



# issues backgrounder

Number 1/October 2021

NSW Parliamentary Research Service

## Funding Opportunities for Community Groups

Members of Parliament regularly receive enquiries about funding opportunities for community groups. This Issues Backgrounder is designed to assist Members and their electorate office staff to respond to these enquiries. This guide provides links to selected funding opportunities for community groups and is organised under the following sections:

### Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>1. Government gateways to community grants</b> .....     | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1 NSW Government.....                                     | 3         |
| 1.2 Community Development .....                             | 3         |
| 1.3 Regional Development Australia (NSW).....               | 3         |
| 1.4 Commonwealth Government .....                           | 3         |
| <b>2. Non-government gateways to community grants</b> ..... | <b>4</b>  |
| 2.1 Funding Centre .....                                    | 4         |
| 2.2 GrantGuru.....  | 4         |
| 2.3 Philanthropy Australia .....                            | 4         |
| 2.4 The Grants Hub .....                                    | 4         |
| 2.5 Social Change Central.....                              | 4         |
| <b>3. Grants in selected subject areas</b> .....            | <b>4</b>  |
| 3.1 Arts .....  | 4         |
| 3.2 Disability and mental health .....                      | 6         |
| 3.3 Education.....  | 6         |
| 3.4 Environment.....  | 7         |
| 3.5 Gambling .....  | 7         |
| 3.6 Homelessness .....                                      | 7         |
| 3.7 Multicultural.....                                      | 8         |
| 3.8 Road Safety .....                                       | 8         |
| 3.9 Rural and regional grants .....                         | 8         |
| 3.10 Sport and Recreation.....                              | 9         |
| <b>4. Selected Private Sector Funding Sources</b> .....     | <b>10</b> |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>5. Selected NGO Funding Sources .....</b>                        | <b>12</b> |
| <b>6. Selected Local Government funding sources .....</b>           | <b>13</b> |
| 6.1 Metropolitan .....  | 13        |
| 6.2 Regional .....  | 14        |
| <b>7. Funding sources for emergency or disaster situations.....</b> | <b>16</b> |
| 7.1 COVID-19 Grants .....   | 16        |
| 7.2 Bushfire recovery .....   | 17        |
| 7.3 Drought assistance .....  | 18        |

### Scope of this guide

This guide is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of all available grants in New South Wales and Australia. As funding opportunities constantly change and the range and number of opportunities varies across different sectors no single written guide can guarantee a complete listing of all funding opportunities for community groups. For example, the grants identified in [section 3](#) are indicative only across the ten subject areas reviewed by this guide. Similarly, the grants and sponsorship opportunities listed in [section 4](#) are derived from a select number of private organisations.

### Grant selection

Selecting the right grant for the needs of your local community is one of the most important factors when securing funding. A number of grant bodies recommend that applications should only be made to those organisations that match your project. To assist in this process, it is recommended that you contact the funding body about your application prior to submission. The majority of the funding bodies included in this guide provide additional information in their application guidelines or frequently asked questions (FAQs) sections on their websites. It should be noted that this guide also includes information on grants where the 2021 submission deadline has passed. This has been included to alert readers to the possibility that the new round of funding will most likely occur around the same time in 2022.

All links are current as of the date of publication (22 October 2021). As funding opportunities constantly change, it is recommended that the enclosed links provided in this guide are monitored regularly throughout the year.

If you are aware of any community grants within your electorate that you would like to see included in the annual publication, please contact Lenny Roth, Acting Senior Manager, Parliamentary Research Service, by email at:

[DPS.ResearchService@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:DPS.ResearchService@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## 1. Government gateways to community grants

### 1.1 NSW Government

[Service NSW](#) is a NSW Government initiative delivering improved one-stop services for government customers. The [website offers](#) a list of grants, loans and financial assistance available for a range of businesses and circumstances.

The NSW Government's [Community Building Partnership](#) program offers \$400,000 for each electorate to invest in infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes while promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion. Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and local councils are eligible to apply for grants of between \$5,000 and \$150,000, with the average grant awarded being \$20,000.

### 1.2 Community Development

The [Community Development](#) website provides access to a series of [philanthropic grants and trusts](#) and offers an interactive online hub to explore how to engage, build and strengthen communities.

### 1.3 Regional Development Australia (NSW)

In NSW, there are 14 [Regional Development Australia](#) (RDA) Committees covering all areas of the State. Each RDA Committee organises its own website. Links to each RDA Committee are provided below:

| Regional Development Australia region |                                 |                                 |                          |                          |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Central Coast</a>         | <a href="#">Central West</a>    | <a href="#">Far South Coast</a> | <a href="#">Far West</a> | <a href="#">Hunter</a>   | <a href="#">Illawarra</a>       | <a href="#">Mid North Coast</a> |
| <a href="#">Murray</a>                | <a href="#">Northern Inland</a> | <a href="#">Northern Rivers</a> | <a href="#">Orana</a>    | <a href="#">Riverina</a> | <a href="#">Southern Inland</a> | <a href="#">Sydney</a>          |

### 1.4 Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government provides a [Grants and programs](#) webpage on its [business.gov.au](#) website. This resource offers users the opportunity to search for community grants and assistance packages across all levels of government.

