

2025-2026 Community Strengthening Grants

Information Session



Community Strengthening Grants

- Previously 'Healthy & Connected Communities'
- Projects up to \$10,000
- Total funding to be allocated is \$203,000
- One application per funding round for this grant

Open and Closing Dates

Open: Saturday 26 July 2025

Close: Monday 8 September 2025 at 5pm
(late applications not accepted)

Outcome: Wednesday 28 January 2026

Grant Objectives

Support community groups and not-for-profit organisations to:

- create opportunities for people to get together
- help people to be more active
- promote gender equity and equality
- strengthen community action on food systems and food security
- increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling

Eligibility of Applicant

Who is eligible to apply?

- incorporated not-for-profit organisation
- unincorporated group with an auspice
- registered charitable organisation

Eligibility of Applicant

Who can't apply?

- businesses
- individuals operating as sole traders (with an active ABN).
- individual (without an ABN)
- schools or learning institutions

Eligibility of Applicant

Who can't apply?

- applicant with an outstanding grant acquittal with the City
- applicant who has not complied with terms of previous funding agreement
- entity involved in legal proceedings
- entity with outstanding debt to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City

What can you apply for?

Examples of projects that create opportunities for people to get together:

- Milestones or significant anniversary
- Film nights, morning teas
- Art therapy or volunteer programs
- Training programs
- Costs to start a new community group or strategic plan development
- Playgroup activity for families

What can you apply for?

Examples of projects that **help people to be more active:**

- Yoga
- Walking Groups
- All abilities sport or recreation

What can you apply for?

Examples of projects that **promote gender equity and equality:**

- Guest Speakers
- Awareness raising programs
- LGBTQIA+ event
- Children's activities promoting respectful relationships

What can you apply for?

Examples of projects that strengthen community action on food systems and food security:

- Community forum
- Food swaps
- Community gardens
- Cooking classes

What can you apply for?

Examples of projects that increase awareness about the harm of alcohol and tobacco use, vaping and gambling:

- Education campaign
- Guest speakers

Projects we will not fund

- Projects outside City of Greater Geelong
- Political or gambling activities
- Projects started before funding is approved (28 January 2026)
- Fundraising events for charities or your own group
- Core business
- Projects better suited to another City grant

Types of Expenses we will fund

- Venue hire
- Equipment hire
- Equipment purchases under \$2,000 that are part of a bigger project
- Contracts engaged to deliver a project
- Professional printing and advertising
- Catering and materials directly associated with the project

Types of Expenses we will not fund

- Cost of Council services e.g. rates, parking fees
- Overheads e.g. insurance, utilities
- Capital works
- Prizes, gifts, awards
- Staff salaries
- Volunteers
- Own venue hire
- Equipment only purchases (refer to Community Equipment Grant)
- Equipment purchases for a project greater than \$2,000

Assessment Criteria

Criteria 1 Community Benefit – 65%

- Rated higher for projects supporting or promoting inclusion of priority groups

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Young People
Multicultural communities	Older People
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Communities	Socio-economic Disadvantage
Rural and Peri-Urban Communities	People with Disability
LGBTQIA+ Communities	Women

Assessment Criteria

Criteria 1 Community Benefit – 65%

- Why the community needs the project
- Provide Evidence (data, letters of support)
- Project outcomes match at least one of the grant outcomes
- Good Project Plan with tasks and timelines
- What will you do to show your project is success e.g. survey

