Grants Report 2024-25

PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative insights to measure the overall impact of the City of PAE's grant offering during a chosen financial year.

In 2024-25 the City of PAE offered a suite of 17 grant programs to support local community groups, sporting clubs, businesses, artists, residents and individuals. The total budget allocated to grants for the year was $988,237, one of the largest across the South Australian local government sector.

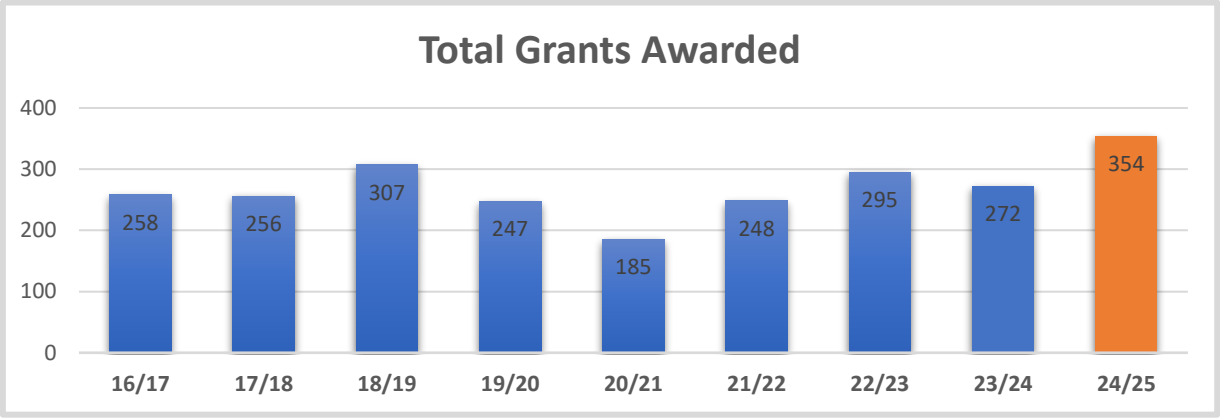
The 17 PAE grant programs are listed in the table below:

Community and Individual Grants	Arts, Placemaking and Events Grants	Heritage, Environment and Business Grants
Individual Grant	Placemaking Grant	Heritage Grant
Equipment Grant	Events Grant	Significant and Regulated Trees Assistance Scheme
Community Grant	Commemorative Event Fund (new)	Environmental Grant
Sport and Recreation Grant	Business Activation Grant	Green Business Incentive Scheme
Quick Response Grant	Creative Industry Grant	Small Business Growth Grant (new)
Lightsview Community Fund	Arts Organisation Fund (new)	

The total number of grant applications received in 2024-25 was 477, the highest number ever recorded by the City of PAE and an increase of 29% from the previous financial year. This is due to a mix of expanded supply (3 new grant programs were added to the existing offering) and growing demand from the community.

