

A Thriving Community Where Everyone Belongs



MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2020

New fund to boost community COVID-19 support

Community groups delivering COVID-19 emergency relief and recovery to City of Melton residents will be eligible for grants up to \$5000 to support their continued work under a special new fund established by Melton City Council.

Council has allocated \$100,000 from the 2020/21 Community Grants Program to deliver its new COVID-19 Community Relief and Recovery Fund.

The temporary funding stream is designed to support the work of Council and non-for-profit community groups in assisting residents who are vulnerable, isolated, or otherwise in need of additional support during the pandemic.

It will also maximise the community benefit of Council's new Connector Hubs which help residents understand and access the support available to them during the COVID-19 crisis including relief packages, counselling, job-readiness programs, social connection, education opportunities and more.

Non-for-profit community groups and service organisations will need to demonstrate that they are able to deliver timely crisis support and emergency relief, among the selection criteria.

City of Melton Mayor Cr Lara Carli said she was proud that Council's new fund would maximise the support available to residents.

"We are incredibly grateful to the many community groups who are playing an active role in helping vulnerable residents and I'm proud that Council can offer a new fund that will maximise these opportunities," Cr Carli said.

"These efforts to provide support services and basic necessities have been absolutely critical to the many local people financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and are complementary to the support Council is also providing.

"We know that the demand for these services has been extraordinarily high and this fund will help our generous community groups continue and grow their services to residents in this time of need."

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To find out more and apply for a COVID-19 Community Relief and Recovery Fund grant, go to melton.vic.gov.au/communitygrants

Residents in need are encouraged to connect with support services at one of Council's three Community Connector Hubs in Kurunjang, Aintree and Caroline Springs. To make an appointment, go to melton.vic.gov.au/getconnected

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Kylie Kitchen – Media and Communications Officer on 0427 595 552.