

# 2023/24 Grants Program Information



## Child Safety

**Maroondah City Council is committed to being a child safe organisation where all children and young people are valued and protected from harm and abuse. We have zero tolerance for child abuse.**

As part of our commitment to child safety and the Victorian Child Safe Standards, Council has child safety requirements in place to help ensure the safety of children and young people under 18 years of age when providing grant funding to other organisations, groups or individuals. They apply to Council's Community Development Grants, Emergency Relief Grants, and Arts and Cultural Grants.

Council's child safety requirements cover the following:

1. Compliance with child safety legislation and Council's [Child Safe Code of Conduct](#)
2. Where relevant, [Working With Children Checks](#) requirements
3. Where relevant, compliance with the [Victorian Child Safe Standards](#)

At the grant application and funding agreement stages, Council will request information from applicants to help assess the relevance of the child safety requirements to different projects, and then to obtain further evidence of the applicant's child safe practices where relevant.

### At the application stage:

To help Council assess the relevance of these child safety requirements for different projects, the following question is included in the application form:

- *Does your project involve children or young people aged 0 to 18 years old? Yes / No*

The project does not have to be exclusively directed to children or young people for this to apply. When answering this question, you should consider things such as:

- Does your project involve children, young people or their families in any way?
- Will you be delivering events or services that children or young people might attend?
- Do grandchildren sometimes attend your activities?

If children or young people may be involved in your project in any way, you should tick YES to this question.

### Contact us

Phone 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 Fax 9298 4345

maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au | www.maroondah.vic.gov.au | PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134 | DX 38068, Ringwood

## At the funding agreement stage:

If your application is successful, you may be requested to provide evidence of your child safe practices, in accordance with the child safety clause in the grant funding agreement (see below). Specifically:

- If the Victorian Child Safe Standards apply to your organisation, you will be required to provide a copy of your child safety policy.
- If your project involves children or young people aged 0 to 18 years, you will be required to provide a signed Statutory Declaration confirming that every employee, contractor and volunteer (aged 18 years and over) involved in the project will hold a valid and current Working With Children Check for the duration of their involvement in the project. A template will be provided at the agreement stage.

### **Child safety clause:**

*Maroondah City Council is committed to being a child safe organisation where all children and young people are valued and protected from harm and abuse. We have zero tolerance for child abuse. As part of Council's commitment to the Victorian Child Safe Standards, Funded Bodies (including community grant recipients) are required to meet the following requirements:*

- 1. Council requires the Funded Body to ensure its compliance, and the compliance of all current and prospective employees, contractors, volunteers and participants who are or shall be engaged in funded activities involving children and young people, with all relevant child safety legislation and Council's **Child Safe Code of Conduct** as outlined in Council's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (available at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-organisation/Policies/Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-organisation/Policies/Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy))*
- 2. Under the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic), all organisations in Victoria that provide services or facilities for children and young people under 18 years of age are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards. If the Standards apply to the Funded Body, the Funded Body must:*
  - i. implement and comply with the Standards at all times; and*
  - ii. supply Council with a copy of their child safety policy at any time upon reasonable request.**Information on the Child Safe Standards is available at [www.cyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards](http://www.cyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards).*
- 3. Under the Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic) (the WS Act), people engaging in child-related work (whether paid or volunteer) must obtain a **Working With Children (WWC) Check**, unless exempt under the WS Act. The Funded Body must:*
  - i. ensure that all their relevant employees, contractors and volunteers engaged in Council-funded activities involving children and young people aged 0 to 18 years hold a valid and current WWC Check (or for interstate visitors, an equivalent Check from their home State/Territory)*
  - ii. maintain an up-to-date register of WWC Checks;*
  - iii. provide evidence of a valid and current WWC Check for each of their employees, contractors and volunteers engaged in Council-funded activities involving children and young people aged 0 to 18 years at any time upon reasonable request; and*
  - iv. notify Council immediately if any of their employees, contractors or volunteers engaged in Council-funded activities involving children and young people aged 0 to 18 have their WWC Check suspended or revoked or are issued with a WWC Check Exclusion.**Information about the WWC Check is available at [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au).*

## Further information

For enquiries about Council's child safety requirements for grant recipients, please contact our Child Safety and Inclusion Advisor on 1300 88 22 or 03 9298 4598 or email [marisa.grosso@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:marisa.grosso@maroondah.vic.gov.au).

### Contact us

Phone 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 Fax 9298 4345

[maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au) | [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au) | PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134 | DX 38068, Ringwood