Mary MacKillop Today Community Grants

About Mary MacKillop Today

We seek to empower and transform lives through self-determination, access to education and the learning of practical life skills.

Inspired by Australia's first Saint, Mary MacKillop, we work in partnership to help create generational change through the teaching of practical life skills to women, men and children in Australia and beyond.

About the Community Grants Program

The Mary MacKillop Today Community Grants Program partners with organisations who support Australia's most vulnerable people, to improve their lives through education in all its forms.

Eligible organisations may apply for grants of up to **$10,000 AUD** to deliver small, life-changing projects that promote life-long learning for vulnerable Australians.

Grant applications will be accepted between **9am 29 July and 5pm 26 August 2019**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The 2020 round of the Community Grants Program is open to all applicants who meet the eligibility criteria.

Purpose

The Community Grants Program supports small but life-changing initiatives that provide opportunities for **life-long learning** in Australian communities.

The Community Grants Program aims to help people in need by improving access to quality learning opportunities which allow people to realise their rights, achieve positive social outcomes, and effect change in their lives and their communities.

Given the size and nature of our grants, priority is given to small or emerging organisations. We prioritise innovative and grass-roots projects which are targeted toward those at the margins.

Community Grants Priorities

Initiatives supported by the Mary MacKillop Today Community Grants Program include projects that:

- Increase **aspiration** and **confidence** to undertake learning (e.g. mentoring, bridging or transitional education)

- Improve **access** to education or learning opportunities for people who are vulnerable (e.g. by supporting learning opportunities in remote communities, enabling access to technology, breaking down learning barriers for people with disability)

- Improve the **quality** of education or learning opportunities available to people who are vulnerable (e.g. training for parents or caregivers, development of high-quality teaching and learning resources, ensuring learning environments are culturally and linguistically inclusive)

- Provide learning opportunities which empower people **to strengthen skills for self-sufficiency** including through improved financial inclusion, improved participation in communities and improved wellbeing (e.g. transition to work projects, health literacy and health promotion, financial literacy or leadership activities).

Projects must target members of the Australian community who may experience marginalisation, vulnerability or exclusion. Priority groups include:

- Women and girls
- First Nations people (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)
- People from refugee backgrounds, people seeking asylum and/or newly arrived migrants
- People with disability
- Other key vulnerable communities and groups

Examples of projects that have received funding previously include:

- a mobile library that provides reading classes for young people living in disadvantaged communities;
- hospitality and cooking classes for refugees and asylum seekers;
- work experience and mentoring opportunities for First Nations young people;
- development of a visual tool to allow people living with disability to access services that are tailored to their needs.

Get in Touch!

Please get in touch to discuss your project- we are happy to work with you to develop your project plan and application. We also welcome creative methods of application, for example via video, mixed media or other innovative methods.

Please contact Caitlin to discuss your project or application, via phone 02 8912 2718, or email caitlin.php@marymackilloptoday.org.au

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applications must comply with the below criteria:

- Applications must align with the mission and purpose of Mary MacKillop Today
- Applications are for a maximum of $10,000 AUD
- Specific Project activities funded by the Community Grant must be completed between 1 January and 31 December 2020 (although the project itself may continue after this date)
- New applicants must supply two available referees (*see Application Referees below*)
- Projects must be consistent with the main purpose of a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI); however, your organisation does not need to be a PBI (s*ee Annex 1 for further details on PBI status)*
- Applicants must be a community organisation or charity with an Australian Business Number (ABN), and the project must be delivered within Australia. Individuals are not eligible.
- Existing Grantees are encouraged to apply for either an existing or new project; however, it should be noted that our preference is to not fund ongoing service delivery, and we encourage grantees to show evidence of a sustainability strategy.
- Given the size and nature of our funding, preference will be given to organisations classified as 'Small Charities' i.e. with annual revenue below $250,000. Larger organisations are encouraged to highlight partnerships with Small Charities or other community organisations to strengthen their application.
- Applicants must be able and willing to comply with Mary MacKillop Today's Policy Requirements in the delivery of the funded project (*See Annex 2: Policy Requirements for more information)*

