

Mansfield Social Inclusion Action Group

Funding Guidelines

2026



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Purpose

This funding supports local groups and initiatives that help:

- Prevent social exclusion.
- Increase social inclusion.
- Build stronger community connections.

Funding Details

- **Grants up to \$5,000**
- **Only one application per organisation**
- **Funding is for projects delivered within 12 months**

Who Can Apply?

- Not-for-profit community groups and organisations **within Mansfield Shire**

Who Cannot Apply?

- Individuals
- Businesses or political groups
- Groups or individuals **outside** Mansfield Shire
- Applicants with **outstanding debts** or **unacquitted previous grants** from Council, unless otherwise approved by SIAG.

What We Fund (Examples of Eligible Projects)

Projects must increase **social inclusion** and **community participation**, especially for:

- Young people
- Single parents
- People not in education, employment, or training
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Refugees
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- People with disabilities
- LGBTQIA+ communities
- Older adults

Examples of eligible initiatives:

- Community BBQs and social events.
 - Projects identifying and engaging isolated community members.
 - Expanding existing programs to more sessions or locations.
 - Activities in remote or rural areas of the Shire.
 - Events offering **subsidised costs** for disadvantaged participants.
 - Applications from smaller or emerging community groups.
 - Equipment that helps increase inclusion and participation.
 - Accessibility upgrades (must be completed using the grant to measure impact).
 - Promotion of programs in multiple languages and accessible formats.
 - Monthly or regular social gatherings.
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What We Don't Fund

- Staff wages or payments for project planning.
 - Buying land or buildings.
 - General admin and media.
 - Maintenance under your lease/tenancy.
 - Projects already completed or started before funding approval.
 - Events or programs **not open to the community**.
 - Applications over the \$5,000 limit.
 - Coaching fees (impact is hard to measure for inclusion).
 - Events that charge full price without offering **discounts for disadvantaged groups**.
 - Well-funded organisations with existing community support.
 - Infrastructure projects that **can't be fully completed** with this funding.
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How to Apply

1. **Check you meet the eligibility criteria**
 2. **Contact** Simon Donohoe on **0474 590 970** for support
 3. **Get quotes** for any project expenses
 4. **Read these guidelines carefully**
 5. **Gather all supporting documents**
 6. **Submit your complete application before the deadline**
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How Your Application is Assessed

Eligible applications will be reviewed by Council staff, then assessed by the **Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG)** using these criteria:

- **What:** What is your project about?
- **Who:** Who will benefit from it?
- **Why:** Why is this project needed?
- **How:** How will you deliver it, promote it, and measure its success?

Reporting Requirements (Acquittal)

If funded, you must:

- Share photos and participation numbers.
 - Use SIAG surveys every 3 months to measure social inclusion outcomes.
 - If ongoing, complete surveys at start, middle, and end of program.
 - Submit **Midterm (6 months)** and **Final (12 months)** financial acquittal forms.
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