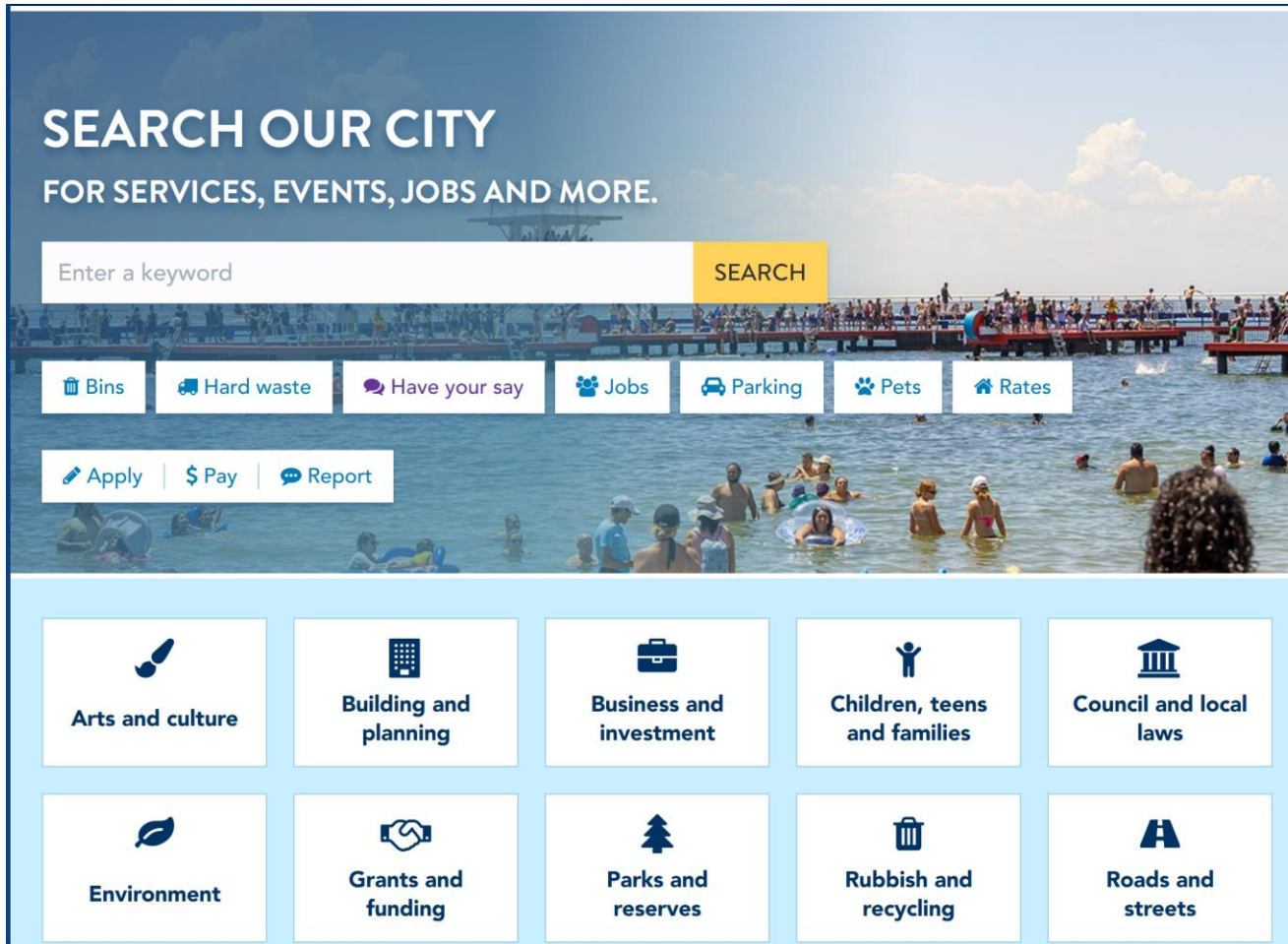
Assessment Criteria

Criteria 2: Well-planned – 35%

- Skills, knowledge and experience of project team
- Permits and approvals (if needed)
- Venue hire (if needed)
- Balanced budget
- Cost evidence (quotes, screenshots from online stores)

How to Apply

Applications for the City's Community Grants must be made via our **SmartyGrants** online system:



Geelong Australia Website

<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants>

Click on relevant grant name

We recommend you click **Save Progress** every 10 to 15 minutes when you are filling out a form.

If you leave your computer idle for 20 minutes without saving your work, and then return, the session duration may have ended (or been timed-out).

APPLY ONLINE

How to Apply

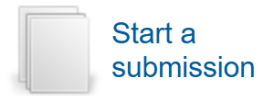
GEELONG:COUNCIL



Not logged in. [Log in](#)

[Current Rounds](#)

2025-26 Community Strengthening Grants



Start a submission



Preview the form



Download preview form

Submissions are now being accepted. Submissions close at 5:00PM 8 September 2025 (AEST).

IMPORTANT: Please read information below to assist you in completing your application online.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Welcome to the **City of Greater Geelong's** online grant application service, powered by SmartyGrants.

You may begin anywhere in this application form. Please ensure you save as you go.

