Application Pack

innovative
COMMUNITY GRANTS FUND

Hunter, Central Coast and New England

UnitingCare Ageing

Introduction

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The Regional Board of UnitingCare Ageing Hunter Central Coast and New England Region is calling for applications from congregations or community groups for grants from its

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Applications may be submitted at any time up to 1 March 2009 for projects which will commence from July 2009.

Hunter, Central Coast and New England

UnitingCare Ageing

Innovative Community Grants Fund

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The purpose of the Innovative Community Grants Fund is to create a direct link between UnitingCare Ageing and the presbyteries and congregations of the Uniting Church in Australia, within the regions of the Hunter, Central Coast and New England. In addition UnitingCare Ageing aims to forge further relationships with other community groups in these regions.

UnitingCare Ageing Hunter, Central Coast and New England recognises that if it were not for local churches and other community groups identifying local needs and developing initiatives, many community services would not exist.

UnitingCare Ageing Hunter, Central Coast and New England, which has responsibility for provision of accommodation, services and support for over 2000 older people every day, is now offering opportunities for people of vision in local congregations and community groups to become creatively involved in working for positive outcomes through positive projects (or the expansion of existing projects) for older people, disadvantaged people and people with disabilities.

The Innovative Community Grants fund is now accepting submissions.

Guidelines

Grants will be made in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Projects will be innovative (The fund is not available to meet the costs of normal services offered by service providers).
- Projects will be targeted to achieve positive outcomes.
- Projects will address specific needs or opportunities of older people, disabled or disadvantaged people within the local area.
- Projects will be implemented in the Hunter, Central Coast or New England areas.
- Projects will involve people from local congregations or community groups.
- Projects must be demonstrably feasible.
- Project costs shall normally not exceed $10,000.
- Grants are not to be used for the employment of staff persons
- Application for grants to provide equipment will be considered if the equipment is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Applications for grants to enable research will be considered provided there is a reasonable expectation that the research may lead to actions which will produce positive outcomes. The fund can not resource academic research.
- Funding will be available for projects which can be completed in a relatively short time frame (one to two years).
- Grants will normally be granted to ‘one-off’ projects and ongoing funding can not be considered.

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. How do we apply for a grant?
   Complete the Application Form is Part 2 of this pack, then forward your application to the contact person in your Presbytery (see contact list Page 9).

2. If we have a problem with applying, who do we contact?
   You may contact your Presbytery contact person or UnitingCare Ageing Regional Office.

3. If we have an idea for creative action but do not know how to put it into action, can we get help?
   We will do what we can to put you and/or your organisation in touch with someone who can help.

4. How will our application be assessed?
   Your application will be assessed initially through the Innovative Community Grants Fund Coordinator, who will then present all eligible applications to the Board of UnitingCare Ageing - Hunter, Central Coast and New England Region for decision.

5. When will we get the funding?
   Most funding will be released by June 30, 2009, however some funding may be released after this date.

6. Can we get a grant for more than one year?
   Funding can only be provided for one year, but projects that take more than one year to be completed will be considered.

7. Can an individual apply for a grant?
   Yes individuals can apply for a grant.

8. Must our "project" be related to one of the services or supports of UnitingCare Ageing?
   No. Your project should target positive outcomes for older people, disadvantaged or disabled people whether they are currently in care programs or not.

9. Where does the grant money come from?
   The Board of UnitingCare Ageing has placed a tax on itself and is setting aside a percentage of its operating budget for innovative community grants each year. It is part of the Board's commitment to community participation.

Frequently Asked Questions

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10. What is my or our responsibility for reporting on our project?
    We will request annual statements of income and expenditure, interim reports as appropriate and a final report at the end of the project. If you are having difficulty with reporting or setting up a system, we can arrange for someone to help you.

11. Will I be able to learn from the experience of other people?
    Yes. We will do all we can to put you in touch with other people who share your interest and have done or are planning interesting things. We are also hoping to enable a meeting of people who are involved in innovative projects.

12. How will we know whether our application is successful?
    We will send you a letter during June 2009 letting you know whether you have been successful in your application or not. We will be ready to release the funds to the successful applicants on 30th June 2009.

13. Our project requires more than $10,000 and we will be seeking funding from a number of areas, can we apply to the fund if we have a shortfall?
    Yes, the Innovative Community Grants Fund can be used in conjunction or in partnership with other funding bodies.

