

## Grants and Sponsorship - Social Grants

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 the 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.

This report includes the following programs:

- Community Services Grants (including Inner City Homelessness Services);
- Ad Hoc Grants (following Council resolutions);
- Food Support Grants; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund.

For the Community Services Grant program, 69 applications were received. This report recommends 27 grants assessed in the round to a total value of \$1,495,360 in cash and \$89,145 value-in-kind for payment in the 2024/25 financial year.

For Inner City Homelessness Services four applications were received. This report recommends a total of four grants to a total value of \$1,400,000 in cash for payment in the 2024/25 financial year.

Council has recently made resolutions requesting the Chief Executive Officer to investigate appropriate actions in a number of areas. These requests have been considered in conjunction with this grants round (Community Service Grants) and are recommended for ad hoc grants.

For the Food Support Grant program, 18 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 11 grants to a total value of \$470,000 in cash for payment in the 2024/25 financial year.

For the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program one eligible application was received. This report recommends a one grant to a total value of \$21,325 in cash in the 2024/25 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, Council adopted a Grants and Sponsorship Policy. On 21 August 2023, Council approved the Food Support Grant Guidelines and the budget of \$4.5 million over three years for the provision of the Food Support grants. 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.

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

## Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash and value-in-kind recommendations for the Community Services Grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash or value-in-kind grant for the Community Services Grant program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve First Nations Response Ltd as the recipient of a City's Community Services Grant 2022/23 for the final year of their project (2024/25);
- (D) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Community Services Grant: Inner City Homelessness Services program as shown at Attachment C to the subject report;
- (E) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Food Support Grant program as shown at Attachment D to the subject report;
- (F) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant or value-in-kind for the Food Support Grant program as shown at Attachment E to the subject report;
- (G) Council approve the cash recommendations for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment F to the subject report;
- (H) Council approve a cash grant of \$100,000 per year for three years to the Inner City Legal Centre;
- (I) Council approve a cash grant of \$50,000 per year for three years to the University of Sydney as auspice for Animals in Need;
- (J) Council approve a cash grant of \$50,000 to Larissa Minneconn as auspice for Scarred Tree Indigenous Missionaries;
- (K) Council approve a cash grant to Glebe Youth Service Inc of \$349,448 in year one, \$356,500 in year two and \$363,566 in year three;

- (L) Council approve a cash grant of \$208,000 and \$53,000 value in kind to Access Sydney Community Transport Ltd;
- (M) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (N) 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
- (O) 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 - Community Services Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Not Recommended for Funding - Community Services Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Recommended for Funding - Inner City Homelessness Services
- Attachment D.** Recommended for Funding - Food Support Grant Program
- Attachment E.** Not Recommended for Funding - Food Support Grant Program
- Attachment F.** Recommended for Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program
- Attachment G.**

## 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 6 February 2024, the City announced the Grants and Sponsorship program as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 5 March 2024.
3. The social programs promoted were:
  - (a) Community Services Grants (including Inner City Homelessness Services);
  - (b) Food Support Grants; and
  - (c) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund.
4. Information about these grant programs (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the grant programs through the corporate website, e-newsletters, advertising through paid social ads, paid LinkedIn, AdWords, Radio and an ArtsHub partnership. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have previously applied for grants at the City or have expressed an interest in the City's programs.

## Community Service Grants Program / Inner City Homelessness Services

5. As per the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the Community Service Grants program is open to not-for-profit organisations, and individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in their own right. For-profit organisations are not eligible for this program.
6. Since 2020, the City has funded select outreach services through the Community Services Grants program. Prior to 2020, the City funded Department of Communities and Justice (the Department) to provide these services. The funding method was changed to a direct funding model in June 2021, with the support of the Department, to enable the City to have more authority in the way contracts were managed.