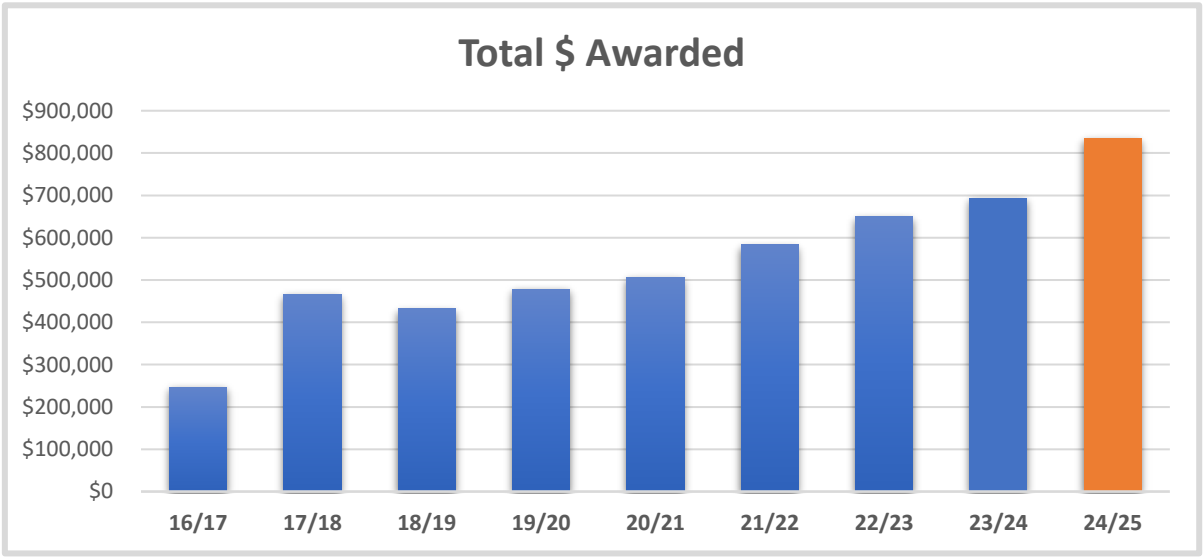
ANALYSIS

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED



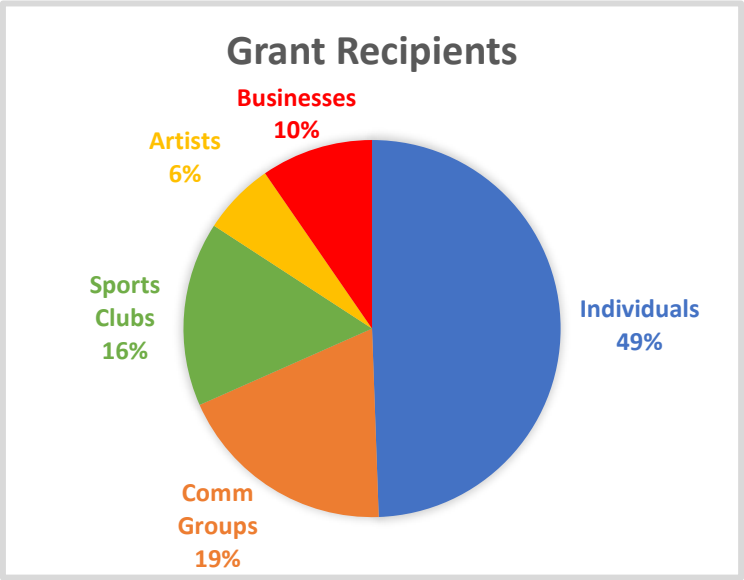
A total of 354 grants were approved and awarded, a 30% increase on the previous financial year. This is well above the average of total grants approved each year since 2016-17. It also continues the upward trend from the lowest number reached during COVID-19 where the ability to support activities, projects, events and purchases was significantly impacted.

TOTAL FUNDS AWARDED



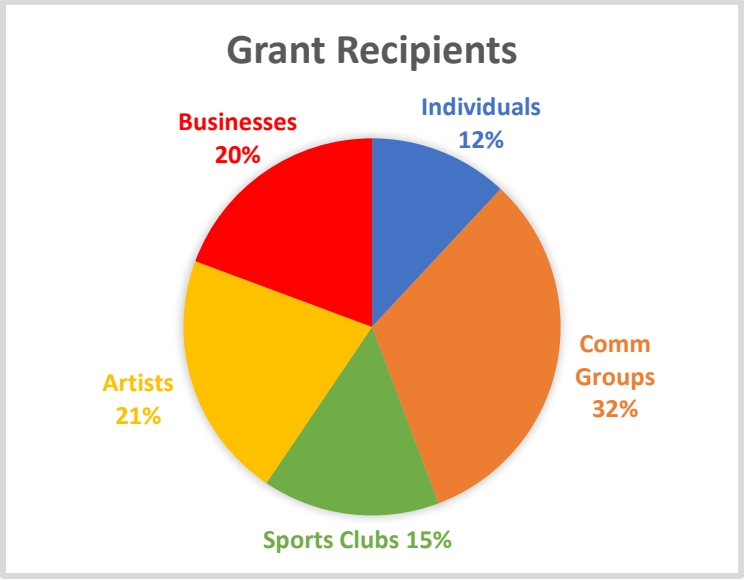
A total of $834,605 in grant funds was approved and awarded. This is consistent with both the growth in demand for grants as well as with the increased yearly overall grants budget, which has more than tripled since 2016-17. Each dollar spent in grants has the potential to lead to a fivefold investment back into the PAE community and economy.