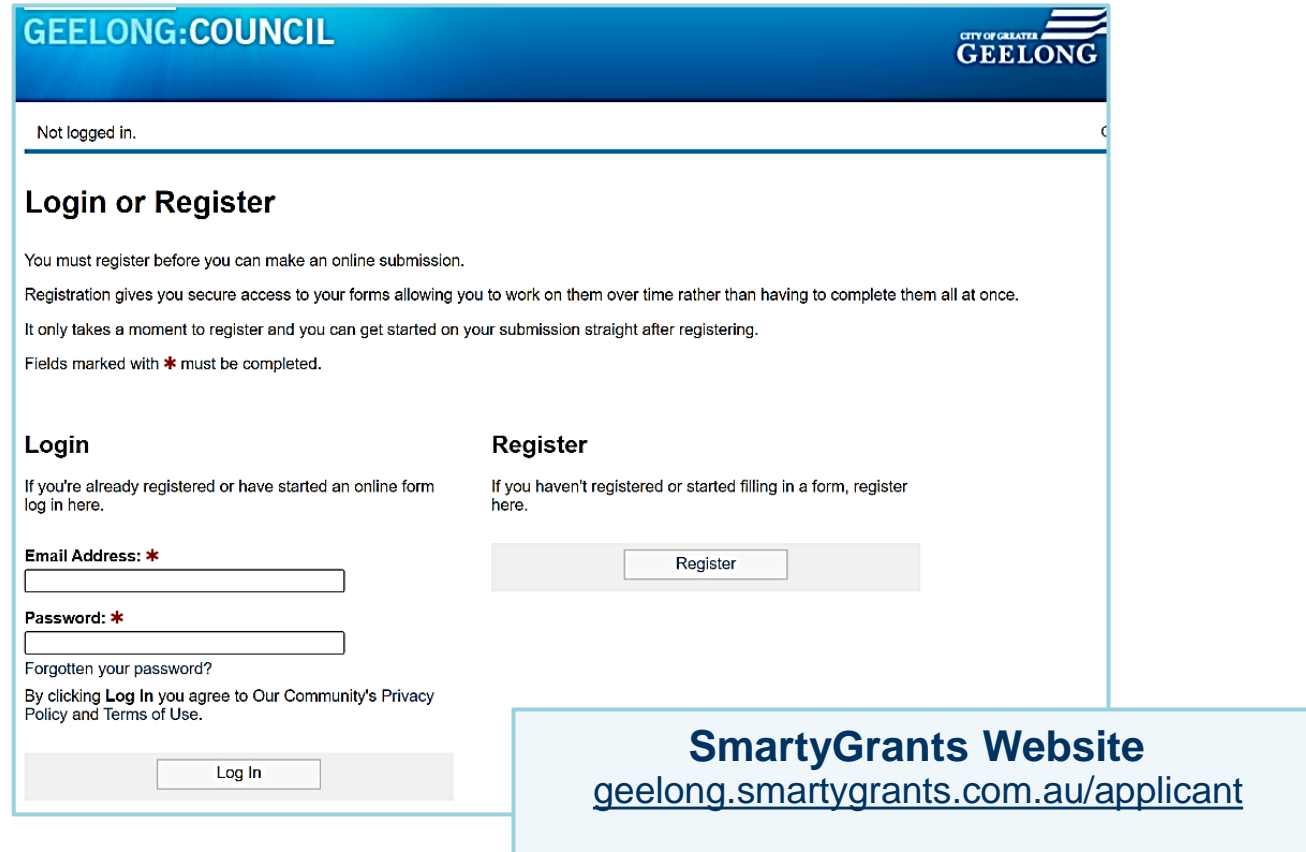
Please read the [Community Strengthening Grant Guidelines](#) before applying to see if your idea meets the eligibility criteria.

For more information about other grant options please refer to the [Geelong Australia Website Grants and Funding page](#).

For queries about the guidelines, deadlines, or questions in the form, please contact us on **5272 5560** during business hours or email communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au and quote your submission number.

If you need more help using this form, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out [Applicant Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#)

How to Apply



The screenshot shows the 'Login or Register' page on the Geelong Council SmartyGrants website. The page header includes 'GEELONG:COUNCIL' and the 'CITY OF GREATER GEELONG' logo. A 'Not logged in.' status is displayed at the top. The main heading is 'Login or Register', followed by instructions: 'You must register before you can make an online submission. Registration gives you secure access to your forms allowing you to work on them over time rather than having to complete them all at once. It only takes a moment to register and you can get started on your submission straight after registering. Fields marked with * must be completed.'

The page is divided into two sections: 'Login' and 'Register'. The 'Login' section includes a 'Log In' button and a 'Forgot your password?' link. The 'Register' section includes a 'Register' button. Below the 'Login' section, there is a 'Log In' button. A callout box on the right side of the page provides the website URL: 'SmartyGrants Website geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant'.

GEELONG:COUNCIL CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Not logged in.

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Registration gives you secure access to your forms allowing you to work on them over time rather than having to complete them all at once.
It only takes a moment to register and you can get started on your submission straight after registering.
Fields marked with * must be completed.

Login

If you're already registered or have started an online form log in here.

Email Address: *

Password: *

Forgotten your password?
By clicking **Log In** you agree to Our Community's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use.

Register

If you haven't registered or started filling in a form, register here.

SmartyGrants Website
geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant

Resources

Online Grant Writing Session

Monday 11 August 6pm-7pm

Register online

Online Resources (www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants/)

- Slide Presentations - Info Session and Grant Writing Session
- Are You Grant Ready? – Help Sheet
- Project Plan Template

GENERAL QUESTIONS



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