

Mary MacKillop Today Community Grants

About Mary MacKillop Today

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.

Mary MacKillop Today seeks to empower and transform lives through self-determination, access to education and the learning of practical life skills.

About the Community Grants Program

For over twenty years, the Community Grants program has supported and empowered some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities within Australian society by partnering with organisations to improve 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 10th August** and **5pm 14th September 2020**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The 2021 round of the Community Grants Program will trial two streams of funding:

Stream 1: Open ONLY to Sisters of Saint Joseph (SOSJ) and associated entities.

- This will be a competitive process with the same eligibility criteria as stated below applying to SOSJ and associated entities who wish to apply.
- \$50,000 AUD in grant money allocated for Stream 1.

Stream 2: Open to ALL applicants who meet the eligibility criteria (SOSJ and associated entities not eligible to apply under this Stream).

- This will be a competitive process with the same eligibility criteria as stated below applying to all applicants.
- \$115,000 AUD in grant money allocated for Stream 2.

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. See our website for an overview of current Grantees.

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 teaching and learning resources, ensuring learning environments are culturally and linguistically inclusive)
- Provide learning opportunities which empower people **to strengthen skills for self-sufficiency** (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. Target 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

Eligibility Criteria

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

- 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.
- Given the size and nature of our funding, preference will be given to 'Small' and 'Medium' Charities as defined by the ACNC i.e. with annual revenue below \$1,000,000. Organisations with higher revenue should demonstrate that they have limited alternative revenue streams to fund their community work.
- Applications must align with the mission and purpose of Mary MacKillop Today and the Community Grants Program
- Applications are for a maximum of \$10,000 AUD
- Project activities funded by the Community Grant must be completed between 1 January and 31 December 2021 (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 (*see Annex 1 for further details on PBI status*)
- Previous Grantees are able to apply for either an existing or new project; however, it should be noted that we are unable to fund ongoing service delivery, and we encourage grantees to show how the funding will enhance the project and build sustainability.
- 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.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Selection Criteria	Assessment Questions i.e. “To what extent...”
1. Project is a strong fit with Mary MacKillop Today’s Mission and the Community Grants Program Priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project align with Mary MacKillop Today’s mission and values? • Does the project align well with one or more of the Grants Program Priorities?
2. Project is a unique response to a community need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the project responding to a genuine need in the community? • Is it clear that members of the affected community have identified this need and support the project? • Does the project fill a gap not already being addressed by other actors?
3. Project is likely to have broad community impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people will this project impact? • Does the project promote the leadership of affected communities? • Is the project likely to have a broader community impact outside the direct participants?
4. Project is likely to achieve sustainable change in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project address the underlying causes of the need it seeks to address? • Will the project build skills for self-determination? • Will the project lead to lasting change in the community (e.g. new skills, networks, resources or services that will continue after the project)?
5. Funding of up to \$10,000 will be significant to the Grantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the grant funding help the Grantee to ‘kick-start’ a new idea or strengthen their ongoing work? • Will the grant funding help the Grantee demonstrate their impact and get ‘runs on the board’ for future funding applications? • Is the organisation below the annual revenue threshold? • Are there alternative or more appropriate sources of funding available for the Grantee?
6. Applicant organisation has the ability to deliver the activities planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the organisation have a track record of delivering similar projects? • Does the organisation have good relationships with and support from within the affected community? • Does the organisation have the networks and partnerships it needs to achieve the planned response?

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 person who has cultural authority to discuss your organisation and proposed project.

Examples of projects that have received funding previously include:

- a mobile library that provides reading classes for young people living in disadvantaged communities.
- positive parenting workshops for men transitioning into community following drug and alcohol rehabilitation.
- hospitality and cooking classes for refugees and asylum seekers.
- computer literacy classes for survivors of forced trafficking and slavery.
- work experience and mentoring opportunities for First Nations young people.
- development of a visual tool to allow people with disability to access services that are tailored to their needs.

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 which can be submitted via email or mail. Applications received by mail must be postage stamped prior to 5pm on 14th September 2020.

Applications are accepted for one funding round each year.

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. We do not require Grantees to have all of these policies in place but should be able to demonstrate how they can work within these principles.

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. If the project is working with children or contact with children and the organisation does not have a Code of Conduct, all project staff and volunteers will be required to adhere to Mary MacKillop Today's Code of Conduct in the delivery of project activities.
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.

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 other methods of application, for example via video, mixed media or other innovative methods.

You can contact Chrys to discuss your project or application via phone 0482 782 099 or email chrys.fernando@marymackilloptoday.org.au - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.