

2026 Community Development Grants Program



Stawell Harness Racing Club | Program Guidelines

Supporting practical, community-led projects that strengthen the Northern Grampians.

Program contact

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About the program

The Stawell Harness Racing Club Community Development Grants Program supports not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that benefit people and communities across the Northern Grampians Shire. The program prioritises practical, achievable initiatives that respond to local needs, encourage participation and improve community wellbeing.

Program objectives

- Address an identified local need.
- Improve wellbeing, inclusion, participation or quality of life.
- Build the capacity and long-term sustainability of local organisations.
- Create lasting community benefit and value for money.

Funding available

- Grants of up to **\$2,000** are available.
- Only one application per organisation may be submitted each year.
- Successful applicants may receive less than the amount requested.
- Grant amounts are GST exclusive.
- Projects will not be fully funded. Applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar contribution through cash, fundraising, sponsorship, donated materials or eligible in-kind labour.

Who can apply

Applicants must:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation.
- Be an incorporated legal entity or apply through an eligible auspice organisation.
- Be based in the Northern Grampians Shire or clearly demonstrate a direct benefit to its residents.
- Demonstrate sound governance, financial capacity and the ability to deliver the project.
- Meet the matching-contribution requirement.

What will not be funded

- Applications from individuals.
- Projects that have started before funding is formally approved.
- Ongoing operating costs or recurrent funding.
- Activities that duplicate an existing local service without a clear additional benefit.
- Applications from Stawell Harness Racing Club committee members or staff.
- Organisations that have received substantial council support for the same project, unless a clear funding gap is demonstrated.

How applications will be assessed

- Evidence of community need and local benefit.
- Clear, realistic objectives and measurable outcomes.
- Community involvement in planning and delivery.
- A complete, accurate and reasonable budget.
- The organisation's capacity to deliver the project safely and on time.
- Value for money and the strength of the applicant's contribution.
- Relevant policies and safeguards, including a responsible drug and alcohol policy where applicable.

2026 key dates

Stage	Date
Applications open	Monday 26 October 2026
Applications close	Friday 27 November 2026
Assessment completed	Friday 11 December 2026
Applicants advised from	Monday 14 December 2026

How to apply

1. Complete the application form and provide all requested supporting information, including a project budget and evidence of matching contributions.
2. Submit the application by the closing date.
3. Applications will be assessed against these guidelines. Applicants may be contacted for clarification.
4. All applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing.

Submitting your application

Email: lisa@stawellharnessracing.com.au
Post: PO Box 105, Stawell VIC 3380
In person: 78 Patrick Street, Stawell VIC 3380

Conditions of funding

- Successful applicants must sign a funding agreement before funds are released.
- Funds may be used only for the approved project. Any material change requires prior written approval.
- The project must be completed and funds spent within 12 months of the offer, unless a written extension is approved.
- All required permits, approvals, insurances and legal obligations must be in place before work begins.
- Volunteers must be registered with the organisation and appropriately insured.
- Stawell Harness Racing Club support must be acknowledged in project communications and promotional material.
- An acquittal report is due within one month of project completion and must include outcomes, photographs and an income and expenditure statement. Future applications may not be considered until outstanding acquittals are completed.
- Unspent or incorrectly used funds must be returned unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Extensions and variations

If circumstances outside your organisation's control affect delivery, please contact us as early as possible. Extensions or variations are not automatic and must be approved in writing before the original deadline.

Before you submit

- Confirm your organisation and project are eligible.
- Discuss the proposal with the program contact.
- Provide a clear project description, outcomes and delivery timeframe.
- Attach an itemised budget and evidence of matching contributions.
- Include any quotes, permissions or supporting documents requested.
- Submit by 5.00 pm on Friday 30 October 2026.