MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL

International Women's Day 2027

Community Event Grants Guidelines

Monday 8 March 2027 |

Introduction

In recognition of International Women's Day 2027, community groups and not-for-profit organisations are invited to apply for funding to deliver events and activities that celebrate, empower and inspire women and girls within our communities.

Moira Shire Council would like to celebrate and support women and organisations in our community who are making effective strides towards gender equity. Together we can challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to bias and seek out positive action.

Purpose

The International Women's Day Community Event Grants aim to support initiatives that:

- Celebrate the achievements and contributions of women and girls.
- Promote gender equality, inclusion and leadership.
- Encourage community participation and connection.
- Create opportunities for learning, inspiration and meaningful discussion.
- Amplify diverse voices and experiences of women across all ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Funding Available

Applicants may apply for one grant to help deliver an International Women's Day event or activity.

IWD Community Event Grant

Event delivery: March 2027

Up to $500

Supports community groups and not-for-profit organisations to run an event or activity in the week of International Women's Day (8 March 2027) or during March 2027 within their town or district.

Council retains the right to vary the amounts granted.

All funds allocated by Council must be used in full for the event or program detailed in the application. Any unused grant funds must be returned to Council after the event.

Eligible Activities

Funding may support events and activities such as:

- Community celebrations and festivals
- Guest speaker presentations and panel discussions
- Workshops and skill building activities
- Networking events
- Arts, cultural and creative projects
- Health, wellbeing and empowerment initiatives
- Activities that promote awareness of issues affecting women and girls

Event Requirements

Funded events and activities must:

- Be held in conjunction with International Women's Day 2027.
- Be accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all members of the community.
- Demonstrate clear community benefit and engagement.
- Align with the International Women's Day 2027 theme. The 2027 theme has not yet been released; all applicants will be notified as soon as Council is advised (UN Women / IWD Australia).
- Acknowledge grant funding support in promotional materials.
- Meet current health and safety guidelines.
- Be developed, facilitated and delivered by the applicant.
- Provide photos after the event for Council media content.

Key Dates

Dates are indicative until confirmed by Council.

Milestone	Date
Applications open	Monday 9 November 2026
Applications close	Friday 11 December 2026
Successful applicants notified	January 2027
Event delivery period	March 2027, including International Women's Day, Monday 8 March 2027

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through SmartyGrants. Once submitted, an approval notification will be sent to each successful applicant. The application includes:

- Organisation and contact details (and auspice details if not incorporated)
- Event summary (no more than 150 words) and how the event relates to the IWD 2027 theme
- Event date, address and type of venue; whether the event is free, and any cost per person
- Project budget showing income and expenditure that match, and the total amount requested
- Certificate of Currency for public liability insurance, risk assessment and safety management plan
- Written land owner consent and any permit or park hire forms, where applicable
- Completed checklist and declaration by an authorised representative

Who Can and Can't Apply

The table below is a quick reference guide only. For full eligibility information, including any other requirements or conditions, please refer to Council's Community Strengthening Grants Policy.

Applicant	YES	NO
Incorporated community groups, not-for-profit organisations, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations (refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission)	✓	
Community organisations partnering with local groups or services	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Individuals without an ABN		x
Schools or Early Childhood Service Providers		x
Community Asset Committees		x
Government agencies or organisations		x
Individual / Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		x
For profits, commercial entities, registered businesses		x
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from Moira Shire Council (including auspices)		x
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to Moira Shire Council or in legal proceedings with Council		x
An organisation involved in legal proceedings (that would pose a significant financial or governance risk to Council) or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy		x

Eligibility

An application for an event or activity must comply with Council's Community Strengthening Grants Policy, including but not limited to the following requirements:

- It is located in Moira Shire and provides benefit to Moira Shire residents. Council may consider events held outside Moira Shire in the cross border communities of Cobram-Barooga and Yarrawonga-Mulwala, where benefit to Moira Shire and its residents can be demonstrated.
- Current public liability insurance of a minimum $20 million.
- Compliance with relevant Local, Federal and State laws and legislation.
- Relevant management plans are in place (risk, event, traffic).
- All required approvals, permits and management plans, including written land owner consent, have been considered and/or obtained.

Funding Exclusions

An application may be declined where the event or activity:

- Is the responsibility of other levels of government, or the core responsibility of a Community Asset Committee.
- Is already funded by other parts of Council.
- Has already commenced, been advertised or completed before funding approval.
- Promotes controversial political or religious views, involves Council in potentially controversial issues or exposes Council to adverse criticism.
- Is not an inclusive community event open to the general public (ticketed events are generally not considered unless the ticket price is a nominal amount).
- Supports income from electronic gaming machines, promotes gambling, or is held in a licensed gaming facility.
- Uses funds for operational expenses, interstate or overseas travel, or prizes, sponsorships, donations or gifts.
- Is a donation to, or fundraising for the benefit of, another organisation.
- Duplicates existing services or benefits only members.
- Is on Council property deemed high risk without sufficient risk management.

General Conditions

- Funding must be used for the approved purposes only.
- Applicants must declare all other sources of funding and provide financial statements if requested.
- Projects should demonstrate a financial or in-kind contribution from the organisation or community.
- Any unspent funds must be returned to Council.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed against alignment with the intent of the grant, demonstrated community benefit and participation, the organisation's capacity to deliver, value for money, and the overall quality of the application and supporting documentation.

Managing the Grant and Acquittal

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Funding Contract and Terms and Conditions. Funds are paid electronically once all documentation is received. If GST applies, organisations must provide their ABN and confirm GST registration. Grantees must acknowledge Council's support, notify Council of any delays or changes, and maintain necessary insurance and permits. Council may publicise project outcomes. After the event, grantees must submit a Completion Report via SmartyGrants, and include photos and a summary of the event.

Contact

For assistance with your application, contact Moira Shire Council Community Services Team on (03) 5871 9222. Support and guidance, including translation assistance, is available. Computer and internet access is available through local libraries and community houses.

Manager Community Wellbeing, Moira Shire Council, PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3644

Email: grants@moira.vic.gov.au