

ITEM 6. COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANT - GLEBE YOUTH SERVICE 2018**FILE NO: S117676****SUMMARY**

Glebe Youth Service is a non-profit community organisation that has been working with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and families in the Glebe area for over 30 years. The service provides a number of programs that range from intensive individual support to community-wide events. The organisation is governed by a volunteer management committee and is located in a building owned by the NSW Land and Housing Corporation in Glebe Point Road in Glebe.

Since 2006, the City has been providing funding to Glebe Youth Service to deliver the After Dark Program. The Program provides young people with a safe place to gather and engage in positive social activity in the evening as an alternative to participating in, or becoming a victim of, antisocial behaviour. The Program operates on Friday and Saturday nights and provides young people and their families an opportunity to engage with specialist youth workers, often providing the entry point for referral to support services.

Police data indicates that crime levels in Glebe and many other parts of the City of Sydney Local Government Area are at historic lows. Whilst the drop in crime can be attributed to a range of factors, including changes in demographics, the NSW Police have consistently concluded that interventions such as the After Dark Program have made an important contribution to reducing crime in Glebe, and see it as an important service to continue providing.

Glebe Youth Service has a successful track record of working within the Glebe area, and participation in the After Dark Program has continued to grow steadily since its commencement. Glebe Youth Service's positive working relationships with local young people, service providers and community members means they are ideally placed to continue providing programming for young people in the area.

The current triennial grant agreement between the City and Glebe Youth Service ends on 31 December 2017. Glebe Youth Service have made an application to the City for another three-year grant to continue to deliver the After Dark Program, as well as provide follow up referrals, case management and support to young people and their families in Glebe.

The application for funding has been assessed as being consistent with the objectives of the City's Community Grants Program. It is recommended that a three-year grant is provided that comprises:

- a cash grant of \$221,665 in the first calendar year;
- increases in years two and three to cover additional costs associated with operational expenditure (CPI), salary increases under the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award, and a program evaluation in year three; and
- value in-kind for venue hire of Peter Forsyth Auditorium.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the long-term support that has been provided to Glebe Youth Service and the positive outcomes achieved through the delivery of the After Dark Program;
- (B) Council approve a cash grant to Glebe Youth Service from 2018 to 2021 as follows:
 - (i) 2017/18 - \$110,828 (Ex GST);
 - (ii) 2018/19- \$225,723 + CPI on operational expenditure (Ex GST);
 - (iii) 2019/20- \$236,355 + CPI on operational expenditure (Ex GST); and
 - (iv) 2020/21- \$121,462 + CPI on operational expenditure (Ex GST);
- (C) Council approve value in-kind for venue hire of the Peter Forsythe Auditorium as follows:
 - (i) 2017/18 – Venue Hire fee waiver to the value of \$2,850 (Ex GST);
 - (ii) 2018/19- Venue Hire fee waiver to the value of \$5,800 (Ex GST);
 - (iii) 2019/20- Venue Hire fee waiver to the value of \$ 6,000 (Ex GST); and
 - (iv) 2020/21 - Venue Hire fee waiver to the value of \$3,050 (Ex GST); and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer an agreement with Glebe Youth Service.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

BACKGROUND

1. Glebe Youth Service is a non-profit community organisation that has been working with disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and families in the Glebe area for over 30 years. The service provides services and support to young people and their families living in Glebe, particularly those experiencing disadvantage and complex issues. The service has also more recently engaged young international students in the area. Glebe Youth Service offers a range of services and programs for young people and the wider Glebe community.
2. Historically, Glebe has had higher than average levels of crime and antisocial behaviour including assault, break and enter and theft from motor vehicles. Research indicates that young people, particularly from low income households, are more likely to engage in antisocial behaviour when they have a shortage of alternative activities to engage in.
3. One of the programs that Glebe Youth Service runs is the After Dark Program. The After Dark Program offers a combination of structured and semi-structured skills-based programming, combined with a healthy food and nutrition component. Staff also offer follow-up referral and individual support as needed. The Friday night program provides an evening meal, sporting activities and other workshops for the whole of community at the Peter Forsyth Auditorium from 6.30pm-10.30pm with an average nightly attendance of 85 people. The Saturday night program is targeted to young people and operates from the Glebe Youth Service premises from 7.30pm-11.30pm for up to 50 people.
4. The City has funded the After Dark Program since 2006 as a way to engage local young people in positive social activity and to serve as an alternative to antisocial or potentially criminal activity.
5. The Program has had continued growth in participation since its commencement and has made a positive contribution to the reduction in crime and increase in social connectedness in Glebe. In a recent survey of After Dark participants, some respondents reported that they would be more likely to engage with drugs or alcohol if they were not at the After Dark Program. Of the respondents, 92 per cent believed that After Dark helps them feel that they are a part of the community, and 86 per cent stated that they know who they can ask for help when needed.
6. An evaluation of the Program in 2014 also found that the After Dark Program has:
 - (a) responded to an important gap in service delivery in the Glebe area;
 - (b) provided a focal point for Glebe Youth Service to engage with local young people who might not otherwise access a traditional youth service; and
 - (c) been particularly successful in engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and their families.
7. As a community program within the City of Sydney Local Government Area, late night programming contributes to the broader strategic policy agenda for crime prevention and reduction within Australia. While the NSW Police and the criminal justice system have primary responsibility for maintaining law and order, local government has an important role to play in responding to crime and community safety concerns and investing in social programs aimed at vulnerable and marginalised people in the community.

