

Grants and Sponsorship – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and Accommodation Grant Program

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, cultural, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to achieve the goals of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

The City advertised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund in the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program.

This funding program supports a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver projects that meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the local area. Funding supports increased self-determination and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through projects that connect people with community, Country and culture.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is open all year for applications until the annual budget is exhausted.

Two eligible applications meeting the February Committee timeframes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund were received. This report recommends one grant to a value of \$30,500 in cash in the 2022/23 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, Council adopted a Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the priorities set out in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

Grant recipients will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Accommodation Grant Program

The Accommodation Grant Program is part of the City's Grants and Sponsorship Program. This funding program supports community, cultural and sustainability focused organisations by providing accommodation in City-owned buildings within the community property portfolio at an approved subsidised rent which results in Grant tenants paying nil or below market rent.

This report also notes that under the Accommodation Grant Program, the lessee at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point has changed legal entity from the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (ABN 53 188 579 090) to South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) (ABN 70 442 041 439). The lessee has advised that the service, staff, and clients remain the same. Due to the change of legal entity a new lease is required to be issued for this tenancy. Council is required to approve the change of recipient legal name.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendation for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicant who was not recommended in obtaining a cash grant for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the change of recipient legal name for the lessee at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point from Sydney Children's Hospital Network to South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and note that a new lease will be issued for this tenancy;
- (D) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Attachments

Attachment A. Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

Attachment B. Not Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the City.
2. On 30 August 2022, the City announced the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications open all year round, until budget is exhausted.
3. Information about this grant program (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the grant program when it first opened through the corporate website, e-newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, AdWords, ArtsHub, Google display ads and Koori Radio. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs.
4. As per the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations and is open to not-for-profit organisations, for-profit organisations, sole traders and individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit organisation.
5. One eligible application was received from for-profit organisations or sole traders through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund and no for-profit organisation is recommended in this report.

Grants assessment process

6. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
7. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined assessment criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
8. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund are:
 - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes and relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
 - demonstrated connection to and benefit for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
 - how the project will deliver against the funding priorities.

9. The assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund was held on 13 January 2023. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Cultural Space and Sector Development Teams, Social City, and People and Culture Unit.
10. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, a contract is developed which includes conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
11. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
12. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

13. The application recommended for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is outlined in Attachment A to this report.
14. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2022/23	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	(\$154,109)
Total cash available	\$345,891
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	2
Total cash value requested from applications	\$100,000
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	1
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2022/23	\$30,500
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2022/23	\$0
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2022/23	\$315,391

Accommodation Grant Program

Sydney Children's Hospital Network

15. The Sydney Children's Hospital Network provides early childhood health services to families with babies/children aged up to five years.
16. The Sydney Children's Hospital Network currently have a tenancy through the Accommodation Grant Program at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point.
17. On 22 June 2021, Council approved a lease renewal through the Accommodation Grant program for The Sydney Children's Hospital Network for a five-year period expiring on 30 June 2026.
18. The lessee has advised they have changed their legal entity name from The Sydney Children's Hospital Network to South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. However, there will be no change to services and they intend on continuing to operate with the same staff and clients at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point.
19. It has been confirmed that South Eastern Sydney Local Health District are a State Government Entity and are eligible for the Accommodation Grant Program.
20. The City will enter into a new lease with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District for the tenancy at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Potts Point so that they can continue to operate their services and support the local community under the new entity name.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

21. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. 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 strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant projects in this report will contribute to strengthening partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and prioritise their cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic aspirations.
 - (b) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - the recommended grant projects in this report will contribute to supporting artistic and creative endeavours in our city, helping foster initiative, experimentation and enterprise by creative workers and providing new opportunities for audiences to engage in the city's cultural life.

Organisational Impact

22. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Cultural / Economic / Social / Environmental

23. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and business, within the local area.

Financial Implications

24. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2022/23 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operating budget for 2022/23 to support the recommended grants. Details and total values for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund grant are provided in the table above.

Relevant Legislation

25. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.
26. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund;
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2022/23;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed 5 per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2022/23; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

27. The funding period for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund for financial year 2022/23 is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for the commencement of projects.
28. There are no critical timeframes associated with the Accommodation Grant Program tenancy.

Public Consultation

29. During September 2022, a briefing session took place where stakeholders were notified about the grants and how to apply.
30. An online briefing session for general grants enquiries was held on 6 September 2022. A total of 53 attendees participated in the session.
31. Q&A sessions were held for those grant applicants wanting more assistance with their grant applications for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund. A total of 13 attendees participated in these sessions.
32. Q&A sessions are ongoing for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Alana Goodwin, Grants Coordinator