Community Grant Assistance Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy is intended to provide a basis for Council to assist local non-profit community groups and projects which demonstrate broad-based benefit to residents of the Karoonda East Murray District to attract funding from non-Council sources.

This policy replaces Council's previous Community Grants Policy, and as such Council will not routinely fund a Community Grants program from its annual budget, but rather will resource grant writing to attract external funding for community projects and initiatives.

2. OBJECTIVES

To support local initiatives conducted by non-profit community groups in developing community service projects, community events, social welfare and other community purposes through securing funding from external sources.

3. SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE

Any non-profit community group located with the District Council of Karoonda East Murray planning to provide a community service or to run a project for local benefit and in need of assistance could be eligible for Community Grant Assistance.

Successful applicants of Council's Community Grant Assistance will be provided with grant writing assistance as determined by Council dependent on the level of funding being applied for and the complexity of the application process.

4. GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will need to be met for consideration for assistance:

- Funds shall be used to improve the provision of services, facilities and resources for the communities of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray. The project should encourage the involvement of volunteers where appropriate.
- Requests for assistance may be received at any time but must be lodged with a covering application form.
- Grant writing assistance will generally only be provided where the cost-benefit of the funding to be received (if the grant application were to be successful) is more than 100% of the cost of preparing the grant application. As an indication, it is unlikely that assistance will be provided to projects where funding less than $2,500 is being sought.
- Projects should take place within the District Council of Karoonda East Murray Council area unless otherwise approved by Council where it is considered that residents of the Council area will benefit from the project.

5. PROJECTS THAT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE

Types of projects that may be eligible for grant writing assistance are:

- Recreational, cultural activities and sports projects (including skill development, professional demonstrations/training, guest speakers).
- Local community celebrations.
- Infrastructure/ improvement to facilities

6. PROJECTS THAT GENERALLY WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE

- Commercial undertakings
- Requests of a recurrent nature
- Assisting individuals to participate in events
- Works or projects already commenced or completed
- Ongoing general running expenses, e.g.: postage, stationary, telephone, electricity
- Fundraising ventures
- Initiatives that have already received grant writing assistance

7. BASIS OF ASSESSMENT

All applications are assessed according to individual merit. In assessing the applications, the basis of assessment will be on merit, community needs, community benefit, improvement of service and encouragement of volunteers. Council will not necessarily provide grant writing assistance to all initiatives that are requested.

8. REGISTER OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

In recognition of the reality that when a community group conceives an idea for funding and makes a request, there may not be external funding or grant opportunities that specifically align with the initiative, Council will maintain a register of community initiatives.

When Council becomes aware of potential funding opportunities that may align with the initiative, Council will contact the community group to see if the initiative is still seeking funding, and if so, will reassess the application for assistance with grant writing.

9. DOCUMENT AND ADMINISTRATION CONTROL

COUNCIL POLICY	
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