14. Do "positive outcomes" need to be immediate outcomes or can we use the resources to work towards long term positive outcomes?
    You will need to work towards a tangible and measurable objective, though it may be a component of a larger vision.

15. What happens if we run into difficulties and find that we need to make some changes resulting in a different outcome to our intended outcome?
    We understand that not all circumstances can be foreseen and that projects need to be flexible enough to respond to new opportunities. If your circumstances do changes, please inform the Innovative Community Grants Fund Coordinator.

Example One

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Joyce's story – (The Garden)

Joyce's mother told her that the one thing she missed most when she moved into a low care residential facility was her garden. Ever since she and Joyce's father moved into their new home more than 50 years ago, there had always been fresh vegetables on the table, fresh flowers decorating the house and a pervasive sweet smell of whatever was in season delighted her whenever she relaxed on the back veranda.

When Joyce talked to other people in the same residential facility, she found that her mother was not alone in grieving for her garden. One man said that he did not know what to do with himself now that he had no garden to dig in, somebody else told her that she would gladly shell peas if it meant getting fresh vegetables on the table.

Joyce's next step was to talk to the occupational therapist and ask whether she could support people who wanted to garden. Joyce decided to spend half a day a week helping establish and maintain a garden if the management would make land available and if the recreational therapist would give some support. When Joyce told her friend about this plan, she also agreed to spend half a day a week. Encouraged by this, Joyce went to talk with the recreational therapist who was delighted with the plan and said she would support it if the management would agree to using some of the land. Eventually the management decided that they could well do without an old shed and a track leading up to it and that they could use that space as their communal garden.

Joyce formed a "Garden for Life" committee and they have approached the Innovative Community Grants for a grant of $8,800 which would provide the costs of a paid handy person to clear the land, a landscape gardener to help plan the new garden, soil and fertiliser, some garden tools and the initial costs to plant a garden. The church youth group has volunteered to do the heavy digging when that is needed. When vegetables are sold or used in the kitchen, the "Garden for Life" committee will ask for a small donation to provide for restocking the garden when needed.

We would not be surprised if next year they come looking for another $2,000 - $3,000 to install a small rain water tank dedicated for garden use.

Example Two

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Cong and Denis' story – (Support for Ageing Refugees)

Cong was only 12 when he arrived in Australia with his mother and two older sisters from Vietnam in 1972. He will never forget the humiliation suffered by his mother after his father was killed and he will not forget the emptiness of despair when hope is lost. Nor can Cong ever forget the leaky old fishing boat, which offered slight hope of being able to start a new life somewhere.

Now more than 30 years later, Cong has overcome struggle and hardship, gaining a good education, studying at TAFE and becoming a technician with Telstra.

Cong was telling his work mate, Denis how he is very worried about his mother. She has survived not only the humiliation of rape, the pain of widowhood and the oppression of profiteers in Vietnam but also the death of her eldest daughter in a road accident in Australia.

Cong's mother is now in her mid 70s had learned enough English to make her way but she still found it almost impossible to read a newspaper and recently the doctor told Cong that her dementia was progressing and that she should not be living alone any more. As Denis heard Cong express his concern about his mother, his thoughts went to his own mother who had dementia too but who had been wonderfully looked after in a safe and respectful high care residential facility before she died 3 years ago. But what about Cong's mother? Denis thought of the loneliness of the disease, which in her case, was exacerbated by the trauma of being raped in Vietnam, the murder of her husband, the perils of the long trip to Australia, lengthy immigration processes she did not understand and the death of her daughter. Then Denis thought about the added loneliness of people who struggle to use the English language.

Realising that there are many people of Vietnamese origin who are now facing old age without the supports available to people who are comfortable speaking English, Denis approached the fellowship of his local Uniting Church. With the encouragement of the minister Denis applied to the Innovative Community Grants Fund for money, which enabled the local Vietnamese Association to research the needs of ageing refugees (as defined and from the viewpoint of the Vietnamese community) and lobby for the provision of appropriate resources and care.

Cong was so encouraged by Denis' support that he gathered together a group of other bi- lingual people to co-ordinate the research project. They have been able to make good use of the $5,000 grant through the Innovative Community Grants Fund and are very grateful to UnitingCare Ageing.

Example Three

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Jess and Col's story (Keeping in Touch)

When Col retired from his job on the railway 5 years ago, he and his wife Jess were looking forward to having an easier life and enjoying their local community. The first thing they decided to do was take the big trip around Australia that they had always dreamed about. They could just about afford a second hand caravan and the old car was good for another 100,000 km – but what about the grand children? Col and Jess couldn't imagine being away from their family for a year and missing important parts of the lives of their 7 grandchildren and travelling on a tight budget meant that regular long distance phone calls were not going to be possible.