The [Commonwealth Department of Social Services](#) (DSS) also offers a [Community Grants Hub](#), which lists active and closed grant opportunities from the DSS and a number of additional Commonwealth Government agencies.

## 2. Non-government gateways to community grants

### 2.1 Funding Centre

The [Funding Centre](#) is an enterprise of [ourcommunity.com.au](#) and provides a dedicated Grants [webpage](#). There is also an [EasyGrants Newsletter](#) available for an annual fee of \$125. Members of the NSW Parliament should note that the EasyGrants newsletter can be accessed through the Parliamentary Library's [homepage](#).

### 2.2 GrantGuru

The [GrantGuru](#) website offers a free 'basic option' that allows individuals to search for grants and funding opportunities for community-based and not-for-profit organisations.

### 2.3 Philanthropy Australia

[Philanthropy Australia](#) offers a searchable database of grants and other funding opportunities for community groups. Philanthropy Australia does not provide funding but offers resources through its [Fund seeker](#) and [Resources](#) website pages. This includes access to the [Directory of Funders](#) at an annual subscription cost of \$110. The Directory provides a detailed listing of more than 200 grant-making organisations and provides information such as their contact details, purpose, geographical scope, grant restrictions and application procedures.

### 2.4 The Grants Hub

[The Grants Hub](#) directory website offers a subscription-based service that allows users to search over 1,000 grants from government, businesses, philanthropic sources, private donors, trusts, and other providers. A 14 day free trial is available with subscription rates from \$29 per month. Pricing information is available [here](#).

### 2.5 Social Change Central

[Social Change Central](#) (SCC) is an online hub for social enterprises which 'supports social enterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs through an easy-to-use, comprehensive self-service database which collates the most up-to-date opportunities available in Australia and internationally.' An [annual membership](#) costs \$50 and provides unlimited access to all funding opportunities for the year.

## 3. Grants in selected subject areas

For the subject areas reviewed in section 3, community grant information can also be accessed using the 'gateway' search websites identified in [sections 1](#) and [2](#).

### 3.1 Arts

#### Create NSW

[Create NSW](#) is the NSW Government's agency for arts, screen and culture. Create NSW's Arts and Cultural Funding Program provides funding opportunities for arts and cultural organisations, professional artists and arts/cultural workers across a wide

range of art forms and disciplines. Its [Funding and support](#) webpage provides funding opportunities such as:

- [Small Project Grants](#) support the creation, development and presentation of new work and professional development or promotion for NSW-based professional artists and arts and cultural workers.
- [Creative Koori Projects](#) aim to support a strong, resilient and exciting Aboriginal arts and cultural sector for NSW.
- [Annual Organisation Funding](#) for a wide range of arts and cultural activity, including creative development and/or public presentation of work, commissioning professional artists, and partnerships (including those with the non-arts sector) to develop arts and culture in a specific region.
- [Creative Leadership Grants](#) provide opportunities for individual artists, practitioners and arts/cultural workers across musical theatre, archives, classical music and visual arts. [COVID-19 Initiatives](#) are designed to address sector-wide issues related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the practice of art and the well-being of the arts and cultural sector. Opportunities exist to support the creation of new work, adapt current work to digital platforms and to engage with audiences through online portals and to develop events and activities for when restrictions are eased.

[Screen NSW](#) provides information on screen [funding and incentives](#) in NSW.

### **Regional Arts NSW**

The [Regional Arts NSW](#) website lists funding opportunities available to artists and not-for-profit organisations working in the regional arts and culture sector. Regional Arts NSW offers:

- [Quick Response Grants](#): Small grants of up to \$3,000 for individuals, and \$5,000 for organisations, that respond to arts and professional development opportunities that arise at short notice.

### **Commonwealth Arts grants**

The [Regional Arts Fund](#) is an Australian Government program that supports and promotes participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture in regional, rural and remote Australia. It provides approximately \$3.6 million per year to support artists and communities in regional and remote areas, with the maximum amount to apply for being \$30,000.

### **Commonwealth Arts grants**

#### **Australia Council for the Arts**

The [Australia Council for the Arts](#) is the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body. Information on funding opportunities is available from the Council's [Grants Program](#) webpage.

## Creative Partnerships Australia

[Creative Partnerships Australia](#) (CPA) promotes private giving, social investment and philanthropy for the arts in Australia. CPA encourages sponsorship and corporate support, and builds partnerships between artists, business, private donors and the community to support the arts. An overview of its funding programs is available [here](#).

### 3.2 Disability and mental health

The [Ian Potter Foundation](#) provides national grants to support charitable organisations working to benefit the community across a broad range of sectors. Information on the Foundation's funding rounds is available [here](#).