We are **unable** to fund:

- Multiple applications from one organisation: Applicants are encouraged to submit only one application for funding, or to clearly nominate your first preference from multiple applications.
- Public appeal for single beneficiaries: As a general rule, grants will not be given to applications that are public appeals for a single individual, e.g. school fees for a disadvantaged student or equipment for a person with a disability, as there are likely to be more appropriate sources of support.
- Full salaries/wages/stipends; full project administration costs; capital funding. Applicants may apply for up to 10% administration costs within the project budget.
- Activities for the promotion of a particular faith or religious adherence; political parties; activities that could create unwanted dependency on project funds *(See Non-Development Policy in Annex 2)*
- Applications that distance Mary MacKillop Today from the delivery of services of the funded project will be rejected, e.g. funds to be pooled into a grants program. This includes scholarship programs.

Additional information

Evaluation of impact: Grants are subject to a formal self-evaluation of activities and project impact at both the six-month mark and toward the end of the 12-month project timeframe.

Full or partial funding: While cuts to the amount requested will be avoided, consideration will be given to partial funding of projects where specific desired results can still be achieved, based on itemised budgets.

Ready access to other sources of funds: Preference will be given to applications unlikely to be able to access funds from other sources. However, favourable consideration will be given to applications where Mary MacKillop Today grant funds will be matched or multiplied by other donors or by the applicant.

Application Referees

You are required to include two references for your project from people who can comment on (1) the capacity of your organisation to deliver the project; (2) the proposed impact of the project; and (3) the need for your project.

These people must be willing to have a telephone conversation with a representative from Mary MacKillop Today should your project be shortlisted. If your project is working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, at least one referee must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander who has cultural authority to discuss your organisation and proposed project.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Evidence of a strong fit with Mary MacKillop Today's Mission and the Community Grants Program Priorities outlined above.
- The number of beneficiaries being served (i.e. more than one individual).
- Clear demonstration of project approach and potential outcomes/community impact.
- Organisational capacity to undertake and complete the project objectives.
- Evidence that the project represents good value for money.
- Demonstration of organisational funding needs and sustainability strategy/s.

Zoe Support provides a holistic playgroup with wrap-around services for mothers.

How to apply

An online application form will be available on the Mary MacKillop Today Community Grants webpage https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/what-we-do/our-projects/grants/. A downloadable version is also available on request.

Applications are accepted for one funding round each year.

Previous grantees are encouraged to apply.

How we assess your application

All applications are initially assessed by Mary MacKillop Today staff for eligibility and fit with the Purpose and Selection Criteria. Eligible applications are then assessed by a Committee that includes parties with relevant professional expertise.

Recommendations for funding provided by the Grants Committee are approved by the Mary MacKillop Today Board and Chief Executive Officer.

Annex 1: What is a public benevolent institution?

Characteristics of a public benevolent institution:

A public benevolent institution (PBI) is a type of charitable institution whose main purpose is to relieve poverty or distress.

Public benevolent institutions are recognised by the ACNC and Australian Tax Office (ATO) as a subtype of charity.

What is a 'main purpose of benevolent relief'?

Benevolent relief includes working for the relief of poverty or distress (such as sickness, disability, destitution, suffering, misfortune or helplessness). The degree (level) of distress is also important and your charity only meets the definition if its purposes try to meet a need that is:

- significant enough (and the circumstances difficult enough) to arouse compassion in people in the community
- beyond the suffering experienced as part of ordinary daily life, and
- concrete enough – aimed at helping people who are recognisably in need of benevolence (see below).

The purpose does not have to be to relieve financial hardship or need caused by poverty but can relieve other needs. For example, a charity that provides counselling services to people traumatised by a natural disaster, or one that provides education and activities to disadvantaged young people to help them gain skills in life may be a public benevolent institution.

As long as a charity's main purpose is benevolent, it can also have other non-benevolent purposes that are incidental.

Who does my charity have to provide benevolent relief to?

The relief provided must only be for people. Your charity must also show that it works for a section of the community that clearly needs help, in other words 'people in need'. General or abstract purposes such as benefiting the whole community are not enough.