Fortunately, Jess and Col's daughter-in-law suggested that they should learn to access the internet to help them keep in touch while they were travelling. She was willing to lend them her old laptop and give them lessons in how to how to do it tips from everyone, a few anxious moments, some worries, then awe and wonder at how much was available to them through this "new" technology. Col and Jess travelled for 14 months and hardly a day went by without them emailing their family and sometimes chatting with them on line and even having voice calls through voice over internet protocol. They did not miss a trick and felt very involved with their grandchildren who were amazed at all the new discoveries their grand parents were making on their trip.

Not long after they returned from their journey, Jess and Col's thoughts turned to other people their age and older and especially those whose family lived at great distances. After talking with the Director of Care in a low level residential facility, Col and Jess decided that if they had the equipment, they would recruit people to teach aged persons in the hostel how to use the internet and digital photography. The catalyst is keeping in t ouch with distant family but there would also be a focus on helping people who were not mobile continue to learn through internet programs, for people to analyse current affairs by accessing several newspapers each day – there are endless possibilities.

With the support of the chaplain and other staff, Jess and Col have applied for $4,280 for a new computer, software, a digital camera, a wireless router and reference books. These are all placed where residents can access them easily. All users will have their own password to prevent unauthorised use and each user will be asked to contribute a gold coin each time they use the equipment and this money will be used for upgrading the equipment when necessary. Jess and Col will be the resource people and they have recruited two other couples who will help out if needed.

Example Four

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Naomi's story – (Awareness of Disability)

Geoff was only 17 when he became a paraplegic. He and some mates had been skylarking in their parents' cars but he was the one who came out of it the worst when they struck an electricity pole at 140 kph that fateful night. That was 5 years ago and Geoff, who is paralysed from the waist down, is able to get around in a wheelchair; has now finished school, does some work in a sheltered environment and is active in the church youth group.

Geoff has many reasons to feel sorry for himself but he scarcely spares a thought for his 15 year old sister, Naomi. Why should he? Naomi is a perfectly healthy young woman who captains her netball team and is one of the most popular girls in her school. But Naomi will tell you that she has paid a very high price because of Geoff's skylarking 5 years ago. She was only 10 at the time and barely understood what was happening but she did understand that her parents were so concerned about Geoff that she felt abandoned by them and when Geoff came home again.

Once Naomi showed her minister a poem she had written about her mixed up feelings for her brother and her mother and father and how Geoff's disability had impacted on the way she felt about herself. The minister was amazed at how perceptive Naomi was and how she had been able to learn from her own life experience and he began to understand why it was that Naomi was more mature than the other girls and boys her age.

"If only", thought the minister, "other young people were able to grow from life experiences like Naomi – but, of course, without the pain" After reflecting on Naomi's poem for a while, the minister talked with the congregation Youth Council about building a program where young people could be exposed to different kinds of disability and different abilities through a series of workshops.

The Youth Council thought it was a great idea – something that people of all ages could benefit from so they proposed to the Church Council that the Church budget $5,000 for a series of open public workshops which would be conducted over the next year in conjunction with the regional health board and the local disabilities' association. The aim of the workshops would be to help people address their own feelings and attitudes about people living with disabilities and of those people who live with disabled people.

The Church agreed that it could provide the space for holding the workshops, it would be responsible for promotion and refreshments and one of the church members would act as coordinator but its budget would not be able to meet the costs of bringing resource people to the workshops.

Therefore, the Church Council is seeking a grant of $5,000 to underwrite the cost of a series of 8 workshops over the next year. The workshop experience will be documented and the church Council hopes that other local communities will be able to learn from their experience and mount programs to meet their local needs.

Example Five

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Shirley's story (Community Relations)

Shirley did not know what to do when she was handed a tract as she was walking from the shopping mall to her car. She had been given religious tracts before but this one was different. This one was not telling people that they would go to hell if they didn't believe in a certain way, this one was telling people how evil a certain religion is and how it is "unAustralian" – the religion was Islam.

