



Neighbourhood Connection Grants

Council is offering funding to individuals and community groups to run one-off events that connect neighbours and build relationships within their neighbourhood.

Funding details:

- Funding of up to **\$500** is available per event
- Expressions of Interest (EOI) are open until **9 October 2023** or until funds are expended
- Deliver and acquit the event before 30 June 2024
- [Submit your EOI here](#)

Want more information or help submitting an EOI? Get in touch with our friendly Communities First Team:

Send an email to emergency.management@nilumbik.vic.gov.au

or call us on **9433 3111**

What can be funded?

Funding can support small events that:

- Encourage neighbours to come together and connect
- Strengthen relationships within local neighbourhoods

Your event might be something like:

- A neighbourhood morning tea or BBQ
- A working bee at a community garden
- A local trivia night
- A meeting with your neighbours to develop a street-level Emergency Plan (How can we help each other in case of an emergency?)
- A street goods exchange (e.g. books, appliances, clothes)

You can use the grant funds to pay for snacks or meals, buy supplies, or pay for services that will make your event possible.

Eligibility:

Individuals can apply for this funding **without** having an auspice (auspice organisations hold and manage the funding on your behalf).

Applicants must

- Be based in Nillumbik or directly support Nillumbik residents
- Supply an active ABN or complete a Statement by Supplier form
- Have satisfactorily acquitted all outstanding grants previously awarded by Nillumbik Shire Council
- Deliver and acquit the event before 30 June 2024

**Acquitting means reporting on how the funds were used.*

Things to consider when planning your event:

- How will you get in touch with your neighbours?
- Is there something for all ages at your event?
- Are there people in your neighbourhood who have access requirements (e.g. wheelchair users, hard of hearing)? How can you ensure they are involved?
- Are there people in your neighbourhood for whom English is a second language? What's the best way to communicate with and include them?
- Is your event at place and time that will suit your neighbours (e.g. think about carer responsibilities, shift workers, people who don't want to drive at night)?

What won't be funded?

- A project that is not being held in the Nillumbik municipal boundary or does not directly benefit residents
- Ongoing payment of salaries, administrative, maintenance or organisational operating costs
- Duplication of existing projects currently funded by Council. If you wish to leverage off an existing project you must identify the innovative element or point of difference/value added
- Curriculum based activities in schools
- Projects that are solely for fundraising purposes, without broader community benefit
- Competitions, prize money and awards
- Projects or events with a political or religious purpose
- Events that are fully ticketed with no free or heavily subsidised component
- Single membership-based initiatives that are not open to the public
- Alcohol or gambling related activities
- Projects that have received full funding from another source
- Retrospective funding or projects which are due to commence prior to the notification of the EOI outcome
- Applicants that are in debt to, or have any outstanding commitments with the Shire

Assessment process

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) will be reviewed by Communities First Project Officers.
- You will be contacted by a Communities First Project Officer within a month of submitting your EOI to discuss your project.
- If successful, we will work with you to develop the project further and complete a grant agreement.

Acquittal and Evaluation

Instead of a formal acquittal, grantees will be asked to participate in a short phone call with a Communities First Project Officer to describe how the event went. They may also be asked to provide photos and/or videos and receipts (proof of payment).

How to apply

- Read the guidelines thoroughly
- [Complete a short Expression of Interest online here.](#)