The [WayAhead Directory](#) is a comprehensive online database used to find local services, to make referrals and access mental health information and resources. During Mental Health Month each October, the [organisation offers](#) a number of small grants to assist the staging of mental health promotion activities or events.

### 3.3 Education

#### Public education

The [NSW Department of Education](#) offers access to a range of funding opportunities to the community through [scholarships](#). These include:

- [Public education scholarships](#) for students and professional development for teachers and principals working in public education. These scholarships are offered by the [Public Education Foundation](#), a not-for-profit organisation that provides scholarships to young people, their teachers and school principals. Further information on current Foundation scholarships can be accessed [here](#).
- The [NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships](#) provide funding of up to \$15,000 for a five-week study tour of schools or learning centres within Australia or overseas. The aim of this scholarship is to enable teachers to explore their field of teaching expertise. Scholarships are awarded in the year prior to travel.
- The NSW Department of Education [also provides](#) a number of scholarship options to cover the cost of training to become a qualified teacher.

The NSW Teachers Federation offers 15 [Future Teacher Scholarships](#) valued at \$4,000 each. Applications closed on 14 May 2021.

#### Tertiary education

The [Good Universities Guide](#) website offers a [scholarship search function](#) covering more than 3,000 scholarships in the higher education and vocational sectors. Scholarships can cover costs ranging from tuition fees to living and accommodation costs.

The Commonwealth Department of Education and Training provides the [Study Assist](#) website as a resource on government assistance for financing tertiary study. There is also a [scholarships](#) webpage for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The

Commonwealth Government offers scholarships like the [Australia Awards](#) to provide financial support for students from selected developing countries.

### Education funding for regional students

The [Country Education Foundation of Australia](#) (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation that assists rural and regional youth to access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources. The [CEF scholarships guide](#) notes that “There’s a scholarship for everyone and everything... covering the costs of textbooks, course fees, equipment, accommodation and living costs.” The CEF also supports and mentors students throughout their studies or apprenticeships. A complete list of local CEFs is available [here](#).

### 3.4 Environment

The [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) (DPIE) administers a number of funding programs including the [NSW Environmental Trust](#) and the [NSW Climate Change Fund](#). Funding opportunities are provided to local communities to enhance the environment and protect our heritage. Further information is available on the DPIE [Grants](#) page.

[Landcare Australia](#) administers the [Junior Landcare Grants Program](#). Under this program any school or youth organisation in Australia that would like to involve their students in Landcare projects can apply for grants to assist them with the cost of their projects. Information on other funding opportunities is available [here](#).

The Sutherland District Trade Union Club (Tradies) [iPromise Grants program](#) offers a grant pool of \$25,000 to help fund sustainability projects across NSW including bushland regeneration, school vegetable gardens and chicken coops, composting programs, sustainable irrigation systems and native bee hives.

### 3.5 Gambling

The [Office of Responsible Gambling](#) leads the development of responsible gambling strategy and offers public policy advice to the NSW Government. The Office provides a number of funding opportunities including:

- [Infrastructure Grants](#); and
- [Gambling Research Capacity Grants](#).

### 3.6 Homelessness

The [Mercy Foundation](#) offers a [Grants to End Homelessness](#) program that supports seeding initiatives, services, projects, advocacy and research that will contribute to the goal of ending homelessness. The Foundation advocates for housing first and permanent supportive housing solutions. The average grant ranges between \$20,000 to \$30,000, with larger grants of up to \$50,000. Expressions of interest for the 2021-22 program are due on Monday, 8 November 2021.

The Foundation also manages a [Social Justice Small Grants Program](#) that provides seed funding from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to assist communities and organisations in building capacity in the social justice area. In 2021, the focus for the grants program

was “Mental Health in Australia”. Funding is only available for not-for-profit organisations.

### 3.7 Multicultural

Multicultural NSW offers a number of [Multicultural Community Support Grants](#), including support for NGOs and community organisations facing COVID-19 related challenges. The [Stronger Together Grants Program](#) aims to support multicultural projects and events across NSW, offering grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$40,000 for 12-month projects, and between \$5,000 to \$10,000 for festivals and events.

### 3.8 Road Safety

The [NSW Centre for Road Safety](#) offers [Community Road Safety Grants](#) to improve road safety awareness in local communities. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for road safety projects that involve community engagement and raise road safety awareness. Larger grants of up to \$30,000 are also available. Grant proposals need to identify a road safety issue and propose an effective project concept to address the problem. Transport for NSW will fund NSW community based organisations. Those grant applications which may impact upon road infrastructure will be subject to approval by Transport for NSW or the relevant local council before being awarded.

Interested applicants can register for grant updates by emailing [Community Road Safety Grants](#).

### 3.9 Rural and regional grants

#### Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

The [Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal](#) (FRRR) provides access to a range of [grants](#) available to rural and regional NSW. Grants are organised under the following categories:

- [Place Grants](#);
- [People Grants](#); and
- [Disaster Resilience and Climate Solutions](#).

