVE the awarding of funding to [insert number] projects listed in the annexure for the reasons listed in that annexure.

[Attach an annexure clearly setting out which recommended projects are approved, the reasons for approval and the departure from the agency's recommendation, having regard to the grant guidelines and the key principle of achieving value for money, and the requirements under section 10.3A of the GSF Act.]

The Hon. Chris Minns MP

Premier

Date:

29/2

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The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales



Ref: A 5963605

Mr Gabriel Lacoba
CEO
St John's Community Services
120 Darlinghurst Rd
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Re: Premier's Discretionary Fund

Dear Mr Lacoba,

On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I am pleased to offer a grant of \$30,000 to St John's Community Services - Rough Edges, towards employing a Social Worker working within the Rough Edges Community Assistance and Partnership Project.

I have been advised that your organisation has made a submission for a Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) grant of \$30,000 for the same purpose. Unfortunately, funding constraints within this program mean that this grant cannot be approved and so I have approved an equivalent grant of \$30,000 from the Premier's Discretionary Fund. If you accept this Premier's Discretionary Fund grant, your submission for LSCA funding will be withdrawn.

To accept this offer, St John's Community Services will need to provide additional information and sign a funding agreement.

Please follow the instructions in the email accompanying this letter and return the signed agreement via the SmartyGrants online grants management portal. If you have any questions, please contact the Community Grant Programs team, Premier's Department, by email community@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au.

Please note that the NSW Government is under no obligation to pay St John's Community Services any funding unless and until St John's Community Services has signed and returned the agreement.

Thank you for bringing this important community request to my attention.
Sincerely,

Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales

cc: Mr Alex Greenwich MP, Member for Sydney

29/2/24

52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

nsw.gov.au/premier

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