## Food Support Grants Program

7. On 21 August 2023, the Council approved the Food Support Grant Guidelines and the budget of \$4.5 million over three years for the provision of the Food Support grants. Having approved the first year of funding on 11 December 2023, the Food Support Grant program currently has two more years available.
8. As per the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the Food Support Grants program is open to not-for-profit organisations (Tier 1 and Tier 2) and individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit that is eligible to apply in their own right (Tier 1 only). For-profit organisations are not eligible for this program.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund.**

9. 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.

**Grants assessment process - Summer Round Grants**

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. The assessment criteria for the Community Services Grant program are:
  - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes;
  - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
  - 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.
13. The assessment meeting for the Community Services program was held on 18 April 2024 to ensure grant applicants were assessed against the relevant assessment criteria. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Social City Team, with specialist input from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement City Business and Safety Teams.
14. The assessment criteria for the Food Support grants are:
  - evidence of the need for the project or program and proposed outcomes;
  - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project or program;
  - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community;
  - how the project delivers against the funding priorities; and
  - evidence of the project or program having direct engagement with our diverse communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, young people, older people, people with disability, international students, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, women, LGBTIQ+ communities and low-income earners.

15. Applicants to the Food Support grants - Tier 2 are also assessed against the following additional assessment criteria:
- evidence of partnerships with local community organisations and networks.
16. The assessment meeting for the Food Services grants was held on 11 April 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the City Business and Safety and Social City Teams, with specialist input from Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, City Business and Safety and Social City Teams.
17. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund are:
- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes;
  - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
  - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
  - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
18. The assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program was held on 3 April 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Team, City Business & Safety, People and Culture, Social City and Venue Management Teams.
19. On 13 May 2024, Council approved cash funding \$28,675 to Mudgin-gal Aboriginal Corporation from the 2023/24 budget, as detailed in Attachment F. The full amount of \$50,000 was unable to be provided at May Council as the remaining budget for 2023/24 was not enough, and Council was yet to endorse the draft grants and sponsorship guidelines which allows for a grant applicant to receive multi-year allocations through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration fund. This final funding recommendation will meet the applicant's total request of \$50,000, over two financial years.

### Community Services Grant Program

20. The applications recommended for the Community Services Grant are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
21. The Community Services Grant budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2024/25	\$1,995,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$395,750
Total cash available	\$1,599,250
Total number of applications this allocation	71

Total cash value requested from applications	\$3,157,108
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$92,795
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	30
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2024/25  (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2025/26 - \$806,500)  (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2026/27 - \$806,500)	\$1,495,360
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2024/25  (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2025/26 - \$28,456)  (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2026/27 - \$28,456)	\$89,145
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2024/25	\$103,890

### Ad hoc grants (Community Service Grants) in response to Council resolutions

22. Council has recently made resolutions requesting the Chief Executive Officer to investigate appropriate actions in a number of areas. The following have been considered in conjunction with this grants round and are recommended for ad hoc grants.
23. On 19 February 2024, via a Lord Mayoral Minute (LMM 3.3 - Progressing Action on Safety for Our LGBTIQ+ Communities), Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer investigate how the City could support the provision of community based legal, social and emotional support for individuals who seek redress for acts of violence, discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse against them - including funding for local community legal centres that support members of the LGBTIQ+ communities seeking redress for acts of violence, discrimination, vilification, harassment or abuse against them.
24. Following an investigation, it is recommended that Council endorse grant funding for The Inner City Legal Centre of \$100,000 each year for three years. This level of funding reflects the extent of the critical need for this support in this community. An application was received within the Community Services Grant round for \$50,000 and a separate proposal was received for additional funding to support staffing. This application was assessed against the Community Services Grant guidelines and found to align strongly with the objectives and criteria of the program. This grant will be provided as an Ad-Hoc grant as the recommended amount is above the funding limit of the Community Service Grant program.