#### NSW Department of Primary Industries

The [NSW Department of Primary Industries](#) provides another source of funding for rural and regional grants in NSW. Examples of community funding opportunities include:

- The [Recreational Fishing Trust Grants](#) fund a diverse range of fishing-related activities such as recreational fishing education, fishing access and facilities, aquatic habitat rehabilitation and protection and the enhancement of recreational fishing. These grants are open to fishing clubs and organisations, universities, councils, community groups and individuals. The Recreational Fishing Trust funding guidelines for 2021-22 are available [here](#).
- The [Dollar for Dollar Native Fish Stocking Program](#) enables community groups to apply to the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust for matching funds to purchase



native fish to stock rivers and dams across NSW. Grants range from a minimum of \$1,000 to \$6,000.

- The [Habitat Action Grants](#) target the rehabilitation of fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW. Grants of up to \$40,000 may be awarded. Funding guidelines for 2021-22 are available [here](#).

### Destination NSW

[Destination NSW](#) manages the [2022 Regional Event Fund](#) to support events in regional NSW that have the potential to act as a 'cornerstone' or flagship tourism event for their area by attracting overnight visitation and delivering long-term benefits to the region.

### 3.10 Sport and Recreation

#### Sport Australia

The [Sport Australia](#) (SportAUS) website provides information on a range of sports-related [grants and funding](#) opportunities. In 2021, these include:

- [AIS Education Scholarship](#);
- [Commonwealth Games Australia Breakthrough 2022](#);
- [dAIS - Athlete Grant](#);
- [Local Sporting Champions Grants Program](#); and
- [Women Leaders in Sport Grant Program](#).

#### NSW Office of Sport

The [NSW Government Office of Sport](#) provides funding to “nurture sporting talent, help build sports facilities and develop the industry as a whole.” The Office’s [Grants](#) webpage provides links to key community grant programs such as:

- [Sport NSW](#);
- [Greater Cities](#) and [Regional Sport Facility Funds](#); and
- [Local Sport Grant Program](#).

#### Tennis Australia

Tennis Australia has the [Australian Open \(AO\) Community Grants](#) initiative to support programs that use tennis to strengthen underrepresented community groups. These include, but are not limited to, Indigenous Australians, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, the LGBTI community and persons with disabilities. FAQs on the Community Grants program are available [here](#).

## 4. Selected Private Sector Funding Sources

AMP's [Tomorrow Fund](#) awards \$1 million in grants each year of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 to "Tomorrow Makers" working in fields as diverse as art, athletics, science, social innovation, music and medical research. The funding may be used for a range of activities and expenses, including equipment, study, research, salaries, promotion and travel.

[ANZ Community Grants](#) provide a range of different funding programs:

- The [ANZ Community Foundation](#) supports projects run by charitable organisations that offer a direct and tangible benefit to local communities, providing small grants of up to \$30,000.
- The [ANZ & Sydney Mardi Gras Community Grants](#) provide funding of up to \$10,000 for "a range of purposes including education and training, community development and creation, arts and culture – anything under the rainbow."
- The [ANZ Seeds of Renewal](#) grants program provides small grants of up to \$15,000, or technology equipment, to rural community organisations to support "community organisations for projects that will help their community thrive".
- The [ANZ Tennis Hot Shots](#) grant awards \$10,000 grants to local tennis clubs or venues around the country.

The [Aurizon Community Giving Fund](#) offers grants up to \$20,000 to eligible charities or community groups working in the areas of health and wellbeing, community safety, environment and education.

The Bank of Sydney [Grant For Good](#) offers an annual \$20,000 community grant to provide help to projects, organisations and initiatives that promote social inclusion activities, health and wellbeing, sports and other fields that benefit our communities.

The BHP Foundation has an [Australia Country Program](#) focused on improving educational opportunities and outcomes in science, technology, engineering and maths for under-represented groups, including girls and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The [CommBank Staff Foundation](#) offers community grants to organisations nominated the Bank's staff, with up to \$3m being awarded through the program.

[Equity Trustees](#) administers a number of charitable trusts and foundations that provide [grant funding](#) across a range of areas.

The [IMB Bank Community Foundation](#) provides financial support to diverse, grassroots projects that make "positive changes in our communities." Examples of past community projects that received funding are available [here](#).

The [James N Kirby Foundation](#) offers support to organisations working in: Education and technology; environment; health; and social welfare and the arts. [Grant applications open](#) on 1 November and close on 14 February each year.

The [Macquarie Group Foundation](#) offers an employee-led approach to supporting community organisations. It provides funding in a number of ways, including matching

staff donations and fundraising, providing grants to community organisations with a Macquarie staff member on its board, and making grants to organisations which meet its grants criteria.

The [Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund](#) provide individual grants programs under these categories: Arts and humanities; poverty and disadvantage; sustainability and environment; mental health; and other programs.