8. The City's current triennial grant agreement with Glebe Youth Service ends on 31 December 2017. Under this agreement the City has provided funding of \$202,556 +CPI (ex GST) over three years. The City also provides value in kind for the use of Peter Forsyth Auditorium to the value of approximately \$5,000 per annum.
9. The City's funding to Glebe Youth Service enables them to:
 - (a) employ a full-time Project Coordinator to oversee the After Dark Program;
 - (b) engage with local socially disadvantaged families who need referral or advice;
 - (c) provide local young people with a safe and engaging place to go in the evening;
 - (d) provide food education and nutrition programs to young people in Glebe, equipping them with important life skills; and
 - (e) engage with other Glebe-based service agencies to provide comprehensive case management for young people and families requiring more intensive support.
10. Glebe Youth Service has submitted a proposal for a three-year grant from the City for 2018 to 2021. The application has been assessed against the City's Community Services Grant Program. It was found to strongly align with the following key outcomes of the Program:
 - (a) increased numbers of people feeling a strong sense of social wellbeing;
 - (b) strengthened maintenance, management or improvement of physical and mental health and wellbeing; and
 - (c) increased involvement and engagement by communities in community life.
11. City staff have worked closely with Glebe Youth Service to ensure that the programming plan for the next three years is in line with the Glebe Youth Service strategic direction and the City's strategic directions, that it complements other City funded programs in the area, and that it can be delivered within budget constraints. Some minor changes to the current programming include:
 - (a) consolidation of the newly developed After Dark advisory group, and youth specific consultation group;
 - (b) development of a community participation model over the three year period to ensure that young people contribute to the design, delivery and evaluation of the After Dark Program, and develop transferable skills;
 - (c) refocusing of the Saturday night program to be specifically for young people aged 12-18, and include programming targeted for this age group in the Friday night activities; and
 - (d) further development of project management, reporting and evaluation tools and capability.
12. City staff will continue to work closely with Glebe Youth Service over the next three years to ensure the delivery of the Program, good governance, quality assurance and continuous improvement.

13. It is recommended that Council approve an additional three years of funding to Glebe Youth Services for the ongoing provision of the Program, including:

- (a) a cash grant over three calendar years which consists of the following:

	2018	2019	2020
Operational Costs	\$59,000	\$59,000+CPI	\$ 59,000+ CPI
Staffing	\$162,655	\$170,788	\$178,921
Program Evaluation			\$5,000
TOTAL*:	\$221,655	\$229,788	\$242,921

* Note total will vary by CPI increase on operational costs

- (b) value in-kind for venue hire of Peter Forsyth Auditorium for 48 Friday nights per year.
14. The recommended grant amount is increased from the previous agreement. Glebe Youth Service have provided evidence that there are increased costs associated with offering the existing program. Staff wages under the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services (SCHADS) Industry Award 2010 are the primary cost driver. This award provides for bi-annual wage increases continuing until 2020, linked to the Fair Work Australia Pay Equity Case. Other programming costs have also increased, including the cost of food and other materials.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment

15. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This grant is aligned with the following *Sustainable Sydney 2030* strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies – The After Dark Program encourages community connectedness in the Glebe area. Community members and a range of service providers are involved in the planning and implementation of the After Dark Program.

Social / Cultural / Community

16. Glebe Youth Service has a very strong relationship with the Glebe Community. The organisation also works closely with the City, NSW Police and other service providers in the Glebe area. The Program provides a safe and engaging activity for young people on Friday and Saturday nights that has proved effective in diverting young people from antisocial activities.
17. Whilst the After Dark Program is targeted at young people, the service engages with the wider community, providing family-friendly activities on a Friday night. The Program encourages a whole of community approach to service provision by generating an inclusive atmosphere for all to attend. The Program also activates the Peter Forsyth Auditorium on a Friday evening.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

18. Sufficient funds are available in the Grants and Sponsorship budget for the current financial year.
19. Provision will be made for this funding in future Grants and Sponsorship budgets.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

20. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

21. The current funding that the City provides Glebe Youth Service expires 31 December 2017. Beyond that period, without further funding, they will be unable to continue the After Dark Program.

ANN HOBAN

Director City Life

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