25. On 8 April 2024, via a Lord Mayoral Minute (LMM 3.2 - Support for Responsible Pet Ownership), Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer investigate expanding access to subsidised veterinary services beyond Pet Day for people on low-incomes and experiencing financial hardship.
26. It is recommended that Council endorse grant funding for the University of Sydney, who have applied for Animals in Need to deliver life-saving care to animals whose owners cannot afford essential treatment. This has been assessed in accordance with the Community Services guidelines. It is recommended that the Council approve Animals in Need \$50,000 each year for the next three years to deliver on this action. This grant will be provided as an Ad-Hoc grant as it was assessed outside of the Community Service Grant round.
27. On 13 May 2024, via a Notice of Motion (NOM 15.3 - Collaborating on Community Wellbeing in Glebe), Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer continue to work with local area specific community services and grass roots community organisations to identify existing youth services programs and activities across the city, any potential gaps, and any systemic funding issues; and investigate options for the City to provide additional youth programs and support for youth across the city, particularly in Glebe, Ultimo and Pymont and report back to Council as appropriate.
28. It is therefore recommended that Council endorse grant funding of \$50,000 in cash for Larissa Minnecon, representing Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries, to Scarred Tree Resource Centre for a total of \$50,000 in cash in 2024/25. The Community Service grant panel assessed this and highly recommended as it aligned with the program's key outcomes and service delivery to First Nations people. Note that Scarred Tree Resource Centre is located in Glebe Town Hall through a licence to Larissa Minnecon, representing Scarred Tree Ministries. This licence expires on 30 June 2024, with a further two year licence recommended as part of the 2024 Accommodation Grant Program.

### **Glebe Youth Services**

29. Glebe Youth Service Inc (GYS) is an independent not-for-profit organisation that has been operating in Glebe for more than 30 years. Glebe Youth Service supports young people aged 12-24 in the Glebe area to be safe, healthy, skilled and confident. Glebe Youth Service works to connect young people to opportunities for employment, education and social wellbeing as well as to help them to participate actively in the community.
30. Glebe Youth Services are recommended for support for \$349,448 for the first year with an increase for the next two years to support its After Dark program, an increase of over \$55,000 on its previous funding agreement with the city for 2022-2024.
31. The City has been supporting the After Dark program since 2004. After Dark program runs on Friday and Saturday nights at both Glebe Youth Service and the City's Peter Forsyth Auditorium on Glebe Point Road. This flagship, evidence-based program provides safe spaces and positive activities for the young people in Glebe and increase community engagement and social cohesion.
32. The After Dark program works towards creating a City for all: a Connected City through strengthening social cohesion, a sense of belonging and connection to place. City staff meet regularly with Glebe Youth Service to ensure there is close collaboration on program provision. This includes GYS staff attending City programs for young people, such as community BBQs at Peter Forsyth Auditorium.



33. The current grant agreement between the City and Glebe Youth Service ends on 30 June 2024.
34. The application has been assessed within the City's Community Services Grant program. It was found to strongly align with key outcomes of the program, including ensuring strengthened social cohesion, sense of belonging and connection to place, and enabling increased engagement in healthy, active living (including mental health).
35. Glebe Youth Services has been assessed and recommended for \$349,448 in year one, \$356,500 in year two and \$363,566 in year three. This recommendation also supports the decision of Council on 13 May 2024 to request the Chief Executive Officer to investigate options to provide additional youth programs and support for youth, particularly in Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont.

### **Support for Waterloo South Relocations**

36. On 20 November 2023, via a Lord Mayoral Minute (LMM 3.3 - Support for Waterloo South Relocations), Council requested that the Chief Executive Officer consult with local community organisations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in the Waterloo area about what support residents will require during relocations and advise them about the City's available grant programs.
37. After consultation with local community organisations, three applications were received and assessed in the Community Services Round and it is recommended that Council endorse grant funding for Counterpoint Community Services Incorporated, Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation and Redfern Legal Centre Ltd of \$50,000 to each organisation per year for three years as part of the Community Services grant round.

