

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 20 November 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 9.3 – Grants and Sponsorship – Cultural Grants

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide further information on the City's grant funding.

Background

Following the 6 November 2023, Cultural and Creative Committee further information on the City's grant funding was sought.

Support for diversity projects:

There are a range of diverse communities that live, work in and visit the City of Sydney, including (but not limited to) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ communities and people with disability. At the City, diversity incorporates a range of diverse communities including those mentioned as well as people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, young people, older people, international students, women, and low income earners.

Table 1.1 shows the number of applications approved since 2018-19 with a primary or secondary beneficiary group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ communities and People with disability. Please note these figures include Covid grants in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, and the 2023-24 figures are only year to date.

Table 1.1 – Applications approved

Beneficiary group	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22*	2022-23	2023-24 (YTD)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	20	72	56	64	73	46
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	26	110	49	34	25	29
LGBTQIA+ communities	11	67	21	20	27	22
People with disability	14	41	17	18	16	15
TOTAL OF ALL APPLICATIONS APPROVED	316	1091	487	346	278	255 (YTD)

*Includes Covid grants

Table 1.2 shows the number of applications received since 2018-19 with a primary or secondary beneficiary group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ communities and People with disability. Please note these figures include Covid grants in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, and the 2023-24 figures are only year to date.

Table 1.2 – Applications received

Beneficiary group	2018-19	2019-20*	2020-21*	2021-22*	2022-23	2023-24 (YTD)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	32	139	100	103	119	100
People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds	46	410	120	100	68	106
LGBTQIA+ communities	24	182	45	54	67	56
People with disability	30	196	36	46	38	33
TOTAL OF ALL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	511	4181	932	829	635	677 (YTD)

*Includes Covid grants

As a percentage of total grants approved, support to these diverse community groups has increased from 2018-19 – 2022-23 across each group:

- Grants benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2018-19 made up 6.3% of approved grants, compared to 26.3% in 2022-23 (grants benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2023-24 so far sits at 18%. But as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration fund budget is expended we expect this percentage to be in line with 2022-23)
- Grants benefiting People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in 2018-19 made up 8.2% of approved grants, compared to 9% in 2022-23 and already reaching 11.4% for 2023-24 so far.
- Grants benefiting LGBTQIA+ communities in 2018-19 made up 3.5% of approved grants, compared to 9.7% in 2022-23
- Grants benefiting People with disability in 2018-19 made up 4.4% of approved grants, compared to 5.9% in 2022-23

We offer additional support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability and culturally and linguistically diverse peoples, to assist with the grants process:

- additional support and accessible application formats that include oral applications are available
- if you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, you can contact us through the National Relay Service
- if you need an interpreter, you can contact us through the Translating and Interpreting Service
- we provide information and links to free online services that can translate our website into other languages
- we are in the final stages of creating easy read guidelines and they should be published online in January

While the Festivals and events sponsorship program does support and promote cultural and social diversity, it's just one of the priorities of the program, amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, social inclusion, supporting the visitor economy and activating local precincts.

Oral applications:

Oral applications were first offered to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in late 2020, after consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community following the first round of Covid grants in 2020. Oral applications have been offered since July 2022 to other community groups that need additional support, including culturally diverse communities and people with disability. Since late 2020 we have received 46 oral applications:

- 42 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants
- 2 for people with disability

- 2 for people from culturally diverse backgrounds

Festivals and events Tier 1 and Tier 2

The application and assessment process for Festivals and events Tier 2 is slightly different to applicants to Festivals and events Tier 1.

Proposals are assessed against:

- evidence of the need for the festival or event and proposed outcomes;
- capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the festival or event ;
- demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community;
- evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project ; and
- how the project delivers against the funding priorities.

Applicants to Tier 2 are assessed against an additional assessment criteria:

- evidence of track record, organisational viability for multi-year funding, large scale audience or market reach and national or international brand awareness

Funding will prioritise festivals and events that:

- celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture;
- strengthen social inclusion, enable connectedness and reduce social isolation ;
- support the visitor economy through activations, events and promotion;
- represent the cultural and social diversity of our community; and
- activate local precincts with creative programming.

The Tier 2 program has two additional funding priorities:

- attract intrastate, interstate or international visitation and investment in Sydney
- encourage cultural organisations and artists to locate and operate in Sydney

Applicants to Tier 2 are required to meet and address at least three of the funding priorities, but can select and address all if relevant. Whereas applicants to Tier 1 are required to meet and address one of the funding priorities but can select a second if relevant.

The [Grants and Sponsorship Policy](#) and [Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines](#) are available via the City's website.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

Prepared by: Peter Keogh, Grants Coordinator

Approved

P. M. Barone

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Chief Executive Officer