GRANT RECIPIENTS (BY APPLICATION COUNT)



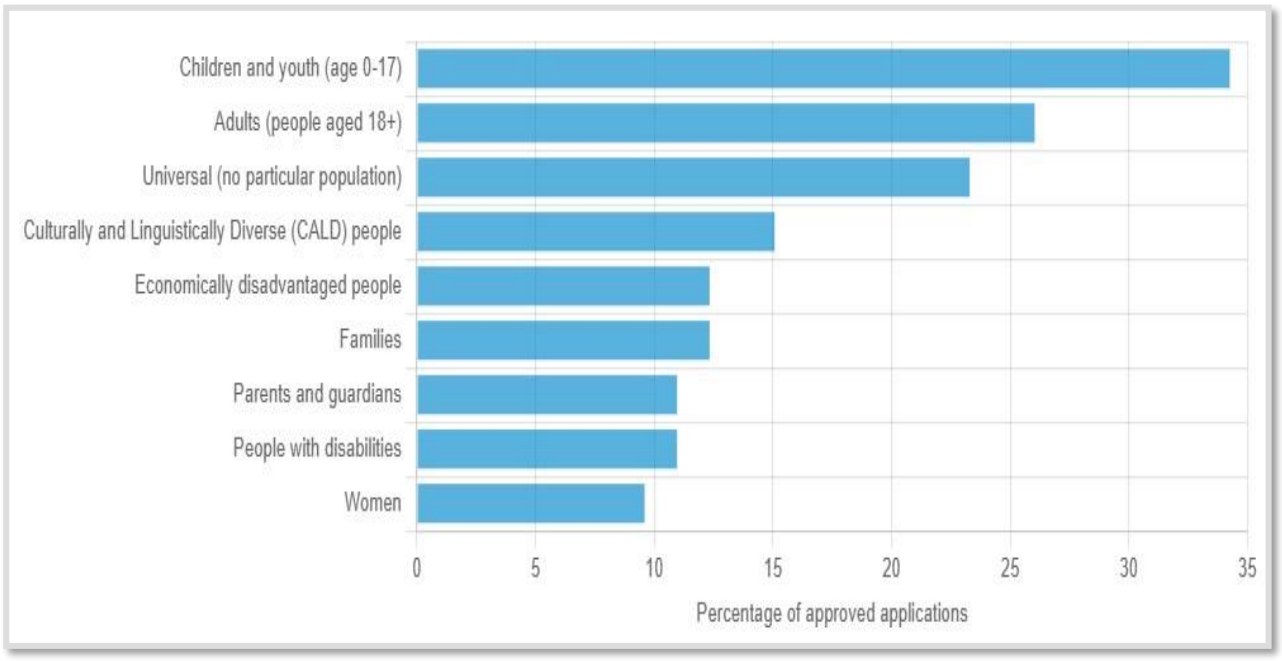
The majority of grants were awarded to individual residents (49%), mostly due to the popularity of the Individual Grant program.

GRANT RECIPIENTS (BY DOLLAR AMOUNT)



One third of the overall grant funding was awarded to community groups (32%), with artists/arts organisations (21%) and businesses (20%) sharing an equal proportion of the funds. It is worth noting that the introduction of the Small Business Growth Grant program in 2024-25 has provided an avenue for businesses to seek dedicated funding to grow their enterprise, filling a gap in the PAE grants offering. Similarly, the newly established Arts Organisation Fund has provided a mechanism for sustaining, growing and developing creativity, arts and culture in PAE.

TOP BENEFICIARIES (COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ONLY)



The breakdown of grants approved under the Community and Individual Grants category (with the exclusion of the Individual Grant program) shows that these grants have proportionally benefitted children and young people, adults, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) people, and economically disadvantaged people.

APPLICATION APPROVAL RATE (BY APPLICATION COUNT)

Of the 477 applications received, 467 were assessed, with the remaining withdrawn. Of the 467 assessed applications, 354 were approved, resulting in a 75% success rate. Remaining consistent with the previous year (76%), this rate is relatively high and indicates a high proportion of applicants got a positive return in applying for a City of PAE grant.

APPLICATION APPROVAL RATE (BY DOLLAR AMOUNT)

A total of $1,235,006 was requested, with $834,605 approved and awarded, resulting in a 68% approval rate. While the organisation's ability to fund remains high due to an increase in the overall grants budget, this indicates significant demand for PAE grant programs, particularly for the Events Grant, Creative Industry Grant, Community Grant, Equipment Grant, and Sport & Recreation Grant programs.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION RATE

A total of 739 grant applications were started, with 477 being subsequently completed, resulting in a 64% submission rate. This indicates that the majority of applicants did not likely have issues or barriers originating from the grant application processes. There is further opportunity to build community capacity by supporting those who have partially completed their application, and through a deeper consideration of removing barriers in accessing grant programs as part of the continuous improvement of grant making.

COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL GRANTS

Individual Grant: program supports PAE residents 25 years old and under, or who hold a low-income Health Care Card, to participate in personal development, leadership or competition opportunities. Funding supports intrastate, interstate and international opportunities.

