





Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL

Scholarships, Donations and Community Grants Policy

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Responsible Officer	Sue Mitchell	Manager Corporate & Community Services		28 June 2023
Authorised By	John Scarce	General Manager		28 June 2023

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1. Name of the Policy and Purpose

This policy is the *Scholarships, Donations and Community Grants Policy*. Its purpose is to comply with the provisions of Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, and provide a framework within which requests to Council for financial assistance are assessed.

2. Aim of Program

The Murrumbidgee Council Scholarships, Donations and Community Grants Program gives the community the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to provide services or enhance education opportunities.

3. Scholarships

Murrumbidgee Council sees education as a key process in the development and growth of our residents, particularly our youth, and each year offers the following:

- Murrumbidgee Council Education Scholarship Program
Three scholarships valued at \$1,000 each are awarded annually. To be eligible students must have their original place of residence within the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area and be studying at a tertiary institution. This includes university, TAFE and other recognised tertiary education providers.
- Charles Sturt University Foundation Scholarship
Council sponsors the annual Charles Sturt University (CSU) \$4,000 Foundation Scholarship, and sees this as an important way to ease the transition and expenses for rural students. The scholarship is only open to students who have their original place of residence within the Murrumbidgee Council Local Government Area. It is open to commencing and continuing students who are studying full-time with Charles Sturt University, however preference is given to commencing students.

Applications are made direct to CSU.

- Sir John Monash Bursary
Council offers the Sir John Monash Bursary in September each year in recognition of the incredible contribution Jerilderie's most famous son made on the national and world scale. Applicants must submit an essay for judging. The Bursary is open to all students who have their original place of residence within the Murrumbidgee Council area and who are entering into post secondary education through university, college or TAFE, or an approved course of formal training with a Registered Training Organisation, ie apprentices, trainees and adult education. The bursary is valued at \$2,000 and is awarded to assist with personal costs associated with course expenses.

4. Donations

Funds are allocated within the budget for Councillor determined donations. Applications for donations will be received during the year. This includes sponsorship applications, school presentation awards and applications from

individuals. Donations are not advertised in conjunction with the Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program.

5. Community Grants

- Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program

The Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program is in the form of one-off annual grants to community organisations, giving them the opportunity to apply for financial assistance to provide services and projects that benefit the residents.

The total amount available in each financial year is \$20,000.

The maximum grant allocated under the Community Grants Program is \$2,000. Only one application will be accepted per community group/organisation for this grant.

Grants will be allocated under the following categories:

- Arts and Cultural
- Diversity and Harmony
- Events
- Health and Wellbeing

To assist the assessment of all applications for Community Grants, applicants are requested to read the category descriptions as detailed in the “Community Grant Guidelines” and indicate on the application form one category wherein they consider their project best fits. The guidelines also outline eligibility criteria and grant conditions.

- Coleambally Solar Farm Community Fund

The Coleambally Solar Farm provides \$20,000 each calendar year to support local projects that benefit and strengthen the region. Murrumbidgee Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with Coleambally Solar Pty Ltd in regard to the establishment, facilitation and operation of the Coleambally Solar Farm Community Fund. Council is responsible for managing, facilitating, advertising, marketing and any other management activities in respect of the CSF Community Fund. Council is also to provide recommendations to Coleambally Solar Farm Pty Ltd as to which applications should receive funding, providing copies of those applications to CSF.

Of these funds, \$10,000 is distributed to the Murrumbidgee Community Experimental/Demonstration Farm and a further \$10,000 is distributed to projects through an open and competitive program under the following categories:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Health and Wellbeing
- Strong Connected Communities
- Sport and Recreation
- Arts and Culture
- Skills, Education and Training

Grants of between \$500 and \$3,000 are available. The “Coleambally Solar Farm (CSF) Community Fund Guidelines” outline eligibility criteria and grant conditions. These grants will be advertised in conjunction with the Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program.

- Lions Club of Darlington Point Community Grant

This is an annual grant valued at up to \$2,000, awarded to eligible applicants, which include individuals, for the purpose of advancing education, children's aid or community wellbeing. It was generously made available by the Lions Club of Darlington Point when it disbanded, and is managed by Murrumbidgee Council. This grant is only available to residents of Darlington Point. This grant will be advertised in conjunction with the Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program.

6. Grants Timeline

The Murrumbidgee Council Education Scholarship Program, Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program, Coleambally Solar Farm Community Fund and Lions Club of Darlington Point Community Grant are offered as follows:

February: Grants advertised and applications open. Application forms will be available on Council’s website and at Council’s offices

March: Applications close. No late applications will be accepted.

April: Submitted to Council Meeting for decision and applicants officially informed of results.

7. Policy Review

This Policy:

- To be reviewed within the first year of the new Council term;
- May be reviewed and amended at any time at Council’s discretion (or if legislative or State Government policy changes occur).