The NAB Foundation [provides grants](#) of up to \$10,000 for community-led projects aiming to do one or more of the following:

- Readiness: help communities (people, environments, infrastructure) prepare for natural disasters;
- Recovery: help communities, landscapes and fauna rebuild and rehabilitate after natural disasters; and/or
- Resilience: reduce the risk of future natural disasters by cutting a community's carbon emissions.

The [Optus Future Makers Program](#) is described as “a capacity building and accelerator program that empowers social start-ups who leverage technology to address social challenges for disadvantaged and vulnerable people.” The program has three focus areas: good health and well-being; quality education; and decent work and economic growth.

The [Snow Foundation](#) offers [grants](#) of varying sizes to organisations with a community focus. Grants are available for projects in the Foundation's key focus areas of health, education and employment and social welfare. Requests for seed funding, capacity building and untied core funding will be considered.

St George Bank offers [Footy Grants](#) to help community sports clubs across Australia.

The [Transurban Group](#) offers annual grants of up to \$10,000 for projects bringing social and environmental benefits to communities in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane near Transurban's roads. Grants are limited to those local council areas with a Transurban road, which are listed on their website.

The [Veolia Mulwaree Trust](#) provides funding to the community through one-off donations (up to \$1,000) and grants. Grant applications may cover a wide range of projects undertaken by not-for-profit community organisations. The Trust encourages applicants to read the [2021 community grants guidelines](#) and confirm that their organisation is located within an eligible area.

The 2020 [Westpac Foundation Community Grants Program](#) provides \$10,000 grants to community organisations that deliver local opportunities through education, training and employment initiatives.

[Woolworths](#) uses a social impact investment approach in its community partnerships, with a view to improving the health and well-being of its customers. This is achieved by “creating employment opportunities for young Australians and New Zealanders, and supporting communities facing natural disasters with emergency relief and post-disaster recovery.”

## 5. Selected NGO Funding Sources

[ClubsNSW](#) offers community funding opportunities through its [ClubGRANTS online program](#) under the following categories:

| Funding category | Eligibility  |
|------------------|--|
| Category 1       | Project falls under specific community welfare and social services, community development, health services and employment assistance activities, and other projects aimed at improving the living standards of low income and disadvantaged people. Examples are <a href="#">listed here</a> . |
| Category 2       | Funding for general community development and support activities, such as junior sport/grassroots sport or veteran welfare activities.   |
| Category 3       | Funding to support projects that assist communities with essential infrastructure and disaster readiness.  |

The [Enterprise & Training Company Ltd](#) (ETC) is a not-for-profit recruitment agency that provides employment, training and business services. ETC administers the [Community Support Fund](#), which seeks to reduce disadvantage, generate opportunity, increase support services and/or build capacity in the communities in which ETC operates.

The [Sisters of Charity Foundation](#) provides grants of up to \$15,000 to organisations that struggle to find funding to fight poverty, loneliness, suffering and oppression. The foundation offers [community grants](#) and [scholarships](#). The Community Grants Program focuses on [projects](#) that provide practical assistance designed to break down social isolation and alleviate the impact of poverty. The foundation aims its funding at initiatives that may have ‘fallen through the cracks’. Grant applications open twice a year on:

- 1 December (Closing 5 February); and
- 8 July (Closing 31 July).

The [National Foundation for Australian Women](#) runs a program allowing other women’s groups to share its tax-deductible status. This means that donations made to the NFAW can be provided to other compatible women’s organisations on behalf of donors.

[Variety – the Children’s Charity](#) offers [community grants](#) for the purchase of equipment that will promote inclusivity for children. It targets NSW schools or organisations who provide services to children aged up to 18 years who are living with a disability, chronic illness, are facing financial hardship and/or are in need of critical care. Applicants are ineligible to apply if they have received a Community Grant from Variety in the last 24 months.

As part of its Community-University Partnerships (CUP) initiative, [Charles Sturt University](#) operates a [Community Grants](#) program which provides funding opportunities for the following categories:

- Arts and Culture;
- Sports Development;

- Education Development;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Environmental Sustainability.

Good2Give [allows](#) charitable organisations to be placed on a registry to be matched with corporate donors and sponsors. The organisation's Workplace Giving Platform also makes it easy for charities to receive and report on workplace giving donations.

## 6. Selected Local Government funding sources

[Local Government NSW](#) (LGNSW) works in partnership with the NSW and Commonwealth Governments to offer councils capacity building, development support and other resources across important local government functions. Information on current grant programs is available from the LGNSW website [here](#).

### 6.1 Metropolitan

#### Canterbury-Bankstown Council

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, [Canterbury-Bankstown Council](#) offers a [2021-2022 COVID Relief Grants Program](#). The program provides flexible financial assistance to eligible not-for-profit community groups to:

- Provide emergency relief services to people currently experiencing hardship and are at risk of becoming entrenched in disadvantage due to the crisis; people newly experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19; and those that are at most risk of serious infection (immune compromised, seniors, diagnosed chronic medical conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples); and
- Enable community organisations to continue to deliver their services via alternative delivery models.