Total amount requested: $42,101	Total amount awarded: $36,700
Applications submitted: 153	Number of recipients: 139
Background of recipients	45% male, 55% female 68% within the 12-17 years old age group 26% health care card holders (which is indicative of living in a low-income household) 4% self-identified as Aboriginal 7% self-identified as living with a disability

Outcomes supported: residents' participation in an array of sporting tournaments/competitions, arts performances and exhibitions, junior theatre festival, robotics competition, leadership programs, UN model experience, international cultural immersion experience and internship program.

Impact: this was PAE's most popular grant program, and Council's financial support helped recipients to achieve lifelong goals, foster physical and mental wellbeing, develop pathways to high performance and excellence, grow motivation, confidence and self-belief, improve discipline, communication and social awareness, enhance personal exposure, develop problem-solving skills, learn and be inspired by others, and appreciate the value of teamwork.

Community Grant: program supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with projects and initiatives that help local communities thrive by building community wellbeing, cohesion and capacity for PAE residents.

Total amount requested: $162,433.15	Total amount awarded: $95,110.54
Applications submitted: 24	Number of recipients: 14

Outcomes supported: delivery of diverse community-led initiatives from responsible dog ownership workshops, community garden and green urban spaces, Christmas activities for people experiencing social isolation, parenting courses for families experiencing violence, arts programs for women involved in the corrections system, to wellbeing workshops, literacy classes and First Aid training for CALD communities, as well as opportunities for local young people to participate in a STEM program, an outback adventure program and stress and anxiety management workshops.

Impact: increased participation in and connection to community and social activities/projects together with building a sense of belonging and wellbeing. These projects served to reduce social isolation and develop community networks whilst nurturing individual empowerment and facilitating community participation. These projects also supported respectful relationships whilst fostering diversity and inclusion.

Equipment Grant: program supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations to purchase urgent or necessary equipment required to deliver services, activities, or supports to the PAE community.

Total amount requested: $90,599.40	Total amount awarded: $57,174.25
Applications submitted: 50	Number of recipients: 33

Outcomes supported: purchase of a variety of equipment including defibrillators, computer/laptop, printer, kitchen appliances, marquees, kinder gym and playgroup equipment, sewing machines, gardening tools, and PA system.

Impact: equipment purchases allowed grassroots organisations to deliver efficiencies and replace outdated equipment, improving service delivery, encouraging participation and providing health and wellbeing benefits to participants and volunteers.

Quick Response Grant: program supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with emerging or unexpected needs and opportunities that will make a positive difference to the PAE community.

Total amount requested: $5,856.80	Total amount awarded: $4,251.80
Applications submitted: 12	Number of recipients: 9

Outcomes supported: offer of free period products at a sports club, offer of handmade gifts to isolated people in their neighbourhood, equipment replacement/upgrade to meet sudden surge in demand or unforeseen challenges, securing venue hire and addressing unexpected expenses.

Impact: the round enabled grassroots organisations to break down stigmas and barriers around period poverty and social isolation, reach larger audiences without compromising safety, comfort and service delivery, build stronger relationships within the community and enhance their capacity to deliver future initiatives.

Sport & Recreation Grant: program supports sport and recreation clubs in the PAE Sport Network by building strong and sustainable clubs through good governance practices, as well as participation programs and pathways for the benefit of the PAE community. The program has been reviewed, reshaping the scope of the grant to include a clear focus on supporting local sporting clubs.

Total amount requested: $98,742.50	Total amount awarded: $39,562.70
Applications submitted: 68	Number of recipients: 30

Outcomes supported: establishment of long-term strategic plans, Constitution review, policy development, building volunteers' capacity through training (i.e. First Aid, Responsible Service of Alcohol, Mental Health), coach education, implementation of new participation programs, purchase of new equipment and uniforms.

Impact: improvement in governance and club operations, upskilling and training of club volunteers and coaches, providing opportunities for the community to participate in new sport programs, supporting the growth of juniors/women participation through the purchase of new equipment and uniforms.

Lightsview Community Fund: program supports Lightsview residents with the delivery of community-led activities, projects, initiatives, civic programs and events that encourage community use of public spaces and continue building the story of the Lightsview community. The City of PAE administers this fund on behalf of the Lightsview developer (CIC Northgate Pty Ltd).

Total amount requested: $500	Total amount awarded: $500
Applications submitted: 1	Number of recipients: 1

Outcomes supported: purchase of treats for children on Halloween at the Rotary Club of Lightsview Trick or Treat event.