### **Change of grant recipient**

38. On 20 June 2022, Council resolved to approve the cash and value in kind recommendations for the Community Services Grant Program.
39. Following this meeting, the agreements were executed and are being administered under the terms consistent with this resolution.
40. In mid-2024, one recipient through the Community Services grants has requested a change to the entity that is being contracted with for the final year of this grant. The details of this request are as follows:
41. Plateitforward Ltd (35 641 805 432) as auspice for First Nations Response received a total of \$150,000 over three years: \$50,000 (Year 1 - 22/23), \$50,000 (Year 2 - 23/24) and \$50,000 (Year 3 - 24/25) for First Nations Response's project 'Sydney's First Nations Response Pop-Ups'. At that time, First Nations Response was not eligible to apply for the grant directly. Since the application has been approved, First Nations Response Limited (86 670 587 461) has registered as an eligible not for profit and no longer requires an auspice, so have requested the contract be transferred to First Nations Response Limited to manage the third and final year of their project directly with the City. Plateitforward Ltd has also agreed to this modification with the agreement.

42. Grants staff have reviewed this request and are satisfied that the grant will be paid to the same group of people for the same purpose as approved by Council and have conducted the standard eligibility checks for the incoming entity. The City has already contracted directly with First Nations Response Limited (86 670 587 461) in 2023 most recently with Food Support Grants and grants staff can confirm its eligibility for this requested grant.

### **Access Sydney**

43. The Village to Village free shuttle service is operated by Access Sydney. Village to Village services are free, fixed route shuttle buses that fill the gap between public transport and specialist community transport services. They provide access to shops, medical care, culture, community and other transport services for members of the community who experience, or are at risk of experiencing transport disadvantage.
44. In NSW, community transport services are the responsibility of, and are funded by, both Federal and State governments as part of the Home and Community Care Program, the State-funded Community Transport Program and NSW Health. These services are accessed by individuals in accordance with of a range of eligibility criteria.
45. The Village to Village service provides transport to those members of the community who experience transport disadvantage, for reasons ranging from mobility to financial difficulty, or not being serviced by public transport, but do not meet the eligibility criteria for specialist community transport services.
46. The City has provided South East Sydney Community Transport with a cash grant since 2007 to operate the Village to Village service and provided a value-in-kind agreement to park their fleet in the Bay Street depot.
47. Access Sydney are recommended for \$208,000 cash grant and \$53,000 value in kind for bus parking.

### **Inner City Homelessness Services**

48. The City of Sydney's latest street count held on 26 February 2024 counted 280 people sleeping rough across the local area, and 392 people occupying crisis and temporary accommodation beds. While the number of people sleeping rough has remained relatively steady since February 2020, the numbers remain unacceptably high.
49. While primary responsibility for homelessness rests with state government, the City has responded to homelessness for over 40 years; linking people sleeping rough with services, managing the impacts of rough sleeping in the public domain, and providing sector leadership and coordination. The City works in partnership with NSW Government agencies and Specialist Homelessness Services to provide collaborative outreach to people sleeping rough.
50. Since 2020, the City has funded select outreach services through the 2020-2024 Community Services Grant. Prior to 2020, the City funded Department of Communities and Justice (the Department) to provide these services. The funding method was changed to a direct funding model in June 2021, with the support of the Department, to enable the City have more authority in the way contracts were managed.