Shirley had belonged to her church all her life but she didn't know much about Islam. If this pamphlet is true, she thought, we should be very worried and our church ought to be doing something about it, but if it is not true, we should challenge the people who are distributing the pamphlet. Instead of throwing the tract away as her friend had done, Shirley took it to her minister and asked him whether it was true or not and what he thought about it. The minister did not have much experience of Islam either but he knew that some of the references in the tract seemed factual though he doubted that the conclusions were either true or appropriate. He suspected it was very unfair. The minister did not have time to do the research which would give Shirley a balanced response but he did know a retired minister not far away who had more time and who had lived in an Islamic country and had reflected a on Islam and had experience in inter-religious relations. He would ask that minister to give Shirley some comments on the argument of the pamphlet and then encourage the Church Council to make an appropriate response to it.

The retired minister was horrified by the gross exaggerations in the pamphlet which was obviously written to foster suspicion and fear of Muslim people. She started to make some quite detailed comments on the text of the pamphlet and as she did so, she became more and more angry that in the name of Christianity, someone was inflaming hate rather than nurturing love. "I can write pages and pages of comments" the retired minister thought "and Shirley and the Church Council will have lots of facts, but what will that do? While I am doing that the small Muslim group within our community is being increasingly marginalised and further oppressed." She knew that small groups of Lebanese, Turkish, Indonesian and Iranian people had settled in the area and there was a new family of Afghani refugees struggling to find a place in the community. The Christian Lebanese who have moved to the town are strongly supporting the Muslim Lebanese equip an old hall as a mosque and they are welcoming other ethnic groups for the daily prayers. They are now beginning to feel comfortable as a faith community. Many of these people are Australian citizens and the rest are on their way to citizenship and all have a commitment to remaining in Australia and being good neighbours. The last thing they need is for people to see them as members of a subversive, evil cult.

"I could fiddle with my comments while Rome burns," the retired minister said to Shirley and the minister of the congregation "or I could suggest to you that the Church Council goes out of its way to make positive contact with these people, learn from them (and not from me) what Islam is all about and see what happens after that."

After some initial local research, Shirley's mid-week Bible study group decided that after Ramadan they would work towards an 8 week process of sharing with Muslim people and they are now looking for $1,000 from the Innovative Community Grants fund for study materials and for learning how to prepare halal food.

Contacts

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Hunter Presbytery

Rev Felicity Amery
PO Box 607
Cardiff NSW 2285
T: (02) 4908 0888
E: office@hunter.uca.org.au

Ku-rin-gai Presbytery (for the Central Coast)

Rev Mark Watt
PO Box 8138
Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261
T: (02) 4390 2183
E: revwatt@bigpond.com.au

New England Presbytery

Ms Jacki Watts
PO Box 850
Inverell NSW 2360
T: (02) 6722 4172
E: wattil@ceinternet.com.au

UnitingCare Ageing Regional Office

PO Box 153
Cardiff NSW 2285
T: (02) 4943 6077
F: (02) 4942 2019
E: innovative@uchunter.org.au
W: www.uchunter.org.au

Application Form
Cover Sheet 08/09

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Date of application: _____ Application submitted to: _____

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of organisation (if applicable): _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Please provide details of one referee

Name: _____

Relationship to the individual/ organisation: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Briefly outline the role of your organisation (if applicable):

_____

_____

_____

_____

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Application Form
Proposal Information 08/09

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Outline the positive outcomes this project is expected to achieve:

Outline how the project will achieve these outcomes:

When will these outcomes be achieved:

Is this a new project or an extension of an existing one?

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08/09

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Where did the initiative for the project come from?

To what extent has the 'target group' been consulted in the design of the project?

In developing the project have you consulted with any other community groups? If so, who?

What other groups/ individuals will be involved in the project?

What do you expect to learn from this project?

How do you expect to share these learnings with others?

What do you identify as the risks in your project and how do you propose to deal with them?

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Financials & Accountability 08/09

What is the total cost of this project?

How much are you requesting from the Innovative Community Grants Fund?

Will there be sources of funding other than from this fund? If so, what are they?

What is the total amount sought from the Innovative Community Grants Fund?

PLEASE INCLUDE A DETAILED BUDGET ON AN ATTACHED PAGE

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Application Form 08/09

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Who will be responsible for operating the project?

_____

_____

Who will be responsible for accounting funds?

_____

_____

Have you planned for monitoring the process of the project? Please details:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

How and to whom will your project be reported at the close of the project (or annually)?

_____

_____

_____

_____

It is intended that successful applicants will agree to share the learnings from their experience with others in the community, within UnitingCare Ageing, and the relevant Presyteries.

Name of applicant: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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