



# 2025 SOCIAL CONNECTION GRANTS



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## What is a Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)?

SIAG is a community-led group making decisions and developing solutions at a local level to support social connection and inclusion. Each SIAG is facilitated by their local council with funding provided by the Victorian Government.

## Social connections grants

Social Connection Grants are grants up to a value of \$1,500.00 that aim to support local community groups and other organisations to hold events and activities that create opportunities for connection and inclusion. Enhancing social connections can provide much-needed support and create positive experiences.

The funding of the SIAG program and initiatives has been made possible through funding provided by the Victorian Government Department of Health.

We encourage anyone considering applying for a Social Connection grant to discuss their application with the Social Inclusion Action Group Coordinator on 5761 2256 or [socialinclusion@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:socialinclusion@benalla.vic.gov.au)

## Eligibility

This section of the application is designed to help you, and us, understand if you are eligible to apply for funding. It's crucial that you complete these questions before any others to ensure you do not waste your time.

## Eligible Applicants

To be eligible to apply for a Social Inclusion Grant you must:

- Be a resident, community group, organisation or business that can demonstrate how the grant will be utilised to support the Benalla Rural City community
- Be based or deliver services within the Benalla Rural City municipality
- Have satisfactorily accounted to Council for the expenditure of any previous Social Connection grants
- Hold relevant insurances to administer the event or project
- Comply with all relevant Local Laws, Australian and Victorian legislation.

## **Eligible Applications**

This application process is open to applications to stage an event, activity, or project to deliver one (or multiple) of the key objectives listed below.

1. Create opportunities for social connections and inclusion.
2. Improving mental health and resilience

Funding could cover expenses such as:

- Catering
- Entertainment (e.g. band, face painter)
- Venue or equipment hire - assistance covering hire of external facilities and equipment
- Subsidised use of Council facilities and resources
- Guest speakers, facilitators (where they are not otherwise compensated through an employer)
- Printing or promotional costs
- Decorations
- Purchase of resources for the event/activity
- Reasonable facilitator or coordination fees, where the applicant is not already being paid by their employer to deliver the project (e.g. a karate instructor may apply for a grant and cover the costs of the karate facilitation, if they are not also being paid by an employer)

## **Funding Exclusions**

- Projects that do not involve the Benalla community
- Individuals or applications that only benefit individuals (for example scholarships, sponsorship, awards)
- Applicants who offer a 'fee for service' to the community that would likely cover the costs of the event without causing hardship to the group
- Applicants who have not adequately acquitted previous funding provided by SIAG
- Applications that are considered by SIAG to be the funding responsibility of other levels of Government (State or Federal government agencies)
- Community organisations that receive funding from other areas of council; except where funding is proposed for a different purpose
- Projects that have already started or have been completed
- Funding of prizes, donations, gifts, grant giving programs, award ceremonies and fundraising events
- Projects that will have a negative impact on the environment
- Staff wages and salaries where those costs are already paid by an employer
- Projects better funded from other sources e.g. fees, sponsorships

## Funding Terms and Conditions

- Applications must be submitted through the [Benalla Rural City Council online grants portal](#).
- A member of the organisation's executive must sign the application.
- When the applicant becomes aware of the exact date of the event or activity, they must advise the SIAG Coordinator.
- All grants must be used for the purposes outlined in the application.
- All activities associated with the project must be legal, include all required permits and comply with Child Safe Standards.
- Applicants must indicate all other sources of funding they have sought and/or received in relation to the project.
- Wherever possible goods and services should be purchased from Benalla-based providers.
- The financial support provided by SIAG as part of the Council must be acknowledged wherever possible. This includes having the SIAG, Benalla Rural City Council and Victorian State Government logo on all media release material.
- Successful applicants must complete an acquittal with evidence that the grant funding has been used for the purpose described in the application.
- Grant funds must be expended within 12 months of being awarded funds.
- Successful organisations agree to the Council using information from their project in its Annual Report, Council publications and reports to the funding body.
- All grants must be used for the purposes outlined in the application.
- Any variation to the use of the grant funding must be approved by the SIAG Committee.