

Banyule Social Enterprise Growth Fund

Quick Start Guide (Plain English)



Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history

Diversity Statement

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders.

We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone; principles which empower, foster harmony, and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

Overview

This funding round has two main purposes:

1. Support for Existing Businesses

We support established Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander businesses, social enterprises, and not-for-profit organisations to grow.

Funding can help them expand and increase social, cultural, or environmental impact.

2. Support for New Business Development

We help create new social enterprise models and grow emerging businesses.

The focus is on new social enterprises and positive outcomes for social, cultural, or environmental impact.

Acceptable Activities

The Social Enterprise Growth Fund is open to any type of business or industry. Choose activities that give good value for money and help your organisation reach its goals.

Examples include:

1. Update or create your website or marketing materials
2. Buy or upgrade equipment
3. Hire a consultant to research or develop strategies, business or marketing plans, or other materials

Key dates

- Grant round opens: **01/04/2026**
- Speak with Council officer: **15/04/2026**
- Grant round closes: **30/04/2026**
- We tell applicants the result: **30/05/2026**
- Acquittal date (when you must give us a report how you used the funds known as an acquittal report): **31/12/2026**

Contact with Council

You must talk with a Council officer before you submit your proposal.

Officers can help you plan and can advise on eligibility.

Timeline:

- Make initial contact by **15 April 2026**.
- Before you submit, an officer must complete a final checklist with you. It covers eligibility and viability. Complete this by **15 April 2026**.

If you do not do this, your application is not eligible for funding.

On the application form, list the officer's name and the date you spoke.

The officer will also record this.

Email **Daniel Shields** at socialenterprise@banyule.vic.gov.au to book a time to discuss your idea.

Assessment Criteria – Existing Social Enterprise Criteria and Description

- Business growth (25%):
 - o How the project will help your business grow.
 - o Explain how the project will improve income, jobs, customer numbers, or other clear benefits.
- Social impact (25%):
 - o How the project will increase your positive social impact.
 - o Explain how the project supports your social, environmental, or cultural mission.
- Likelihood of project success (20%):
 - o Do you or your partners have the people, experience, and skills to deliver this project?
 - o Is the project realistic in the timeframes given?
 - o Do you already have the networks or resources to support delivery?
- Benefit to the Banyule community (30%)
 - o Who will benefit from your project?
 - o How will you reach or involve these people?
 - o What is the need in the Banyule community?
 - o Will the project create ongoing or long-term benefits for the community?

Assessment Criteria – Existing Organisation Developing a Social Enterprise Model

- Clarity of mission (25%):
 - o How clearly is the proposed social, environmental, or cultural mission defined?
 - o Who will benefit from your project?
- Enterprise viability (25%):
 - Do you have a business model that can work?
 - o What gap in the market will your enterprise fill?
- Likelihood of project success (20%):
 - o Do you or your partners have the people, experience, and skills to deliver this project?
 - o Is the project realistic in the timeframes given?
 - o Do you have networks or resources to support delivery?
- Benefit to the Banyule community (30%)
 - o Who will benefit from your project?
 - o How will you reach or involve these people?
 - o What is the need in the Banyule community?
 - o Will the project create ongoing or long-term benefits for the community?

Application Process

Apply online for the Banyule Social Enterprise Fund Program using SmartyGrants:

<https://banyule.smartygrants.com.au/>

Assessment and decision making

We assess applications in these steps:

Stage 1: Eligibility check:

Who: Social Enterprise Lead

Stage 2: Officer review and comments

Who: Council officers who know the sector

Stage 3 Grants panel review

Who: Banyule senior officers

Stage 4: Panel recommendations

Who: Approved by delegation of the Director of Community Wellbeing

All people involved in assessing grants must declare any conflict of interest before they take part.

About This Guide

This guide has been created with [Two Square Pegs](#), a social enterprise that supports people in refugee, migrant, intersectional and underrepresented communities.

They help people to harness their lived experiences and build their capacity to create local businesses and lead community initiatives.

We are piloting additional accessible documents to help:

- o Making it fairer for people to apply for grants
- o Encouraging more people to get involved in their community
- o Making services more inclusive and easier to follow
- o Building stronger trust with diverse communities

If you have any feedback to help improve this guide, please contact socialenterprise@banyule.vic.gov.au