



Burwood
Inc.1874

Community Grants Program 2023/2024
OUTCOMES REPORT

July 2025

Introduction

This report provides information on the outcomes of projects funded through the 2023/2024 Burwood Community Grants Program.

Background

Burwood Council's Community Grants Program aims to support local, not profit organisation to deliver projects that provide social, cultural, recreational and/or environmental benefits to our local community.

An annual funding pool of \$55,000 was available for the 2023/24 Community Grants Program.

Incorporated, not-for-profit community organisations could apply for up to a maximum of \$5,000 per grant.

An Overview of Community Grants Program Outcomes



Grant Applications and Funding Allocations

- 37 applications were received worth \$267,543
- There was a 32% success rate with 12 projects funded (13 projects were unsuccessful, 12 were ineligible)
- Council provided \$52,500 in funding to successful projects
- Average amount awarded per project was \$4,375
- Lowest amount funded was \$2,500
- Highest amount funded was \$5,000

Scope and Influence of Grants Program on Target Groups¹

The following target groups and individual participants benefited through the 12 projects funded by the 2023/24 Community Grants Program:

How many projects funded for this target group



Project focus:

- 2 projects supporting vulnerable residents with cost of living pressures
- 5 projects focused on health, wellbeing or mental health challenges
- 2 projects supported isolated or new arrivals through English language classes, intercultural connections
- 3 projects promoting social inclusion through development of language development, life skills or creative expression
- 3 projects using arts and cultural activities, including 2 projects showcasing Burwood's local cultural heritage and delivering cultural experiences, aligned with the 150 year celebrations



1,500 people
benefited from projects funded through
Council's 2023/24 Community Grants Program

Grant Project Case Studies

Below are case studies showing the outcomes of two example projects funded through the 2023/2024 Community Grants Program.

CASE STUDY 1:

Funded Organisation: St Anthony's Family Care

Amount Funded: \$5,000

Project description:

The project engaged local young adults with disabilities (aged 16 to 25 years) in a 10-week program to increase their independence through cooking and living skills sessions.

The program was incorporated into the existing Forge Day program, so the young adults were able to learn in a safe, supportive, and familiar environment.

Project Outcomes:

- 12 young people with disabilities participated in weekly cooking classes with a qualified facilitator and members of the Disability Support Team.
- Benefits included:
 - Increased independence in daily life
 - Improved fine and gross motor skills
 - Enhanced life skills such as time management and planning which are transferrable to other aspects of life
 - The opportunity to connect with others, increased friendship networks, and a sense of community and improved self-esteem.
- Each lesson:
 - Incorporated information and guidance on nutrition as part of the menu. For example, the benefits of breakfast and exploring fresh and fun breakfast ideas.
 - Included the option to sit and enjoy the meal they created.
 - Included discussions around meal preparation, grocery shopping, food budgeting, nutrition, and taste.
- The menu also included options reflecting Burwood's multi-cultural community.

"Cooking is an important part of independent life skills in our program that is popular with our participants and their families.

From practical skills to the sensory experience, cooking in a group setting brings everyone together in a fun atmosphere".

Evan Kallipolitis, Disability Services Manager



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FORGE COOKING CLASSES ARE IN SESSION!

Don't miss the fun!

Thanks to a generous community grant from Burwood Council we've received funding to run **Interactive Cooking Classes** for our participants!

Run by Jennie Thompson (founder of The Cooks Workshop) we will be conducting fortnightly classes on Thursdays. Jennie combines her love of cooking and working with people with disabilities into a program where making delicious and nutritious food is accessible for all.

This is a great opportunity for participants to learn and practice their cooking skills safely!

CASE STUDY 2:



Funded Organisation: St Vincent de Paul Society

Amount Funded: \$5,000

Project description:

The project assisted key vulnerable and elderly clients in the Burwood LGA with practical assistance and information to help them mitigate the impacts of extreme weather conditions such as poorly insulated buildings with little heating or cooling.

Climate support packs provided water bottles, hot and cold packs, window covering, thermometer, assistance with purchase of fans and heaters. Emergency contact lists, and planning and assistance with forms for vouchers, subsidies and rebates, were also provided.

Project Outcomes:

- 25 vulnerable and elderly residents received climate packs to assist with extreme temperatures
- 5 households were provided with curtains, heaters and handyman services
- 18 individuals were offered swimming lessons and equipment/gear to enable them to participate and stay safe in the water to build confidence and capacity to access the Enfield Aquatic Centre on hot days
- Benefits included:
 - Greater safety for vulnerable clients during periods of extreme weather to minimise client risk when exposed to extreme weather events.
 - Greater client awareness and confidence in accessing key services and resources.
 - Equitable client access to critical resources during periods of extreme weather.
 - Improved community connectivity between volunteers (conference members) and clients living within the Burwood LGA

"The project has made a real difference for vulnerable community members. One resident told us the insulating curtains helped keep out the heat and cold and also lowered her heating bills. For one mother of three boys, the passes to Enfield Aquatic Centre allowed her primary school children to cool down on hot days while benefitting from gaining greater confidence in the water.

The grant has been instrumental in making life safer and more comfortable for Burwood community members during times of climate extremes."

*Cathy Nelson, Western Suburbs President, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW says, "**For many, it's not just about staying cool or warm - it's about knowing someone cares and they're not alone in tough times.**"*

CASE STUDY 3:



Free Speech Assessments for Children (3 - 12 years old)



Funded Organisation: Metro Assist

Amount Funded: \$5,000

Project description: Mobile Speech Hub

The **Mobile Speech Hub** was a targeted early intervention project providing accessible speech pathology services to vulnerable children aged 4 to 12 years in the Burwood LGA, particularly those from CALD backgrounds. Developed in response to service gaps identified by local child and family networks, the program provided free individual assessments, advice, and follow-up support to local families to prevent long term problems with behaviour, reading, writing and social skills.

Delivered in partnership with Burwood Council and Nash Speech Pathology, the project provided accessible support to local families through tailored assessments and therapy sessions.

Project Outcomes:

- Sixteen (16) one-on-one therapy sessions and eight (8) speech pathology assessments were conducted for children aged 3 to 12, seven of whom came from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The assessments uncovered a range of previously unidentified speech, language, and communication difficulties, including delayed English language skills underlining the need for culturally responsive support, as well as speech sound delays, a stutter and literacy issues. The assessments enabled early identification and intervention through follow-up reports, parent debriefs, and therapy sessions.

- 6 participating parents, and 2 families on the waiting list, were referred to case workers for support in navigating relevant systems and accessing further assistance.

Parent feedback highlights indicated:

- "We have noticed a different with child's progress even after a short period of time"
- "Happy with the reports and also the explanation of how to complete homework"
- "Very happy with the time take for the notes and additional resources that have been provided"