#### Georges River Council

The [Georges River Council](#) offers [Community Grants](#) under two categories:

- Reconnecting Communities: Grants of up to \$25,000 for major programs and projects from community organisations which result in more connected communities, promote social connectedness and reduce isolation.
- Capacity Building Grants: Grants of up to \$10,000 for not-for-profit organisations to run programs or purchase assets and equipment to meet community needs.

#### Inner West Council

The [Inner West Council](#) offers a range of [grants](#) to develop projects and programs to address local community needs. These include: [Creative and Cultural Resilience Grants](#); [Community Wellbeing Grants](#); [Environment Grants](#); and [Community-Led Celebration Day \(Multicultural\) Grants](#).

The Council webpage notes that a further opportunity to apply for an Arts grant, Community History and Heritage multi-year grant, Community Wellbeing annual or

multi-year grant, Environment multi-year grant, Multicultural grant or Recreation multi-year grant will be available in 2022.

### **Liverpool City Council**

The [Liverpool City Council](#) offers a range of [grants](#) to local residents and community organisations that operate within the Liverpool Local Government Area. In 2021, the Council is providing a Sporting Donations Program; as well as offering Project Development Support Sessions. In these, community groups are invited to meet with the Council's Community Development team to present ideas for community projects and work on how to submit grant applications. Grants are awarded to projects that benefit residents, build or enhance the reputation of Liverpool City Council and support delivery of the Council's [Community Strategic Plan](#).

### **City of Parramatta Council**

The [City of Parramatta Council](#) provides a [Community Grants Program](#) that offers quarterly and annual funding opportunities for the Parramatta LGA. It aims to support local individuals and the not-for-profit community, recreation and sporting groups, clubs, organisations, services and other social enterprises that contribute to the City of Parramatta's [vision](#) and its [Community Strategic Plan](#).

### **City of Sydney Council**

The [City of Sydney Council](#) offers [grants](#) to support initiatives that enhance the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. These include: [Community support and funding](#), [Cultural support funding](#) and [Environmental performance ratings and assessment grants](#).

[Community services grants](#) of up to \$50,000 per year are also available for a period of up to three years. These grants prioritise food and financial security, housing affordability, youth led projects to improve employment opportunities, resilient high-density communities, inclusion and accessibility, digital literacy and civic participation.

The [2021 grants and sponsorship program guidelines](#) provide applicants with further information on the grant application process.

## **6.2 Regional**

### **Albury City Council**

The [Albury City Council](#) provides a [grants and funding](#) webpage which lists current funding opportunities available to the community to support cultural, creative and sporting opportunities and infrastructure.

### **Coffs Harbour City Council**

The [Coffs Harbour City Council](#) offers a range of [grant](#) programs. In 2020-21, these include: [Community Arts and Cultural Development Grants](#); [Community Infrastructure Grants](#); [Environmental Levy Grants](#); and [Community Organisation Assistance Grants](#). The Council website includes a [Coffs Harbour Grants Finder](#) page: a comprehensive

list of grant and funding opportunities available to Coffs Harbour businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals.

### Dubbo Regional Council

The Dubbo Regional Council has a [Grants and Funding](#) webpage which details the financial channels available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations and sporting clubs within the Dubbo Regional LGA. These include:

- [Financial Assistance Program](#) which supports projects or programs that help create, enhance or build community well-being and amenity;
- [Community Services Fund](#) which provides an annual donation to organisations for projects and services that deliver social, cultural or environmental benefits to communities in the LGA;
- [Bodangora Community Benefit Fund](#) provides grants for not-for-profit groups to deliver social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to local communities in the Wellington district. Projects must address an identified community priority;
- [Event Assistance Program](#) which supports the development of local not-for-profit events; and
- The [CEO Sponsorship Fund](#) also assists those not-for-profit organisations that are delivering a program aligned to the [Community Strategic Plan](#) to defray any costs associated with Council venues or the use of Council services.

The Council website also offers [grant writing guidance](#) to help applicants produce successful grant applications.

### City of Newcastle

The [City of Newcastle Council](#) lists a range of [grants and sponsorships](#) to support initiatives that contribute to the social, cultural, environmental, and economic life of the city. A range of grants are available, [including](#):

- Recreation Facilities Grant: Provides funding to Newcastle sporting groups to assist with minor capital works projects;
- Sustainability Grants: Target capital purchases/activities that enhance the environmental well-being of the local community;
- Façade Improvement Grants: Assists building owners, commercial operators and other stakeholders to improve their building façades to enhance our city's presentation; and
- Community Support Grants: Support community-based groups, sport and recreation clubs, and service organisations to develop effective activities that address the social, economic and/or environmental needs of residents in the Newcastle LGA.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are also available to support initiatives that contribute to the economic life of the city. These include sponsorship of general events, major events, regional sporting events and business events.