Impact: contribution to a community-led social activity and provision of a focal point for residents and neighbours to interact and socialise.

ARTS, PLACEMAKING AND EVENTS GRANTS

Placemaking Grant: program supports the delivery of collaborative projects in public spaces across the City to enliven and activate local places for the benefit and wellbeing of our communities and visitors.

Total amount requested: $68,632.44	Total amount awarded: $45,170.44
Applications submitted: 12	Number of recipients: 9

Outcomes supported: creation of public murals, live music performances, and inclusive community gatherings. It also enabled the expansion and beautification of a community garden, supported a youth-led film project in a local high school, and fostered artistic expression and collaboration across the region.

Impact: projects fostered meaningful partnerships and collaborations between artists, schools, community groups, and local government. Public spaces were enhanced and graffiti was reduced through creative placemaking efforts. Musicians received fair compensation, contributing to a more sustainable local arts economy. Community gatherings encouraged broad participation and strengthened social connections, while young people were empowered through hands-on creative learning experiences.

Creative Industry Grant: program supports creative practitioners to grow their practice and deliver projects that contribute to PAE's vision for a strong, creative, impactful and sustainable arts ecology. The program has been reviewed and it is now offered twice-yearly in competitive rounds to foster quality creative outcomes.

Total amount requested: $113,325.60	Total amount awarded: $62,635.60
Applications submitted: 24	Number of recipients: 13

Outcomes supported: a diverse array of artistic and cultural initiatives across music, film, visual art, theatre, photography, and design. Highlights included the production of a new music album, the creation of four short films, and a film released globally, and another created in an all-new format. Local and interstate artists were featured in a visual art exhibition, while theatre groups staged performances at the Adelaide Fringe and developed experimental works. Photography was showcased through a SALA exhibition in the Port, and a furniture design exhibition celebrated the unique character of PAE. Venues were equipped to better support live music and hosted events with paid musicians. A music producer created an 18-CD set featuring local talent, and a gallery welcomed an international curator to engage with the local arts scene.

Impact: projects enriched the cultural landscape and elevated the profile of local creatives. Artists gained national and international exposure, while musicians and performers received fair compensation, contributing to a more sustainable creative economy. Community access to diverse art forms was expanded through exhibitions, performances, and screenings. The grant fostered innovation in film and theatre, supported professional development, and strengthened the region's reputation as a hub for artistic excellence. Collaborative efforts between venues, artists, and producers helped build lasting infrastructure and opportunities for future creative growth.

Arts Organisation Fund: this newly established program supports Port Adelaide Enfield based professional not-for-profit arts organisations operating at a national level to contribute to the City of PAE creative ecology. It provides a mechanism for sustaining, growing and developing creativity, arts and culture in line with PAE's City Vision by attracting and supporting professional arts organisations to the region.

Total amount requested: $131,530	Total amount awarded: $79,000
Applications submitted: 4	Number of recipients: 2

Outcomes supported: a year-round public program of performances, residencies, events offered by Vitalstatistix at Waterside Workers Hall in Port Adelaide (3-year funding) and the implementation of a staged transition to strengthen Slingsby Theatre Company's presence in PAE to support the creation of sets and prop elements for the project "A Concise Compendium of Wonder" - a triptych of three reimagined fairy tales.

Impact: skills development and mentorship, industry leadership, local engagement, career pathways, cultural expression and connection, revenue generation and strategic partnerships.

Events Grant: program supports event organisers to deliver innovative, creative and sustainable events that align with PAE's City Vision to enhance economic, social and cultural life in PAE. These grants remain highly popular, with the full funding stream exhausted within five months from opening date. Together with Events Sponsorship and the new Commemorative Event Fund, the funding of events held by community organisers continues to be well supported by the City of PAE.

Total amount requested: $246,460	Total amount awarded: $214,062.50
Applications submitted: 37	Number of recipients: 33

Outcomes supported: diverse community-led events, from sports, music festivals, cultural celebrations, First Nations, community arts, and access and inclusion. Hosted by a variety of community and business organisations, the grants saw events delivered across the City, with many new event organisers accessing the program.

Impact: encouraging community-led and local activations across the broader council area.

Commemorative Event Fund: this newly established program supports RSL sub-branches (and other eligible organisations) operating within the City of PAE to deliver events which align with a nationally recognised commemorative date and acknowledge Australia's wartime heritage or significant service contributions in civilian life.

Total amount requested: $21,000	Total amount awarded: $21,000
Applications submitted: 4	Number of recipients: 4

Outcomes supported: community-led events commemorating ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day across the City.

