

# Funding For Young People

Got a great idea? Know of a way you could change your community? Don't despair there is funding and support available to support your project.

## POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING

There are a range of possible ways to fund your project. These include:

- Philanthropic organisations (organisations that provide grants)
- Government Projects (such as National Youth Week)
- Local Governments
- Private Sponsorship
- Your own fundraising

### Philanthropic Groups

Many philanthropic organisations provide grants to support projects, such as the Foundation for Young Australians. The Foundation for Young Australians is a not-for-profit organisation committed to developing innovative initiatives that support and empower the lives of young Australians aged 12 to 25. They provide funding for ideas; proactively seek co-funding to support initiatives; and support grant recipients to ensure long-term sustainability. Many different funding opportunities are available from the Foundation for Young Australians around the year. To find out more details, see <http://www.youngaustralians.org/>

There are many other philanthropic organisations, beyond the Foundation for Young Australians, that may assist with your project. For more information on other philanthropic groups see <http://www.philanthropy.org.au>

### Government Funding

Philanthropic groups are only way possible way to seek funding for your project. Often the State Government provides funding for community projects. The Office for Youth provides information about available grants at [http://www.youth.vic.gov.au/web21/ofy/dvcofy.nsf/headin\\_gpagesdisplay/grants+and+programs](http://www.youth.vic.gov.au/web21/ofy/dvcofy.nsf/headin_gpagesdisplay/grants+and+programs)

The Department for Victorian Communities also provides grants that are not specific to young people, to find out more about these opportunities see <http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/>

### Local Councils

Occasionally local councils will offer funding opportunities to support projects in their area. The best way to find out about these finding opportunities is to look at your councils web page, or ask your council directly about the possibility of a grant. To find your local councils web page try the Department of Infrastructures web page [http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/doi/internet/localgov.nsf/headin\\_gpagesdisplay/victorian+local+governments](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/doi/internet/localgov.nsf/headin_gpagesdisplay/victorian+local+governments)

### Private Sponsorship

Occasionally, private businesses or individuals will be interested in funding or providing resources for a one-off project. It might be worthwhile approaching businesses or individuals that are somehow 'related' to your project to see if they would be interested. For example, if your project was looking at regenerating native plants in a local park, your local nursery may be interested in donating native seedlings. Try and be creative, often businesses will be happy to provide resources, maybe your local butcher could donate the sausages to provide a sausage sizzle...

### Fundraising

If you feel that you could obtain the necessary funds for your project through your own fundraising, this may be the easiest way to fund your project. Tried and tested approaches like holding a sausage sizzle or car wash can generate small amounts of funding. Some organisations actively support community fundraising opportunities, such as Cadburys chocolate (<http://www.fundraising.com.au/>) and Tesselaar bulbs (<http://www.tesselaar.net.au>). There are heaps of other ways you may want to fundraise. For more ideas, check out <http://www.fundraisingideas.com.au/>

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all funding sources or ways to find resources for your project. As each project is unique, and needs unique resources, there is probably hundreds of other ways to support *your* project. Why not have a brainstorming session and cast the net as widely as you can to think of ways to provide funding for your project?

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## FUNDING APPLICATIONS

Many of the options listed will ask you to complete a funding application form. Different funding organisations will have different application forms, check with the organisation to make sure you have the correct application form.

### Tips for Completing and Application Form

- Different Funding Organisations have particular rules about who is eligible for a grant. Check with the organisation about your eligibility
- Most funding organisations require you to fill in an application form which they will provide. Make sure you read the application carefully and pay particular attention to the funding guidelines.
- Respond to questions in clear concise language
- In your application, highlight the ways in which your proposal is in line with the values and goals of the funding organisation
- You might need to apply for several funding organisations as your first application may not necessarily be successful. It's good to try to have a back up plan in case you don't get the grant

## BUDGETS

Many of the application forms will ask you to supply a proposed budget. Even if they don't, it's a good idea to have a budget prepared, just so you realistically know how much money your project will require. To work out your budget, you need to consider which resources you need. Resources can include materials, space, time, skills, people, knowledge as well as money. It is worthwhile considering:

### What resources do you already have?

What resources do you already have to put towards your project? Don't forget to think about the skills of the people involved.

### What else do you need?

What else do you think you need at this point, and where might you get it? Is it possible to borrow it from friends, family or school; hire it; or access council resources?

### Financial resources:

Using your list of what resources you already have and which resources you need, it is possible to draw up a budget outlining the cost involved of ensuring you have the necessary resources. A sample budget is below:

**Parklands example budget for a clean up day:** Taken from *Creating Change in Your Community: A Handbook for Young People*

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSE	COST
Photocopying flyers (200 copies at 5c each)	\$10.00
Hiring bins for rubbish (2 Skip bins at \$75.00 each)	\$150.00
Gloves (50) and garbage bags for volunteers (100)	\$50.00
Lunch for volunteers (Sandwiches and drinks)	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Lunch for Volunteers donated by Rotary	\$100.00
Photocopying donated by school library	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
<b>INCOME NEEDED</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>

**Good luck with your project!** If you would like some extra ideas on how to plan, do, or evaluate your project, please feel free to contact the Youth Affairs Council to receive a free copy of *Creating Change in Your Community: A Handbook for Young People*. Released by YACVic and the Office for Youth, this handbook is a complete guide to running a community project for young people. **Please note, however, that the Youth Affairs Council does not offer funding for projects.**