## Orange City Council

The [Orange City Council](#) provides [donations and grants](#) to community groups that provide a direct benefit to the community. The value of the Council's financial assistance program is approaching \$200,000. It covers areas such as:

- Sports;
- Small donations;
- Heritage grants; and
- Major event sponsorship.

Further information, including application guidelines, is available in the Council's [Donations and Grants Policy](#).

## Wollongong City Council

The [Wollongong City Council](#) website includes a [grants](#) page to provide financial support to groups and individuals in the Wollongong community. Examples include:

- [Connecting Neighbours Grants](#);
- [Creating Connections – High School Grants](#);
- [Economic and Industry Grants](#);
- [Community Events Quick Response Grants](#); and
- [Sports Grants](#).

## 7. Funding sources for emergency or disaster situations

### 7.1 COVID-19 Grants

The [Service NSW COVID-19 support webpage](#) provides a [Covid-19 Assistance Finder](#) to identify the support available in areas such as health, employment, food, housing and finances. The [Service NSW website](#) also lists multiple financial support programs to NSW businesses as part of the COVID-19 support package:

- [JobSaver payment](#);
- [COVID-19 micro-business grant](#);
- [COVID-19 business grant](#); and
- [Small business fees and charges rebate of \\$1,500](#).

Create NSW offers a number of [COVID-19 support measures for the small-to-medium arts and screen sector](#), supporting independent artists and small to medium arts, screen and cultural organisations across a range of art forms.

The City of Sydney has also introduced [relief programs and fee waivers](#) for small business during the COVID-19 lockdown. For example, [community emergency quick response grants](#) offer up to \$10,000 in support of small-scale initiatives that help communities respond to the impacts of the pandemic. The Council also offers fee



waivers for footway dining, venue hire, banners, parking services, childcare and health and compliance activities, with outdoor dining [permit fees waived](#) until June 2022.

The BHP [Vital Resources Fund](#) is a \$50 million fund established in March 2020 to provide support to communities facing significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its focus is on regions surrounding its Australian operations, including the Hunter Valley.

[The COVID-19 National Funding Platform](#) is a collaboration between Australian Communities Foundation and Philanthropy Australia to provide a national funding platform to coordinate the philanthropic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Community and not-for-profit organisations are encouraged to register their COVID-19-related funding needs so that philanthropic funders can understand the granting opportunities available and respond to the critical needs of the sector.

[The Feed Appeal Community Grants Program](#) is a state based program that supports community charities that deliver food relief programs. Grants are available up to \$50,000 for projects that will improve the lives of people that are experiencing hunger and/or food insecurity in their local community.

This section provides links to centralised COVID-19 resources offering grants and other funding assistance to community groups. The Coffs Harbour City Council provides a comprehensive [grant listing](#) of COVID-19, bushfire, drought and other disaster funding sources. Other centralised COVID-19 funding opportunities include:

- [Australia Council for the Arts: Guide to government assistance for the arts 2021](#);
- [Funding Centre: COVID-19 grants](#); and
- [The Centre for Volunteering: COVID-19 resources](#).

## 7.2 Bushfire recovery

### Bushfire recovery assistance

Service NSW lists a number of [government assistance programs](#) for individuals and businesses affected by the NSW 2019-20 bushfires. Assistance includes:

- Bushfire legal aid scheme;
- An export assistance grant of up to \$10,000;
- Grants for child-care services located in bushfire-affected areas; and
- Primary Health Networks (PNH) in bushfire-affected regions providing grants of up to \$10,000 to strengthen social connectedness and peer support activities.

The NSW Government also provides the [NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service](#) which has been designed to assist people to navigate the support and financial assistance available across all levels of government.

The following section provides additional links to centralised resources offering funding and bushfire recovery assistance to community groups. Note that a number of programs listed on these sites are no longer available:

- [Grants Hub: Bushfire grants and financial assistance](#);
- [NSW Council of Social Service: Bushfire relief assistance resource](#); and
- [Philanthropy Australia: Response and recovery services](#).

### 7.3 Drought assistance

#### NSW Rural Assistance Authority

The NSW [Rural Assistance Authority](#) (RAA) website provides a dedicated [Drought Hub](#) offering farmers and rural small business a range of drought assistance measures. Financial support measures [include the following](#):