Impact: meaningful public recognition and remembrance of Australia's wartime heritage.

Business Activation Grant: program supports local businesses and venues to activate their space, in alignment with select large-scale Council events delivered across the year, to enhance the economic, social and cultural life in PAE. It encourages businesses to work with performers and creative practitioners to deliver a critical mass of activity around significant events.

Total amount requested: $5,700	Total amount awarded: $4,700
Applications submitted: 6	Number of recipients: 5

Outcomes supported: a diverse range of activations associated with Dockside Festival and New Year's Eve celebrations including Port Adelaide heritage walking tours, Port River twilight cruise, Port River marine exhibition, live performance of Plant Music at People's Market and family-friendly NYE party at Semaphore South foreshore.

Impact: the local business community was able to participate in Council-led initiatives without significant financial risk. Whilst the funding amount is small, the grant program is supported through the work of the Creative Port Placemaking Officer and the Activation & Events Coordinator, who actively manage these important relationships.

HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS GRANTS

Heritage Grant: program supports owners of Local Heritage Places and Representative Buildings to maintain, conserve or restore places of local heritage significance. The program has been reviewed to provide a more flexible and customer-driven approach offering a rolling grant round over a 12-month period (or until funds are exhausted).

Total amount requested: $69,195	Total amount awarded: $46,012.50
Applications submitted: 26	Number of recipients: 19

Outcomes supported: undertaking of 'like for like' works for structural timber repairs, restumping, window replacement, restoration of decorative ironwork, and brickwork repointing/repairs. The majority of funded properties were located in Semaphore and Largs Bay. 15% were Local Heritage Places with the remainder being Representative Buildings.

Impact: 90% of these works provided a structural benefit that significantly added longevity to the place, whilst the remaining provided considerable conservation benefit adding to the heritage value and streetscape appearance.

Significant and Regulated Trees Assistance Scheme: program supports the retention and protection of large trees in our neighbourhoods by helping landowners with tree maintenance costs on their properties. The program has been reviewed to align with recent changes in State Government legislation affecting the definition of significant and regulated trees.

Total amount requested: $24,248	Total amount awarded: $20,498
Applications submitted: 21	Number of recipients: 18

Outcomes supported: pruning and tree maintenance works.

Impact: the grant program was first launched as a trial in 2023-24 and subsequently it was offered on an ongoing basis from 2024-25, recognising the role that significant and regulated trees play in the urban setting of suburban Adelaide. It is noted that some applications for pruning were for quite good tree specimens where the value of the grant to the amenity of the locality was considered optimal. The maintenance and retention of these mature trees bring many benefits to our community in terms of scenic amenity, habitat provision, streetscape appeal, shading, and cooling effects.

Environmental Grant: program supports community groups to deliver environmental projects and initiatives that will protect and enhance the sustainability and environment of the local area by assisting in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve greening, manage resources more efficiently, protect our waterways and empower community-led approaches to climate change.

Total amount requested: $39,015.19	Total amount awarded: $28,025.19
Applications submitted: 9	Number of recipients: 7

Outcomes supported: waste management education initiatives, caring for sand dune habitat, tackling fishing litter, installation of solar and battery system, and improving tree canopy cover and biodiversity values.

Impact: opportunity for community not-for-profit organisations to improve their environmental performance and share their learnings with their local communities, build collaborations with others, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve City greening, cooling and biodiversity, reduce waste entering into local waterways and empowering community-led approaches to environment and climate change learning and action.

Green Business Incentive Scheme: program supports small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the City to implement sustainability initiatives that reduce environmental impact and

enhance long-term resilience. The Scheme provides targeted financial support for projects involving renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, emissions reduction planning, on-site greening, water-efficiency, circular economy practices and waste and/or energy efficiency audits. Following a 3-year trial, the program has been reviewed and it is offered on an annual basis as an ongoing program from 2024-25.

Total amount requested: $41,911.50	Total amount awarded: $30,250
Applications submitted: 8	Number of recipients: 5

Outcomes supported: 88.73 kW solar PV, 30 kWh battery storage, replacement of inefficient lighting with LED, rainwater capture and reuse system, and greening of carpark with mature trees. These achieved a combined annual emissions reduction of 109.52 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), making a measurable contribution to the City's community-wide emissions profile. The round attracted a total co-investment of $91,433 from a diverse range of local SMEs including a sporting facility, composter, trade supplier, real estate agent and takeaway food shop.