51. The services funded have been achieving positive results. In the 2022/23 financial year these services supported 192 people to exit homelessness.
52. Over the past three years, the City has contributed a total of \$3.5 million (plus CPI) towards Specialist Homelessness Services in the inner city, including;

Organisation Name	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Notes
Innari Incorporated	\$100,000	\$106,100	\$112,466	\$110,466 + (\$2k to be paid in July 2024)
Neami Limited	\$700,000	\$742,700	\$787,262	\$785,262 + (\$2k to be paid in July 2024)
Launchpad Youth Community Incorporated	\$300,000	\$318,300	\$337,398	\$335,398 + (2k to be paid in July 2024)
Aboriginal Corporation for Homeless and Rehabilitation Community Services	\$100,000	\$106,100	\$112,466	\$110,466 (2k to be paid July 2024)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,200,000</b>	<b>\$1,273,200</b>	<b>\$1,349,592</b>	

53. Funding agreements with the above services end on 30 June 2024. The performance of Neami Way2home, Launchpad and the Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community Service is highly rated, with significant positive outcomes achieved. Innari Incorporated is working with the City to improve service consistency and sector collaboration.
54. The Department is currently conducting a review of the Homelessness Strategy and funding arrangements. They expect new funding arrangements will be finalised in 2026/27.
55. The first service this report recommends in Attachment C is the assertive outreach service provided by Neami National Way2Home.
56. The current funding agreement sees the City contribute \$700,000 per annum to Neami National Way2Home through the Department of Communities and Justice. Funding focuses on:
- engaging clients with complex needs who are sleeping rough, where outreach workers directly engage with clients on the streets offering assistance and case management;
  - working in partnership with health services, general practitioners and other services to address the needs of the chronically homeless, and;
  - ensuring a Housing First approach, which focuses on helping clients access and sustain long-term supported housing solutions.

57. Over the three-year funding period to June 2024, Neami National Way2Home has met its funding requirements and delivered positive outcomes. Between 2021 and 2023 the service supported 55 (18 from City funding) adults sleeping rough to access stable housing with ongoing support
58. Neami National Way2Home also receives \$100,000 per annum to enhance post-crisis support for people housed. Neami National Way2Home has used this funding to investigate referral pathways for smooth transitions to housing and for additional frontline post-crisis support for clients with complex health needs.
59. One of the key features of the service offered by Neami National Way2Home is the provision of both outreach services and post-crisis support. Support for assertive outreach is directly aligned with the City's priorities in responding to homelessness and assisting people who are sleeping rough to exit homelessness. Continuing to provide funding to Neami National Way2Home will enable the service to maintain the level of assertive outreach delivered over the past three years in the inner city.
60. The second service this report recommends in Attachment C is a service to prevent youth homelessness, as part of the Inner-City Homelessness Prevention and Support Service for Young People through Launchpad Youth Community Incorporated.
61. Young people who first experience homelessness before the age of 18 are more likely to experience persistent homelessness in adulthood. Pathways into homelessness for young people may include family breakdown and being in foster care. Being able to prevent young people from becoming homeless in the first place, or stopping them from becoming entrenched in homelessness, helps give them the best chance in life.
62. Brokerage is funding for services to prevent young people from becoming homeless including bond, housing establishment such as furniture, emergency transport, accommodation, medical support, mental health support, reconnection with family members and education.
63. Currently, the City provides \$300,000 per annum for case coordination and brokerage to provide flexible support to prevent young people with complex needs from becoming homeless or entrenched in homelessness. Launchpad Youth Community Incorporated administers these funds.
64. The service has met its funding requirements and exceeded expectations in the delivery of outcomes for young people. Since 2021, the service prevented 287 young people from becoming homeless, and supported 289 young people who were homeless to access safe and stable housing.
65. The third and fourth services this report recommends in Attachment C are Aboriginal outreach services, through the Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community Service and Innari Incorporated.
66. Approximately 15 per cent of people sleeping rough in inner Sydney surveyed during the 2019 Connections Week Survey identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. This is despite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprising only one per cent of the City of Sydney residential population.
67. Both the Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community Service and Innari Incorporated have provided outreach services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people since 2017.