An example may be a charity that provides assistance to homeless people within a certain community.

If it can show that the community it works for is in need of assistance, it can be a public benevolent institution.

This information was retrieved from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, 13 April 2017. See https://www.acnc.gov.au/ACNC/FTS/Fact_PBI.aspx for more information and links.

Annex 2: Grantee Compliance Requirements

Grantees are expected to deliver their projects in a way that reflects good practice regarding safeguarding and child protection, financial management, the management of complaints and feedback, and the principles of non-discrimination.

As such, there are a number of policies that will be extended to Grantees through our Grant Agreements. Before applying for a Grant, we encourage organisations to review these policies and ensure that they feel comfortable that they can comply with these requirements.

Safeguarding

This includes the steps we take to ensure children, vulnerable adults, staff, volunteers and partners are kept safe in the delivery of community projects. For Grantees, we have the following requirements:

1. **Policy & Code of Conduct:** Grantees have a Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct that lists behavioural standards for all staff, volunteers and others working on their projects which includes the requirement to report any concerning behaviour or alleged incidents.

2. **Recruitment Screening:** Any staff, volunteer or other representative working directly with children should undergo adequate recruitment screening including behaviour-based interview questions, verbal referee checks and working with children check or equivalent.

3. **Reporting:** Grantees have a reporting procedure that outlines how reports of misconduct are investigated and escalated within their organisation. This must include procedures for reporting to law enforcement for criminal offences.

4. **Reporting to Mary MacKillop Today:** Grantees are required to immediately report any safeguarding incidents to Mary MacKillop Today (within 2 working days) if these occur or are reported to the organisation in the delivery of the funded project.

Applicants submitting projects that involve working with children or contact with children may be requested to provide copies of their policies and procedures during the shortlisting process.

If your organisation does not have any of the above policies or procedures, they must be willing to comply with the requirements of Mary MacKillop Today in the delivery of the funded activity.

Complaints & Feedback

This provides all people with the opportunity to provide feedback or make a complaint about the work of Mary MacKillop Today or any of our partners. This ensures our programs are responsive, meet the needs and priorities of communities, and identify any negative impacts of our work. Grantees should:

1. Regularly provide opportunities for participants and others in the community to provide feedback or make a complaint about their organisations

2. Ensure participants in the project are aware that the project has received funding from Mary MacKillop Today and understand that they can make a complaint directly to Mary MacKillop Today at complaints@marymackilloptoday.org.au

Financial Wrongdoing

This requires the accountable, transparent and ethical use of project funds and requires partners to ensure that project funds are used only for approved purposes. This includes ensuring project funds are protected from fraud, and that funds are managed and acquitted in line with good practice financial management standards.

Non-Development

Mary MacKillop Today is a community development organisation. Our purpose is to enable individuals and communities to build skills for self-sufficiency, regardless of their faith tradition, gender, age, political beliefs or any other factors. Mary MacKillop Today is therefore not able to provide funds for any projects that:

1. **Promote a particular religious adherence:** Mary MacKillop Today defines the promotion of particular religious adherence as preferencing community members who adhere to the Catholic/Christian faith at the exclusion of others or using our projects as a tool for the evangelisation of the Catholic/Christian or any other faith. This includes scripture or religious education programs, church infrastructure or resourcing, or any projects that explicitly target a particular faith group at the exclusion of others.

2. **Support a particular political party or candidate:** Mary MacKillop Today defines the support or promotion of a particular political party as any explicit or implied alignment between Mary MacKillop Today, our partners or our projects with a particular political candidate, party or ideology. This includes using Mary MacKillop Today funds, partner personnel or resources (such as cars, stationary or office space) to aid in a political campaign.

3. **Adopt primarily welfare or charity-model approaches:** Welfare or charity-model activities are those that may provide relief from poverty or distress but address the symptoms rather than the underlying causes of poverty or inequality. Mary MacKillop Today does support a small number of Welfare projects, however prioritises projects that address the causes of poverty and inequality through activities that build skills for self-sufficiency and independence.