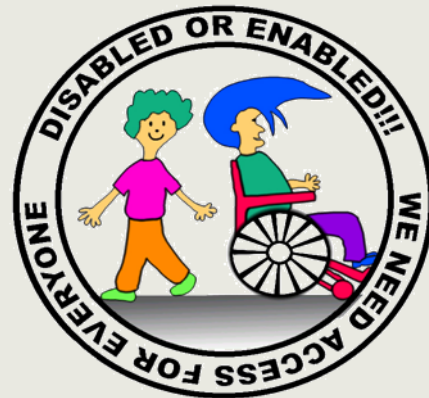


# **BLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ACCESS INCENTIVE SCHEME GRANT**

### **FUNDING GUIDELINES**



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## ACCESS INCENTIVE SCHEME GRANT FUNDING GUIDELINES

### Introduction

Bland Shire Council offers the Access Incentive Scheme Grant to local business, not for profit community organisations and community service providers for the provision of financial assistance to improve access to and within local buildings and businesses.

This document has been prepared to set the guidelines for the allocation of Access Incentive Scheme funding.

### 1.0 Eligibility

Owners or lessees of buildings and other facilities located within Bland Shire Council are invited to apply.

Applicants are eligible to apply for the Access Incentive Scheme Grant if:

- The building and works are carried out within the Bland Shire;
- The applicant is a business, not for profit community organisation, or a community service provider.

Council employees or Councillors may apply for funding on the same basis, and only on the same basis, as any member of the public.

#### **Funding will NOT be provided:**

- When a previous project funded by Bland Shire Council has not been fully acquitted by the applicant;
- Where the applicant has another unfinished project concerning access issues;
- For projects that were undertaken prior to approval of a grant; or
- Educational facilities

Each organisation is limited to one Council Grant or Donation per financial year.

Applicants will be required to provide matching funding on a \$1:\$1 basis (this can include in kind volunteer contributions etc). There will clearly be cases where groups may wish to contribute more to the project.

Generally the maximum level of funding per project will be limited to \$5,000 subject to the availability of Council funds.

### 2.0 Assessment Process

All requests must be lodged using a Bland Shire Council Community Grants and Donations Application Form with all relevant areas completed and supporting documents attached. Applications can be submitted all year round.

The application is reviewed against the criteria and if it is deemed to meet the guidelines and sufficient funds are available, a report is compiled for consideration at the monthly Council meeting.

Council officers may contact applicants after receiving an application seeking further information or clarification.

All projects should align with the strategies and objectives set out in Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposal with Council officers prior to lodging an application to ensure that all necessary information is provided and eligibility criteria is met.

All applications are to be reviewed by Council's Development Services section to determine compliance with the premises Standards, AS1428.1 and the Building Code of Australia prior to the application being considered by Council.

If a project is approved and requires a Development Application, the funds will be not be allocated until Development Approval has being received.

### **Assessment Criteria**

The project/applicant must:

- Have a high level of usage by the Bland Shire community and visitors;
- Conform to Australian Standard 1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility, and Australian Premises Standard;
- Be located in the local government area of the Bland Shire;
- Obtain development approval from Council if required; and
- Financially contribute to the project on minimum of a \$1:\$1 basis

Preference will be given to projects/applicants that:

- Clearly complement broader access objectives e.g. improve access to Main Street of towns and villages within the Bland Shire;
- Encourage consideration towards further projects within the Shire; or
- Improve access to buildings which house essential services or are used by people with limited mobility.

### **3.0 Conditions of Approval**

If the application submitted is successful, grant conditions will apply.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a signed acceptance form provided by Council, agreeing to conditions applicable to the approved project, within six (6) weeks of notification.

An application for access funding can be submitted prior to a Development Application being approved, on the condition that funding will only be provided following Development approval.

Access Incentive funds will be paid on invoice only, unless otherwise approved by Council.