Impact: the Scheme helped participating businesses improve their environmental performance and financial resilience. Battery storage systems provided greater energy independence and blackout protection, while solar installations and water reuse systems lowered day-to-day operating costs, making these businesses more competitive and future ready. Urban greening projects contributed to local cooling, biodiversity and aesthetic improvements. Perhaps most importantly, the Scheme encouraged local enterprises to think strategically about their long-term sustainability goals. It also strengthened relationships between Council and businesses, laying the groundwork for ongoing collaboration and future partnerships in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Small Business Growth Grant: this newly established program supports the growth and success of small businesses by supporting them to invest in three categories: market expansion, product/service diversification, and digital transformation.

Total amount requested: $73,755.67	Total amount awarded: $49,951.52
Applications submitted: 19	Number of recipients: 13

Outcomes supported: investment in new or upgraded equipment, updating digital assets, and building capabilities to meet increasing customer demand and position themselves for the future. The scope of investment was broad, ranging from advanced manufacturing tools, commercial kitchen appliances, to website improvements and other business development activities.

Impact: the grant program, offered as a trial in 2024-25, enabled local businesses to invest in critical growth activities without placing excessive strain on their finances. By investing in innovation, building resilience, and improving productivity, businesses strengthened their ability to adapt to change. These improvements not only supported long-term business sustainability but also encouraged greater local workforce participation, contributing to a more inclusive and dynamic economy in PAE.

GRANTS IN FOCUS

Of the 17 grant programs offered by the City of PAE in 2024-25, three are highlighted here using case studies showcasing the outcomes achieved through each funding stream.

CASE STUDY 1 – QUICK RESPONSE GRANT

- Recipient – Kilburn Peace and Welcome Community Garden Inc
- Purpose – replacement of pump for irrigation system at the community garden
- Amount awarded – $390
- Outcomes – the grant supported the community garden to respond immediately to an unforeseen and critical challenge (the sudden breakdown of the irrigation pump) by:
    - quickly sourcing and installing a high-quality, reliable pump, restoring the functionality of the garden's irrigation system and minimising water wastage
    - preventing further stress on plants during a period of intense heatwaves, safeguarding the garden's role as a vital source of local food security
    - relieving the physical burden and emotional strain on garden volunteers who had been struggling to manually water the entire 300m² garden
    - continuing to offer a nurturing space for diverse groups (CALD, seniors, young people, economically disadvantaged individuals, and people with physical disabilities), enhancing their quality of life and strengthening community bonds



CASE STUDY 2 – EVENTS GRANT

- Recipient – SaSamba Community Samba Band
- Purpose – delivery of Samba Encontro Adelaide, a community event celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Brazilian samba music and dance at Hart's Mill in Port Adelaide
- Amount awarded – $7,500
- Outcomes – the grant supported a community event organiser to:
  - create a vibrant and immersive experience including live Samba performances, dance workshops, and a parade featuring colourful costumes, samba dancers, and live drumming, allowing performers and spectators to immerse themselves in the festive spirit
  - attract increased visitation to the area, drawing over 400 attendees, including 180 interstate and international performers
  - foster access to social and cultural diversity by encouraging cultural awareness, exchange and participation
  - stimulate the local economy by partnering with local businesses involved in the event



CASE STUDY 3 – SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH GRANT

- Recipient – Yindi Artz
- Purpose – purchase of 3D printer and accessories
- Amount awarded – $1,385.40
- Outcomes – the grant supported a local small art business by:
  - enabling the production of Aboriginal-designed and locally made products
  - reducing reliance on external suppliers
  - opening up opportunities to reach new customers
- Video – www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm-01cI3W3w



CAPACITY BUILDING

The City of PAE is committed to offering appropriate and responsive grant programs that support the delivery of strategic outcomes for the benefit of the Port Adelaide Enfield community. It is also committed to assist with building the capacity of businesses and community to successfully apply for grants by providing information, resources and support to grant applicants.

