

# coalition of **community**boards

Sunshine Coast

## Notes made from Workshop – Money Doesn't Always Buy (Your Group) Happiness : A Grants Conversation

4 March 2020, @ Nambour Showgrounds

- \* Are there other options aside for seeking grant money to resource your groups activities?
  - \* What are ways to ensure that a grant doesn't take you down a path that is at odds with your mission and objectives.
  - \* What are the responsibilities for funding that you need to discuss with your committee, volunteers and staff.
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### **Why Apply for Grants**

- To help pursue the core business of the group
- To undertake a project eg have air con, do community art work etc
- To achieve our groups goals
- Upgrade facility or IT
- To help with organisational costs like insurance (comment made that cooperatively purchasing items like insurance can save groups money). Additional comment made that seeking grants for 'operational' costs like insurance may not be a sustainable option for the group and very much depends on circumstances around the grant and the piece of work proposed, so discuss with grant contact.
- Scale up
- Purchase equipment or expand
- For training purposes for volunteers and committee

## **Other options of obtaining \$ other than grants**

- Work “doublehard” – volunteers
- Ask for membership fee, maybe have categories that include a quasi-sponsorship option
- Fundraising
- Social enterprise
- Corporates / partners – offer them a service or product that provides benefits. Or corporate inducements
- Save money by bulk buying
- Seek in kind support for specific activities
- Barter for goods or services
- Sponsorship or seeking donations
- Partnering, eg with other local groups or service clubs

## **What Preparation works need to occur when applying for grant**

- Invest in the funding relationship – build relationship with people who provide the grant
- Share grant contact details so it's not all with only one person
- Ask Q's of grant provider to clarify eligibility, appropriate of your proposed application
- Show appreciation for grants writer or grant writing team with flowers, chocolates etc, acknowledge their work and celebrate outcome when successful.
- If grant application successful calendar up all the necessary pieces of work attached to the grant, such as when work needs to be completed by, acquittal date, etc.
- Practice “telling your story” and then include that in the grant application
- Share your story;
  - to help find others for your group
  - to find other groups to work with
  - hosting get together is a good way to spread the word and acknowledge contributions
- have accurate project plan with good \$ costings and timeframes – this also helps build confidence with potential funders as well as means that you can get done all you hope to with the grant.
- Have all the ‘permissions’ and authorisations sorted before applying for the grant so that the activity can begin if the grant is successful and isn't obstructed.
- Get multiple quotes initially to ensure you get the best value for money and also have backups once things begin if first choice quote can no longer deliver.

## What work can “spin off” the grant process

- If unsuccessful ask for feedback to ensure that you at least get some learnings for future applications from the process.
- Be aware that when your successful with a grant application their comes expectations around accountability and responsibility – failure to live up to these can do damage to your group.
- Also when your successful with a grant application it brings with it some reputational ‘endorsement’
- Be sure that you have appropriate insurance in place when you start the work associated with a successful grant.
- Grant writing can be a lonely process, ideally get a small team together to support one another and share the work load. Acknowledge and support the individuals who attend to your grants.
- Make sure that information around a grant (log in’s, passwords, emails, important dates, relevant contacts etc are centrally stored so multiple people in your organisational can access them and not just one person – in case they leave, get unwell etc).
- Work on building a relationship with the funding body, they want to share in your story and activity and also can add value to the process

## Finishing the Grant process

- Financial spend – acquittal
- Contac the grant / funder if initial plans vary once the activity underway
- Likewise, if at any time if starts to feel a little ‘scary’ with how its progressing, contact the funder and have a discussion.
- Photo receipts as evidence of expenditure
- Photos of progress, completion and work underway are great evidence of grant outcome.
- Plan for timeframes around acquittal

**Sources of information about grants and available funding opportunities** (there are many available on the internet, below is just a small sample, some are subscription based, others are free)

- Sunshine Coast Councils grants page - [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Living-and-Community/Grants-and-Funding/Grants-Programs](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Living-and-Community/Grants-and-Funding/Grants-Programs)
- Our Community grants service - <https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/home>
- Funding Finder Noosa Council - <https://noosa.grantguru.com.au/>
- QCOSS grants page - <https://www.qcoss.org.au/grants/ongoing-grants/>