68. Innari Incorporated and Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community Service Incorporated have met their funding requirements.
69. Innari Incorporated has been working with the City to improve performance and outcomes. The City is confident that a more intensive relationship management structure will ensure improved governance and relationship management to improve performance and outcomes.
70. Since 2021, these services have assisted 38 people into permanent accommodation.
71. The assessment criteria for the Inner City Homelessness Services, under the Community Services Grant program are:
- evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes;
  - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
  - 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.
72. The assessment meeting for the Inner City Homelessness Services grant applications was held on 18 April 2024 to ensure grant applicants were assessed against the relevant assessment criteria. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Social City Team.
73. The applications recommended for the Inner City Homelessness Services are outlined in Attachment C to this report.
74. The Inner City Homelessness Services budget, which is separate to the Community Services Grant program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2024/25	\$1,400,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$0
Total cash available	\$1,400,000
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	4
Total cash value requested from applications	\$1,400,000
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	4

Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2024/25 (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2025/26 - \$1,400,000) (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2026/27 - \$1,400,000)	\$1,400,000
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2024/25 (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2025/26 - \$0) (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2026/27 - \$0)	\$0
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2024/25	\$0

### Food Support Grant Program

75. The applications recommended for the Food Services Grant are outlined in Attachment D to this report.

76. The Food Services Grant budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2024/25	\$1,500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$575,000
Total cash available	\$925,000
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	18
Total cash value requested from applications	\$2,492,101
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	11
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2024/25 (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2025/26 - \$229,152)	\$470,000
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2024/25 (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2025/26 - \$0)	\$0
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2024/25	\$455,000

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program**

77. The application recommended for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is outlined in Attachment F to this report.

78. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2024/25	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	\$0
Total cash available	\$500,000
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	1
Total cash value requested from applications	\$50,000
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 2024/25 (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2025/26 - \$0) (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2026/27 - \$0)	\$21,325
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2024/25 (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2025/26 - \$0) (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2026/27 - \$0)	\$0
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2024/25	\$478,675

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

79. 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 program is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to community development and support active participation in civic life. They empower the community to address issues that matter to them and drive projects to create a more inclusive and resilient city.
  - (b) Direction 10 - Housing for all - the grant funding will support better outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including access to long term housing and support.

### Organisational Impact

80. 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.

### Social / Cultural / Economic / Environmental

81. 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

82. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2024/25 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's draft operating budget for 2024/25 which is seeking approval as part a separate council report in the current reporting cycle, to support the recommended grants. Details and total values are provided in the table above.



### Relevant Legislation

83. 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.
84. 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 following program:
    - (i) Community Services Grant program;
    - (ii) Food Support Grant program;
    - (iii) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund program;
  - (b) the details of the programs have been included in the Council's draft operational plan for financial year 2024/25;
  - (c) the program's proposed budgets do not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2024/25; and
  - (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

### Critical Dates / Time Frames

85. The funding period for the Community Services Grant program, Food Support Grant program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program and Inner City Homelessness Services for financial year 2024/25 is for activity taking place from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting in July 2024.

### Public Consultation

86. During February 2024, briefing sessions and Connect Sydney training took place where potential applicants were notified about the grants and how to apply:
- (a) An online briefing session for general grants enquires was held on 7 February 2024. A total of 168 attendees participated in the session.
  - (b) An in-person briefing session for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was held at Redfern Community Centre on 8 February 2023. A total of 20 attendees participated in the session.

- (c) An in-person information session was held at the Pitt Street Training Centre on 13 February 2024, for participants at the Connect Sydney workshop. Connect Sydney aims to build the capacity of community and not-for-profit organisations through the provision of free grant writing skills and governance training. A total of 23 attendees participated in the session.
  
- (d) An in-person information session was held at the at Redfern Community centre on 15 February 2024, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants at the Connect Sydney workshop. Connect Sydney aims to build the capacity of community and not-for-profit organisations through the provision of free grant writing skills and governance training. A total of 11 attendees participated in the session.

**EMMA RIGNEY**

Director, City Life

Sam Wild, Manager Grants

Alana Goodwin, Grants Coordinator