As part of these ongoing efforts, Council's Administration facilitated the following grants workshops and info sessions in 2024-25:

- A Community Grants Info Session was held on 10 September 2024 at Kilburn Community Centre to provide an overview of PAE grant programs as well as practical grant-writing tips and case studies. The session was attended by approximately 20 people from as many local grassroots organisations.
- A PAE Engine Room Series business event titled 'PAE Business Grant Launch & Writing Workshop' was held on 12 November 2024 at Coopers Alehouse Gepps Cross, supporting local businesses interested in government funding opportunities. Guest speaker David Rawlings, an award-winning writer, delivered a practical session on writing stronger grant applications. The event was well received by the business community with approximately 40 people attending on the day.
- A Port Precinct Drinks event was held on 26 November 2024 at Vitalstatistix (Waterside Worker Hall) in Port Adelaide promoting Business Activation Grant opportunities to support local traders to activate their spaces for New Year's Eve and Dockside Festival. Approximately 80 people were in attendance.
- A dedicated Events Grant Workshop was held on 29 April 2025 at the Parks Library to unpack the process of how to apply for an Events Grant to support upcoming community-led events. Over 30 event organisers attended the workshop with many subsequently applying for a grant.
- A 'Winning the Grant Workshop' was held on 2 June 2025 through the Northern Sport & Recreation Network (NSRN), which is a collaboration between the Cities of PAE, Playford, Prospect, Charles Sturt, Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully. The session was delivered by Associate Professor Sam Elliott from Flinders University and focussed on educating attendees on the essential elements that make a grant application stand out and get noticed by funding bodies. The workshop was attended by representatives from 10 different sport and recreation clubs/organisations within PAE.

In addition to the above, prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact PAE's Grants Team to receive tailored support and advice before submitting an application. These one-on-one interactions are often the best opportunity for community to learn more about PAE grants and how these align with their priorities, to improve their grant-writing skills and submit quality grant applications which, in turn, would maximise their chances of a successful grant outcome.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of PAE's focus on continuous improvement in grant making highlights its ongoing commitment to reviewing its grant programs and processes to ensure they are aligned with the City of PAE's strategic vision as well as with community priorities and needs.

In 2024-25 a number of continuous improvement opportunities were identified and implemented including:

- Adoption of a new *Funding Programs Policy* (and related set of Guidelines) providing a framework for the transparent, equitable, fair and consistent provision of funding through Funding Programs including grants, sponsorship, funds and other financial arrangements.
- Significant standardisation across grant guidelines/information sheets to ensure consistency and clarity of grant-related information and design.
- Significant standardisation across online grant application and acquittal forms to ensure a smoother and more user-friendly experience.

- Monitoring, review and standardisation of internal grant assessment and approval processes to meet higher probity standards.
- Creation of three new grant programs – namely the Arts Organisation Fund, the Commemorative Event Fund, and the Small Business Growth Grant – providing additional relevance and diversity to the City's grants offering.
- Review of five existing grant programs – namely the Sport & Recreation Grant, the Creative Industry Grant, the Heritage Grant, the Significant and Regulated Trees Assistance Scheme, and the Green Business Incentive Scheme.
- Coordination of grants reporting to both Council and community to showcase the overall impact of the City's grants offering.
- Exploring the use of videos featuring case studies of past grant recipients to promote specific grant programs.
- Using acquittals to embed opportunities for grantees to provide feedback and constructive criticism on Council's grant programs and grant making processes and to shape future decision-making in these areas. Below are extracts taken from a sample of grant acquittals:

  "It was great to meet the Grants Coordinator from the outset to discuss our proposal, a very informative meeting and helpful in framing our application. We found the grant process clear, communication with PAE helpful and supportive. Overall a very positive experience. Thank you." – Events Grant recipient

  "Application was easy to complete and the process was simple to follow. The grant was approved quickly and the team were supportive when we had questions. All in all the process seems to have little room for improvement. A possible suggestion would be for the council to support local suppliers who specialise in traditional craftsmanship, this could be done by ensuring that those seeking grants have to use tradesman within the Port Adelaide Enfield Council area." – Heritage Grant recipient

  "Thanks for supporting this local initiative. The PAE team were great to talk to prior to submitting the application, and offered good and helpful advice. The grant itself will make a real difference to the Club and enabling pathways for participation for many new members to come!" – Sport & Recreation Grant recipient

LOOKING AHEAD

The current social, economic, and political climate is likely to continue to put pressure on individuals, families, community organisations and businesses. This has already translated to increased demand on funding providers, including the City of PAE through its suite of grant programs. In this context, the City of PAE's grants offering continues to be a strategic tool to support community needs and aspirations, ensuring funding categories are consistently aligned to community priorities while levels of funding for each grant program are reviewed regularly to factor in changes in cost of living and inflationary trends.

From an operational perspective, the challenge is to do more to build community capacity in the grants space and to continue to redesign grant programs across the board to remove barriers to participation and enabling all individuals to have equitable opportunity to access and benefit from the programs. Simultaneously, it is important to identify, provide recognition to and amplify the local success stories that are made possible with the contribution from PAE grants, showcasing what can be achieved through strategic collaborations and shared purpose.