

The Wellington Shire Council Seniors Festival is a celebration of community residents aged over 60 and recognises the valuable contribution they make to our community.

The 2025 Festival will be largely community driven and include free or low-cost events. It will form part of the wider [Victorian Seniors Festival](#) which runs from 1-31 October 2025. The theme for this year's festival is 'Connect, Create and Celebrate' encouraging older Victorians to stay curious and connected by exploring new social, cultural and community activities, meeting new people and changing how we think about ageing.

Applications for funding are invited from the seniors' community, club, groups or organisations operating in Wellington Shire Council who are offering an activity catering primarily to older people align with, and support, the Victorian Seniors Festival.

### **Grant Objectives**

We are keen to include events that showcase positive and active ageing such as social, sporting, education, cultural, multicultural, and intergenerational events. The events must take place between **Wednesday, 1 October and Friday, 31 October 2025.**

To promote active ageing by:

- Decreasing social isolation
- Increasing awareness of opportunities that exist to seniors in our community
- Encourage community to try something new
- Celebrate positive ageing and explore creativity

It should also seek to support seniors' groups and organisations by:

- Increasing the membership, attendance, or volunteering within senior's groups
- Encourage diversity in participation and attendance

### **How much is available?**

The total funding pool is \$2000. Groups can apply for either \$250 or \$500 per application to assist with expenses. Only one application per group is permitted.

### **Who can apply?**

Any community, clubs, groups or organisations operating in Wellington Shire Council and must be:

- Non-for-profit organisations and community groups unless auspiced.

- Non-government and non-political
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or provide a Statement by a Supplier Form, from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). If your organisation isn't incorporated and not registered as a not-for-profit legal entity, you will require an auspice who is registered and incorporated.

## **Eligibility criteria**

To be eligible for funding; a club, group or organisation must be:

- Located in Wellington Shire Council or intend to run a program/event in Wellington
- Be free or be affordable (under \$15 to participate) and offer value for money
- Address the theme 'Connect, Create and Celebrate.' and at least one of the following:
  - Encourage people to try something new and get creative
  - Promote social connections
  - Celebrate positive ageing
- Provide an overall summary of costs of the project and provide quotes if applicable (e.g. for advertising, promotion, venue hire)
- Provide current bank statement
- Support the promotion of future events by submitting photos of participants engaging in your event (as part of the acquittal process)

## **What can be funded:**

- Materials, equipment and other items essential to the project/event
- Entertainment
- Printing, advertising, translations and promotional costs
- Costs incurred in hiring a venue (excluding costs associated with business premises rental)
- Costs associated with encouraging participation of people aged 60 years and older
- Cost of transport for participants to and from your activity (within Wellington Shire)
- Awards, trophies, prizes, beverages and catering

## **What can't be funded:**

- Projects/programs/transport for activities based outside of Wellington Shire Council
- Items or activities that are a part of an organisations core business or their normal day to day operating expenses e.g. wages, insurances, utilities, rental of business premises ec.t)
- Any project that can be considered minor capital works
- Individuals
- Projects or events that have commenced or been held, or equipment purchased retrospectively.

## **What assistance will your group receive from Wellington Shire Council?**

We will:

- provide advice on publicity and other guidance where necessary
- support promotion of the event in our 2025 Seniors Festival in the Bass Coast poster, and via social media
- send around event details to networks on your behalf

## **Criteria for allocation of funding**

Applications will be assessed against the program objectives and allocated funding within the available program budget.

Should Applications received exceed available funding, priority will be based on the overall benefit for Wellington Shire Council seniors against the program objectives

## **Application process**

The application process is very easy.

A link to the Application form in SmartyGrants is available on Council's Seniors web page. You will need to set up a SmartyGrants login and password, if you don't already have one, and record it in a secure place for future use as the Payment and Acquittal forms relating to the grant will also be accessed through SmartyGrants.

Further instructions on how to complete the Application form are on the Wellington Seniors Festival application landing page.

## **Acceptance of funding**

Successful applicants will be notified via email and will be required to complete and submit a payment form in SmartyGrants. Payments will be made by direct deposit.

## **Acquittal of funding**

Once the project / event is complete you will be required to complete an Acquittal form in SmartyGrants. This will require responding to a couple of questions and uploading receipts for items you spent the grant funding on.

We would also like some photos of the activity which we may use to promote the Seniors Festival and other seniors events in subsequent years.

## **Key dates**

- Monday, 28 July 2025 - applications open.
- Sunday, 29 August 2025 - applications close.
- Week commencing 1 September 2025 - applicants advised outcome of their application.

Payment will be made to successful applicants once the Payment Form has been submitted in SmartyGrants. This form will be uploaded to successful applications once applicants have been advised of the outcome of their application.

Acquittal reports will be uploaded to the application once payment has been made and are to be completed and submitted no later than Friday, 28 November 2025.

## Further assistance

Contact Council's Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Rachel Ronaldson, via email [rachelr@wellington.vic.gov.au](mailto:rachelr@wellington.vic.gov.au) or telephone: 5142 3255 or [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au) (for people with communication difficulties)