| Name  | Description  |
|---|--|
| <a href="#">Farm Innovation Fund</a>                                  | A long term, low interest rate loan scheme for NSW farmers for permanent on-farm infrastructure to ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use plus aiding in meeting changes to seasonal conditions. Farmers can borrow up to a maximum of \$1 million per project, with a total of \$1 million outstanding at any one time to build on-farm infrastructure. |
| Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy                                      | The NSW Government is subsidising 50% of eligible costs for the permanent transport of stock off a farm which is facing financial hardship and where livestock are at fat score 2 or below (dairy cattle 3 or below), to a maximum of \$20,000 per financial year  |
| Drought Transport Subsidy   | The NSW Government will provide an additional \$116 million to continue the Drought Transport Subsidy to help farmers reduce the cost of transporting fodder, stock, fertiliser, water and other farm inputs.  |
| <a href="#">Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program</a> | The Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program is an initiative of the NSW Government's Drought Strategy and has been developed to support farmers and provide access to vocational and skills training.  |
| <a href="#">Farm Debt Mediation</a>                                   | 'Farm Debt Mediation' is a structured negotiation process in which the mediator, as a neutral and independent person, assists the farmer and the creditor to communicate effectively, to resolve matters relating to farm debts, and to formalise that resolution in an agreement.   |
| Local Land Services rate waiver                                       | The NSW Government is waiving all Local Land Service rates for 2021, following waivers in 2019 and 2020, including general rates and rates for animal health and pests, the meat industry levy and costs for routine stock moving permit and stock identification.   |
| Water Licences  | The NSW Government is continuing to provide financial assistance of up to \$4,000 to all general security licence holders in NSW and to customers of Irrigation Corporations for the 2020-21 water year. The waiver will also apply to the 2019/20 water bills (which are issued in 2020/21) for unregulated river and aquifer access licence holders.                   |

## Commonwealth Drought Assistance initiatives

| Name   | Description   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#"><u>Farm Household Allowance</u></a>                  | Farm Household Allowance (FHA) is an Australian Government support package available to eligible farmers experiencing hardship (including drought) for up to four cumulative years. FHA offers farmers breathing space to implement plans and seek training to become financially self-sufficient, so they are better placed to sustain their farming businesses.   |
| <a href="#"><u>Farm Management Deposits</u></a>                  | The scheme assists primary producers to deal more effectively with fluctuations in cash flows. It allows eligible primary producers to set aside pre-tax income which they can draw on in future years when they need it, such as for restocking or replanting when conditions start to improve.  |
| <a href="#"><u>Pest and weed management programs</u></a>         | The program provides funding to eligible local councils to help manage the impacts of pest animals and weeds during drought.  |
| <a href="#"><u>Regional Investment Corporation Loans</u></a>     | <p>The RIC offers a number of loans to farmers and other regional businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AgriStarter Loans:</b> Assist first time farmers, and loans to support farm succession arrangements</li> <li>• <b>Farm Investment Loans:</b> For farmers who want to invest in a better future. They're designed to make farm businesses stronger, more resilient and more profitable</li> <li>• <b>Drought Loans:</b> Help farm businesses to prepare, manage and recover through drought.</li> <li>• <b>AgBiz Drought Loans:</b> Support regional Australians to take control of their business through the drought.</li> <li>• <b>Plantation Loans:</b> Encourage new plantations and replanting bushfire damaged plantations.</li> </ul>   |
| <a href="#"><u>Commonwealth Government Taxation Measures</u></a> | <p>The ATO offers a range of taxation measures in response to drought and other rural challenges. Example measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Temporary Full Expensing and instant asset write off:</b> Businesses with an aggregated annual turnover or total income less than \$5 billion will be able to deduct the full cost of eligible depreciable assets of any value in the year they are first used or installed ready for use by 30 June 2023.</li> <li>• <b>Immediate deductions for fodder storage assets:</b> Primary producers may be able to immediately deduct (rather than depreciate over three years) the cost of fodder storage assets</li> <li>• <b>Tax averaging for primary producers:</b> Tax averaging allows individuals to even out their income and tax payable over a maximum of five years to take good and bad income years into account.</li> <li>• <b>ATO waivers and support:</b> The ATO can offer extended time to pay, payment plans with interest-free periods, and waive penalties or interest charged.</li> </ul> |

| Name  | Description  |
|---|--|
| <a href="#">Rural Financial Counselling Service</a> | Rural financial counsellors can help farmers, fishing enterprises, forest growers and harvesters and related small business owners understand their financial position and the strengths and weaknesses of their businesses. They help develop and implement plans to improve the financial situation of businesses and enterprises. |

### FarmHub

Another source of information on drought assistance grants is [FarmHub](#). This online portal has been designed to provide farmers with a single access point for information and advice on how to manage hardship. FarmHub was developed by the National Farmers' Federation, and its original focus was on drought. Recent developments include the provision of information relevant to farmers and farming communities, including learning and development opportunities and other training resources. FarmHub provides a comprehensive [directory of assistance](#) available to farmers from a range of government and private sources.

**Author:** Chris Angus

**Last updated:** 22 October 2021

For further information please contact the Research Service on 9230 2768.

Issues Backgrounders are prepared by the NSW Parliamentary Research Service for Members of Parliament on Bills or subjects of topical importance.

This Issues Backgrounder provides links to parliamentary material, journal articles, media articles and interest group web sites to provide Members with detailed information relating to matters under consideration by the NSW Parliament. Although every attempt is made to ensure that the information provided is correct at the time of publication, no guarantee can be made as to its ongoing relevancy or accuracy. This Issues Backgrounder should not be considered a comprehensive guide to this particular subject and is only a representative sample of the information available. This Issues Backgrounder does not constitute a professional legal opinion.