

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Every day as I'm out and about in the community I get to see the incredible work undertaken by the amazing individuals, service organisations and charity groups which work tirelessly to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Their work makes such an incredible difference in ensuring every local resident can get the most out of life here in the Sutherland Shire, which is why Council is proud to back their efforts.



Each year Sutherland Shire Council contributes \$500,000 towards supporting local not-for-profit initiatives through our Community Grants and Subsidies Program. This program provides vital financial backing to organisations that enhance the well-being and sense of social inclusion for local residents in need of support.

Making and impact

Last year we were delighted to support a diverse range of community groups, providing services ranging from social outings for local seniors to mental health support for young people at risk. All up, Council was able to support 39 local organisations, distributing grants of up to \$20,000 to assist in the delivery of 48 individual programs, each of which targeted a different area of need within our community. The applications received through this program highlight the incredible diversity of worthy initiatives which are championed by local people determined to make a difference.

Meeting with our grant recipients and hearing about the incredible work they do in our community is one of the real joys I get to experience in my role as Mayor. Each grant recipient is always so incredibly appreciative of the support they receive, and each have so many amazing stories to tell about the impact this funding has in furthering their efforts to provide support to those in need throughout the community.

But the incredible appreciation we receive from grant recipients only tells so much of the story. The real benefit of this program is the tremendous impact it has on the lives of all those who benefit, and I am blown away when I hear from the many local people for whom these programs make a real difference.

How to apply

For those interested in applying for funding, Council has organised two free grants writing

workshops. These workshops will take place at GyMEA Tradies on Tuesday 13 and Thursday 22 February. For further information on the free grants writing workshops, I'd encourage prospective applicants to visit:

events.humanitix.com/grant-writing-2024

And for all those amazing community groups and organisations who intend to apply for our 2024 Grants and Subsidies Program, head to: **sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/commgrants2024**

Thank you to all the dedicated individuals and organisations who contribute to making the Sutherland Shire such an inclusive community – I can't wait to see how you continue to make a difference in 2024!

**Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor
Carmelo Pesce**

Council Meeting - Monday 19 February 2024 at 6.30pm

Residents who are interested in attending ordinary Council Meetings as part of the Public Gallery can register their interest via Council's website. For more information regarding attendance, meeting dates, and to read Council Meeting minutes and business papers visit: **sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings**

